

# 加藤 圓清 (Ensei Kato)



## Profile

Vice Chief Priest of "Chikurinzan Houon-ji Temple."

Born in Usuki City and graduated from a local high school and studied Buddhism at Rissyo University in Tokyo while pursuing his passion for music. Performed in front of over 1,000 spectators at ZEPP TOKYO in the final show of the "Tenkaichi Music Festival," but retired to take over his family's temple. Completed 35 days of training at the head temple, Minobusan Kuon-ji in the 26<sup>th</sup> year of Heisei (2014) and became a monk of Nichiren-shu Buddhism. Achieved the "100-day Daiaragyodo (great asceticism)" twice in the 27<sup>th</sup> year of Heisei (2015) and the first year of Reiwa (2019). Continues to preach and perform as a "singing monk" at temples and events nationwide.

### ■What we value:

- Creating a temple that makes local people happy

### ■What you can learn and do:

- Buddhism, stories about Buddhism practice, prayer experience such as exorcisms

### ■Sights to see and flavors to savor:

- The wonderful nature of Usuki where you can enjoy the sea, mountains and rivers all in one day
- Miso soft-serve ice cream

### ■My "SDGs×#〇〇"

# Online temple supporters # Temple reform

## Buddha's Teachings Through the Melody of a Guitar

Carrying a guitar from town to town and performing songs and talks, he eases the hearts of those who work too hard. Mr. Kato Ensei is not only the vice chief priest of "Houon-ji Temple", but also has a reputation as a "singing monk." He was one of the first in the field to adopt the use of social media such as YouTube and Twitter to disseminate information, and his flexible thinking and energetic actions can be said to be unconventional in a good way. Ensei has a strong desire to convey the benefits of Buddhism to many people.

Born in this temple, Ensei went to a Buddhist university after graduating from high school. His vague childhood dream of "taking over the temple in the future" became clearer as he studied the depth of Buddhism at university. After graduation, he trained at the head temple and became a monk. After 100 days of rigorous training and great asceticism, he realized that Buddha's teachings are meant to enrich the lives of people living today. Thinking about how to communicate that to as many people as possible, he came up with the idea of doing it by singing and playing the guitar. When he was young, he was also active as a musician. "I traveled around the country to give preaching live performances. It was a nationwide tour. In a way, my old dream came true." He says with a gentle smile. With everything he has, Ensei conveys Buddha's teachings to people. Aware of the state of people and Buddhism in modern times, the young monk continues to sing today.



Launched his YouTube channel in the 24th year of Heisei (2012). Also conducts "Live Prayers" every month.



A red temple seal with the picture and words of a "singing monk."



The "water purification ceremony" on February 3rd is a traditional event in Setsubun (the day before the beginning of spring) to dispel the evil spirits of the year.