

OFUSE (お布施)

Literally “honorific-giving”: This envelope is used when making a donation to a temple for private memorial services, funerals, weddings, or any other general donation. Ofuse usually implies a donation to the temple organization.

OREI (お礼)

The Orei envelope may be used as any gift of gratitude to someone who has done you a favor, service, or helped you in any way. In a Buddhist context, it is used when making an offering to a priest for having conducted a service, given a talk, etc. In this case, the priest's name is written on the envelope. Depending on the temple, a priest may receive such an envelope, may receive it only if a similar Ofuse donation is made to the temple, or may not receive any envelope (all donations going to the temple). It is best to check with the temple ahead of time.

GOBUTSUZEN (ご仏前)

This has two basic uses. When given to a temple, it is placed before the altar of the Buddha and is a general donation to the temple, especially used when visiting other temples. The second use of this envelope is when attending the memorial service of a relative or friend. If the memorial service is at home, the envelopes are placed on the stand of the incense burner. The family observing the memorial will then receive them after the service. If the envelopes are left on the stand, it is assumed that it is a donation to the temple.

OMIMAI (お見舞い)

Omimai is a gift taken to a friend recovering from an illness or to a friend or group recovering from a fire, flood, accident, etc.