



ARULMIGU VELMURUGAN GNANAMUNEESWARAR TEMPLE

Three temples with very different traditions of worship and history merged to form the temple society of Arulmigu Velmurugan Gnanamuneeswarar Temple (AVGMT). The three temples – Sri Krishna Bhagawan Durga Parameswari Temple (formerly at Jalan Kayu), Sri Mariamman Muneeswarar Temple (formerly at Jalan Kayu) and Arulmigu Velmurugan Temple (formerly at Silat Road) - were brought under one roof with the timely assistance and support of the Hindu Endowments Board.

As each one of these temples has a history dating back almost sixty years it was necessary to build a new temple, which encompassed the traditions and history of all three temples.



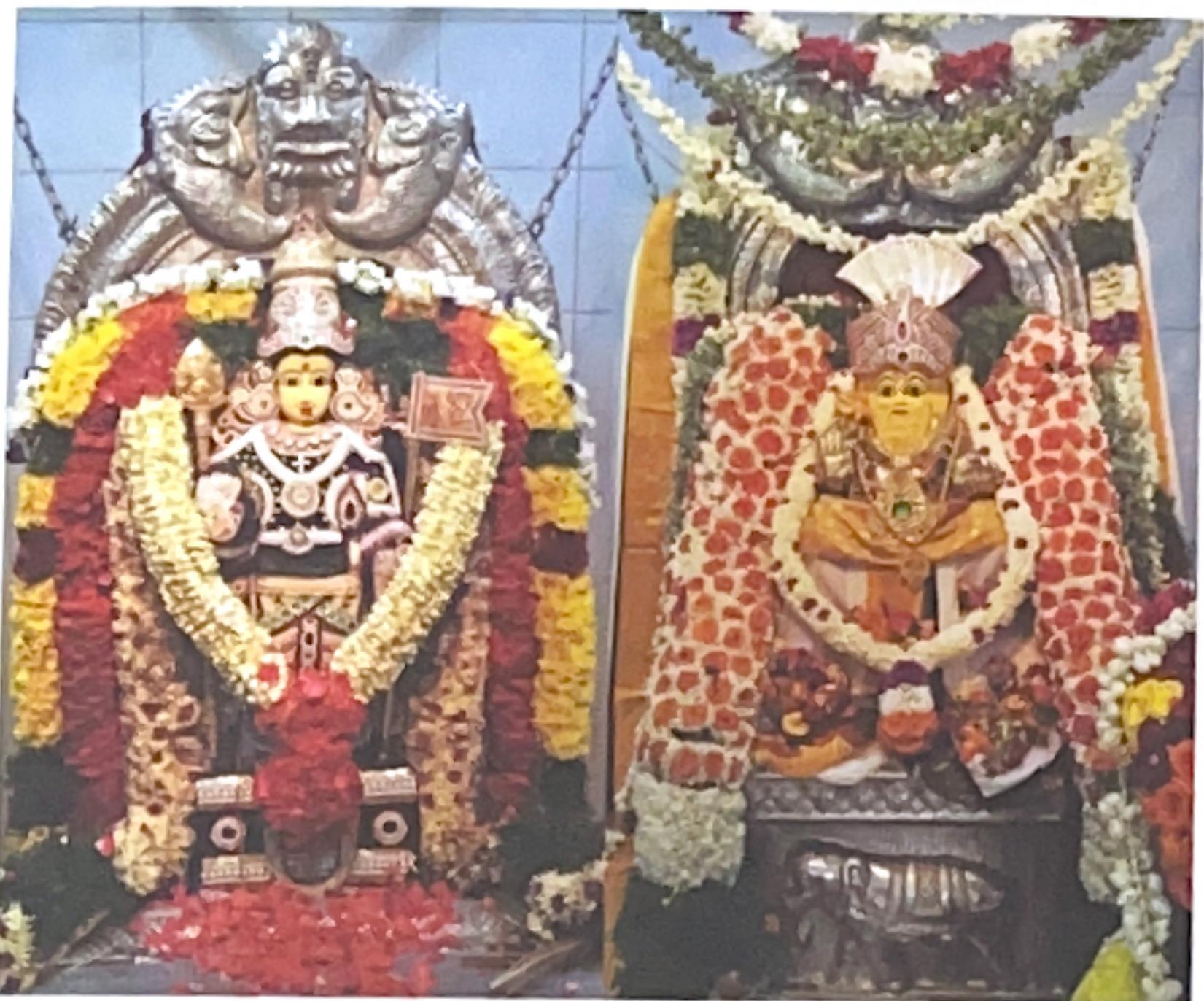
Sri Krishna Bhagawan Durga Parameswari Temple began as a refuge for early Indian settlers in the Seletar and Jalan Kayu areas back in the late 1940s. Its modest altar housed the deities of Sri Vinayagar, Sri Krishna Bhagawan and Sri Durga Parameswari. Over the years, this remarkable little temple came to be known not just for its divinity, but strangely, also for its delicious paal payasam (sweet milk porridge) that was served on Saturdays to all in its vicinity. The milk used for making the paal payasam came from a cow that was owned by the temple. Surprisingly, so much milk was produced daily that it was sent for use at other temples!

The history of Sri Mariamman Temple though traversed with mysticism, is known for the wonders of spirituality experienced by devotees who frequented the place since it was first established. By 1972, this quaint temple had sanctums erected for Sri Kailaya Ganapathy, Sri Muthumariamman, Sri Gnanamuneeswarar, Sri Veerapathirar and Sri Subramaniar. Many local Indians, who worshipped at the temple in its early days, continue to do so even after its relocation, maintaining a strong religious affinity to its deities.

Arulmigu Velmurugan Temple, built in 1960 at Silat Road, served the largely migrant population of Indians living in the vicinity of the Malayan Railways. Many today still remember the simple festivities that were held at the temple in the early days. In the 1970s this little temple was popular with kavadi bearers during Panguni Utiram, a festival celebrating the celestial marriage of Lord Subramanya to Theivanai, the adopted daughter of Lord Indra.

Arulmigu Velmurugan Sannathi





Arulmigu Velmurugan Sannathi, Gnanamuneeswarar

Navagraham



What is interesting is that all three temples had been managed by persons with visions of building a lasting structure to house their deities. Though plagued by the uncertainty on the availability of suitable land, managing with temporary housing conditions, and having to raise large amounts of funds for temple construction, the management never lost their faith and hope.

From 2001, the Hindu Endowments Board allowed for the deities from the three temples to be housed temporarily on the grounds of the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple at Serangoon Road while the new temple at Rivervale Crescent was being constructed. Jointly, the temple society of Arulmigu Velmurugan Gnanamuneeswarar Temple raised more than \$6 million for the construction of their vision temple sanctuary at Sengkang.

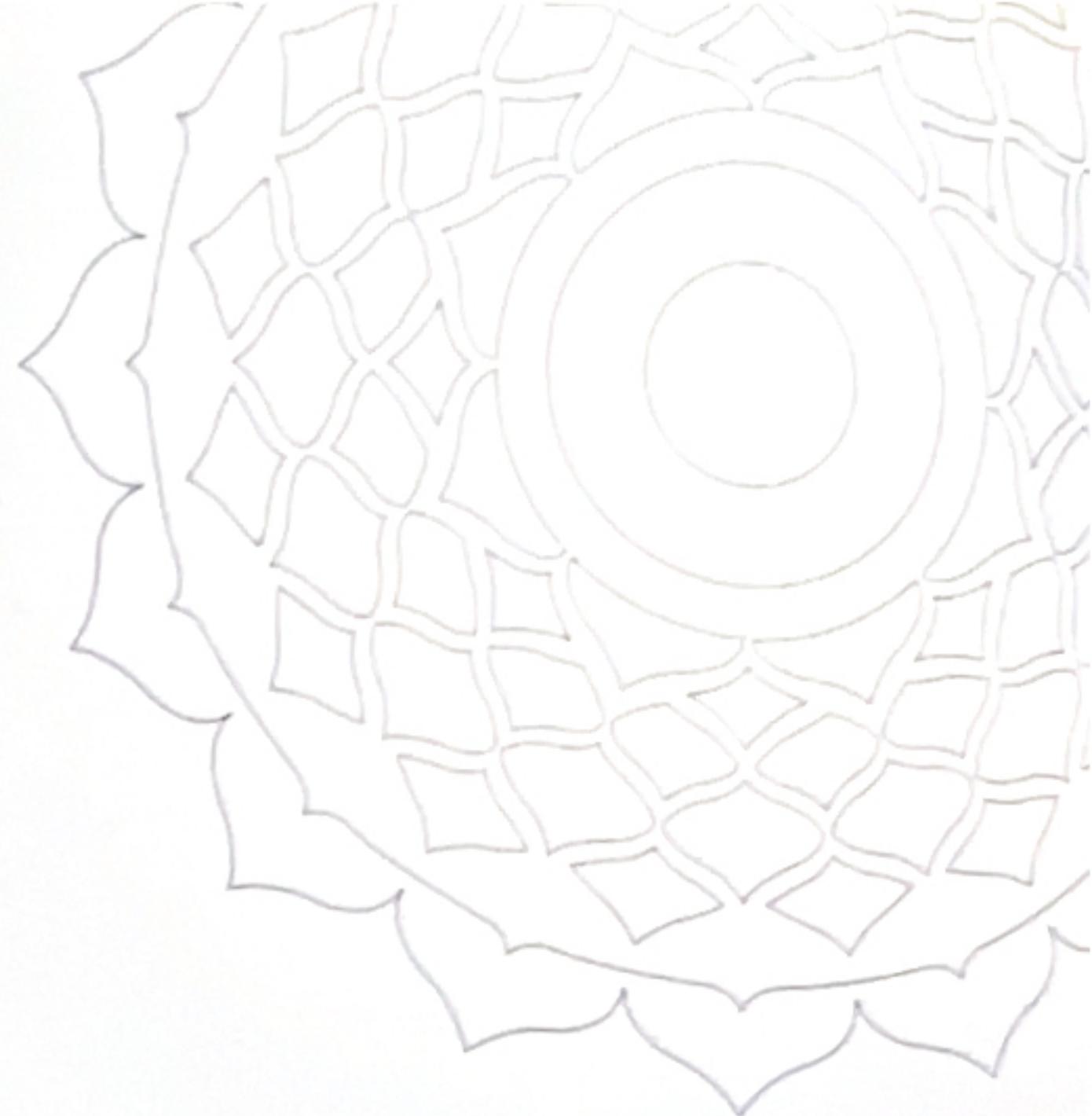
In February 2006, AVGMT moved to its new home at Rivervale Crescent, Sengkang and its consecration ceremony at the new temple site was conducted the same month. The temple has ornate architecture with numerous carved images and motifs throughout. The grandeur of the temple is further enhanced with its raised dome above the sanctums. The temple blends modestly with the modern housing structures, which surround it.

AVGMT in Sengkang is more than a temple, it is an institution representative of the people residing in the area. It is multi-ethnic in its outlook and bears close links with other religious communities. It comes as no surprise that inter-racial, inter-religious harmony is practiced and takes precedence in all of AVGMT's festivities.

MAJOR FESTIVALS

Varudabishegam
Sri Kantha Sasti Vizha

Pournami Sri Gnanamuneeswarar Guru Poojai
Karthigai
Navarathiri

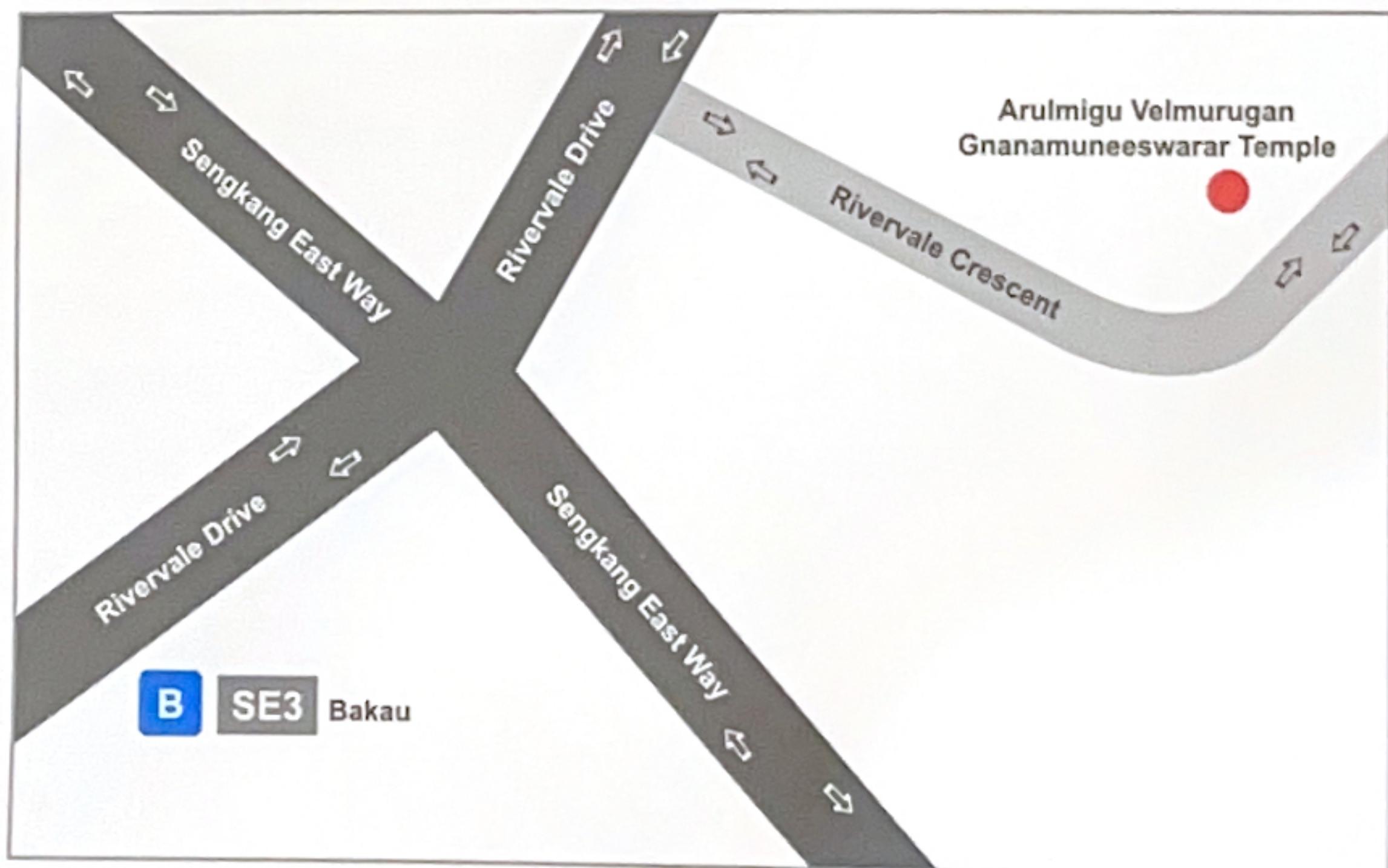


Opening Hours:

7.00am to 12.00pm
6.30pm to 9.30pm

Address:

50, Rivervale Crescent Sengkang, Singapore 545029
Tel: +65 6294 6739 Fax: +65 6387 9638
email: avgmtemple@gmail.com
Website: www.avgmtsg



Transport Information:

Bus No: 85
LRT: Bakau SE3



ARULMIGU MURUGAN TEMPLE

During the 1960's when most of the temples in Singapore were sprouting around Serangoon area, devotees in other pockets desired to have a temple in their location. One such place was Jurong, which had quite a sizable Indian population. Arulmigu Murugan Temple is the culmination of efforts and persistence of a small group of Hindu devotees, who were mostly residents from Jurong. Despite their yearning to have a temple in their locality for a long time, things started materializing only from the year 1993 when a piece of land was bought for construction. However owing to insufficient funds to raise a building, a temporary shed was built in the site, where devotees congregated for daily prayers all the way until 1998.

It was only after the second phase of construction that the temple saw a formal structure along with a multi-storey workplace. The temple construction was finally completed in the year 2003, and officially opened for worship in 2005. It is noteworthy that professionals, who took 5 years to complete the intricate artwork, offered their services for free. Their involvement and dedication in each piece of artwork was evident in the way it turned out to be. For instance, the spearhead Murugan, where the spade was wide at the bottom and pointed at the top was an indication of focus and open-mindedness. Similarly, each masterpiece in the temple symbolizes an inner meaning



It is also a point of highlight that the temple functions solely on voluntary services offered by devotees with the only exception of the head priest from South India. Despite voluntary involvement, the temple continues to operate in full capacity. Apart from regular religious rituals, the temple offers health screenings, monthly food distribution, cash hand-outs, and bursary schemes for the poor and needy.

Today, the temple situated in Jurong, functions with the support from Indian philanthropists, and has a congregation of about 5000 devotees every month, including a major segment of Indians and Chinese worshippers.

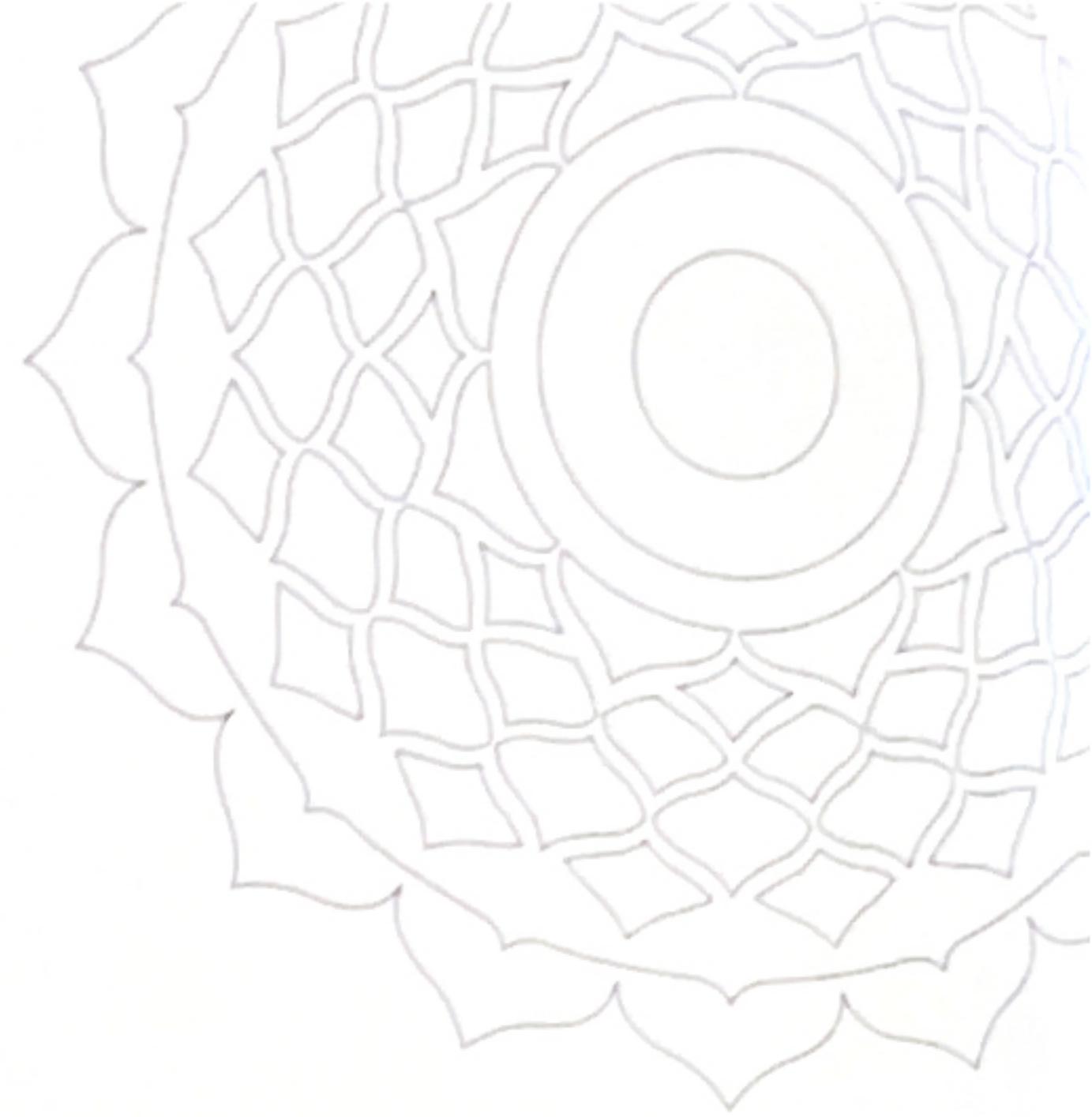




MAJOR FESTIVALS

Karthigai

Kantha Sashti



Opening Hours:

7.30am to 12.00pm

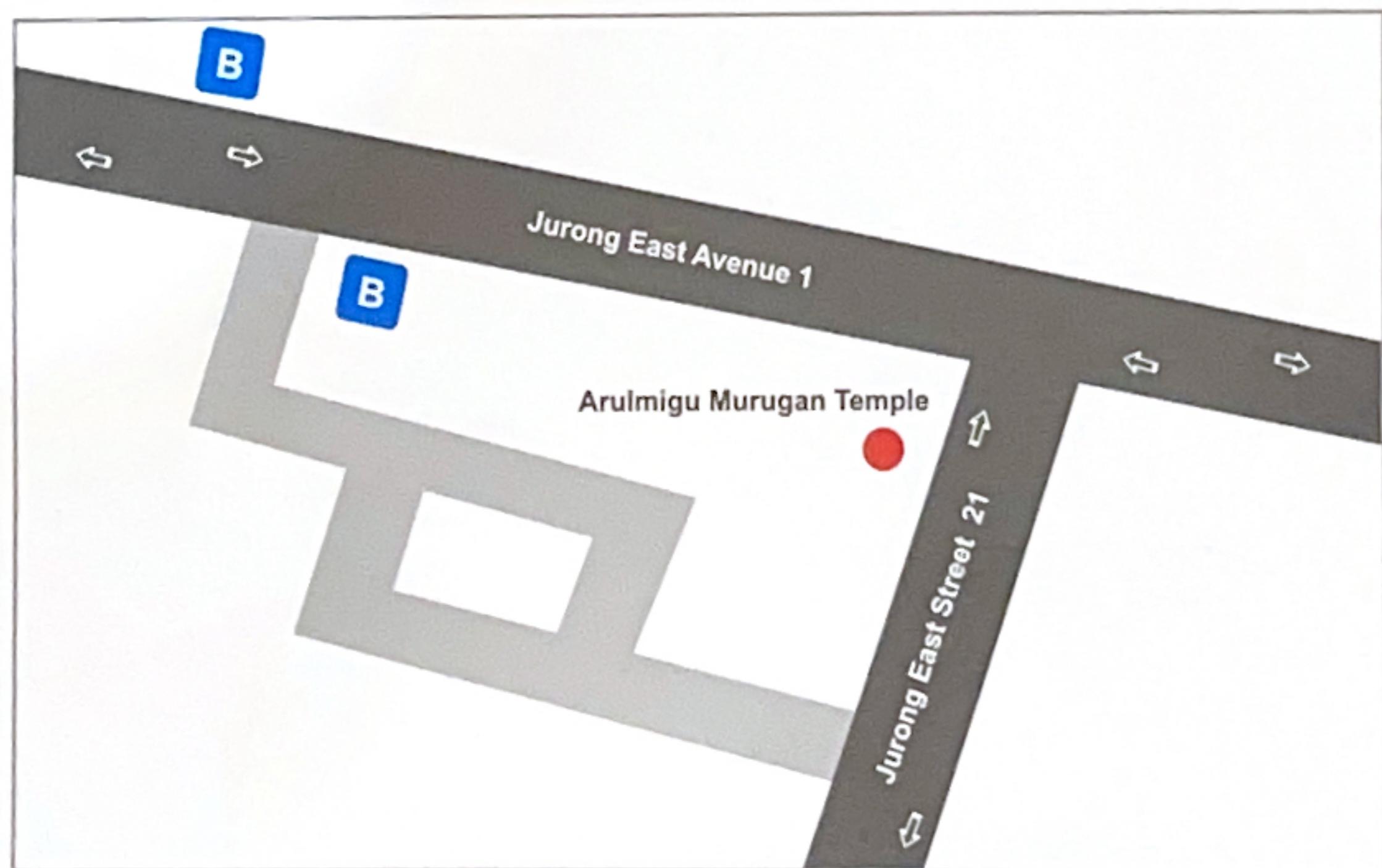
6.30pm to 8.30pm

Address:

281 Jurong East St 21, Singapore 609605

Tel: +65 6563 3613 Fax: +65 6563 4352

email: arulmigumurugantemple@gmail.com



Transport Information:

Bus No: 98, 98M, 333

MRT: JURONG EAST **NS1** **NE24**



HOLY TREE SRI BALASUBRAMANIAR TEMPLE

Holy Tree Sri Balasubramaniar Temple, devoted to Lord Muruga was the inspiration of a dream by a staunch devotee, Mr Karuppiah, a worker in the British Royal Navy Dockyard. Deeply driven by his dream of Lord Muruga with a majestic golden cobra under a specific "Elanthamaram" (a kind of tree), he placed an altar in a swampy mangrove area in the west of Canberra road on the auspicious day of Pongal in the year 1962. The tree under which he constructed the basic altar had six branches symbolizing its links with Lord Muruga. Later on, he added pictures of other deities on the altar.

Soon, word about the holy altar spread, and devotees started visiting the place to offer daily prayers. Most of them were Hindu workers from the dockyard. The place was soon designated as a shrine and a small shed was built around the tree. From then, people started referring to the temple as Punithamaram or Holy Tree Sri Balasubramaniar Temple.



The temple was officially registered in the year 1964, and Mr Saravanan was elected as the honorary president. The newly elected president with the committee soon started working towards the temple building project. The building materials and other logistics were granted by the officials in Royal Navy and the Naval Dockyard. With further support from the committee and devotees, the temple saw a grand structure, and an official Kumbhabhishekam.

The first wedding that was solemnized in the year 1971 was the beginning of many more weddings that was conducted in the temple. Located in Yishun Industrial park, the temple serves as a focal point for the Hindu devotees in and around adjoining areas.



"Shoes Made of Nails" - Panguni Uthiram



Sri Balasubramaniar Samadhi

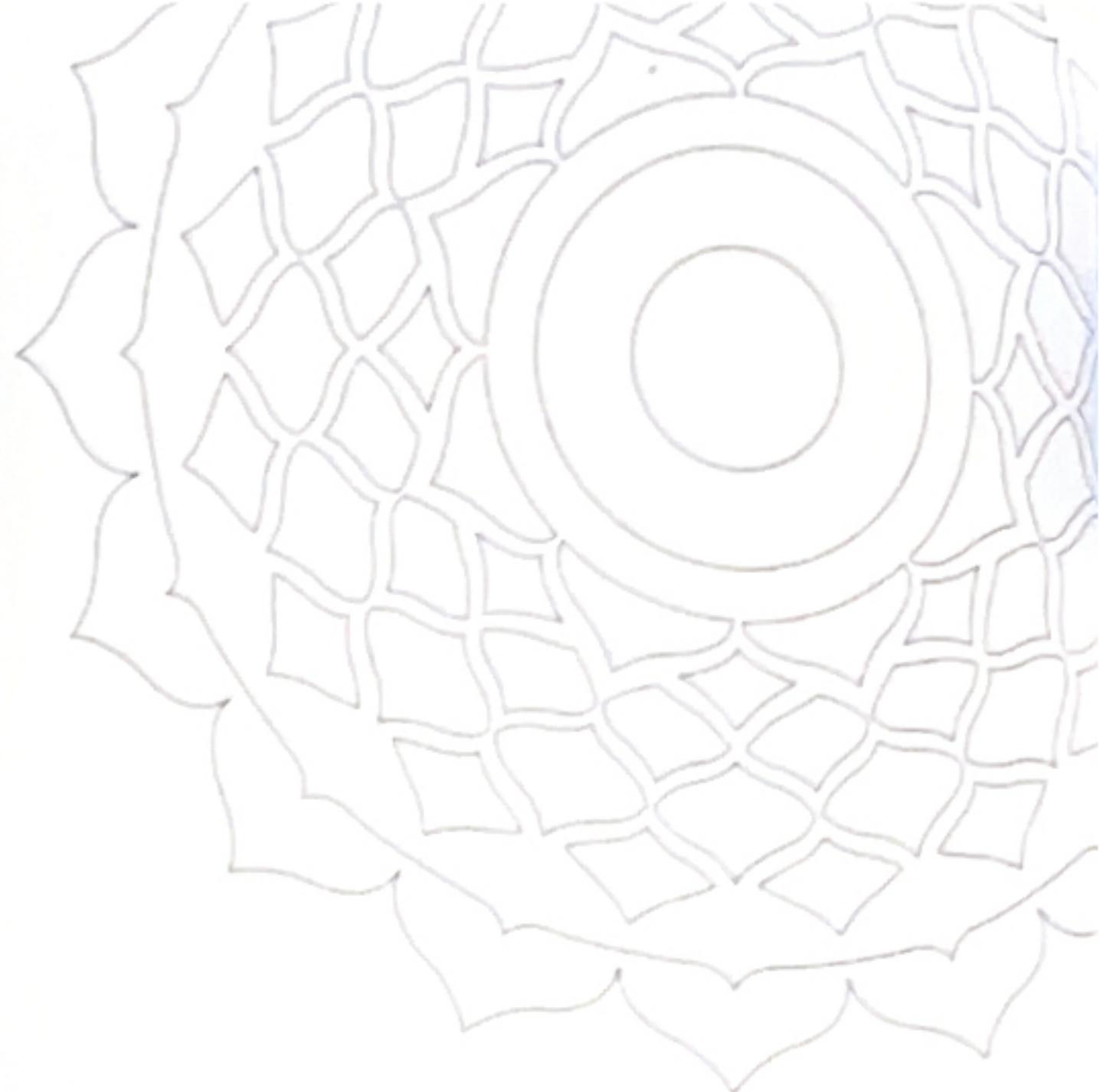


"Kavadi" - Panguni Uthiram



MAJOR FESTIVALS

Panguni Uthiram
Thaipuasam
Karthigai



Opening Hours:

7.30am to 12.00pm
6.30pm to 8.30pm

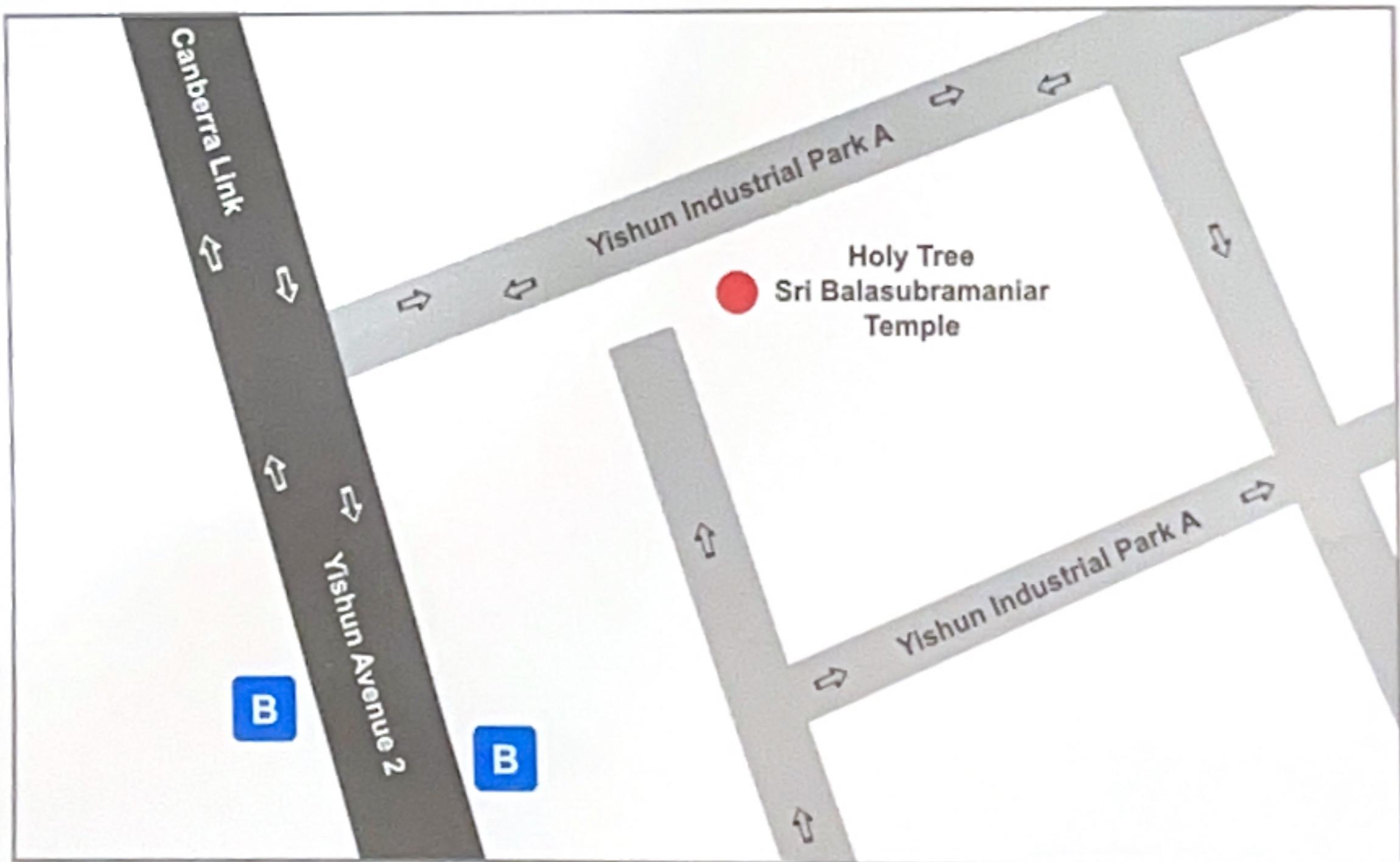
Address:

10, Yishun Industrial Park A, Singapore 786772

Tel : +65 6756 1912 / 6758 5528

email: holytree@singnet.com.sg

Website: www.holytreebalasubramaniar.com



Transport Information:

Bus No: 169

MRT: YISHUN **NS24**