

THE CARPENTER 木匠



MCI (P): 025/06/2019

24th Edition, December 2019

FOREWORD

Welcome to another issue of "The Carpenter." It has been a while since our last publication in December 2017 and during this hiatus the focus had been on completing the various developments in our parish, which we will share with you in this issue.

We will be consolidating our publication into two issues per year namely Christmas and Easter, and I hope that you will continue to enjoy reading them.

The theme for this issue is on "The Family."

When we reflect on the lives of the Holy Family, we are inspired to emulate their virtues and values. The obedience and trust placed in God will help us to overcome the trials and challenges that we face in our lives. Unlike the Holy Family, our mortal families are imperfect but nevertheless, we strive for perfection. Taken in the right spirit, the trials that are placed in our path, can only drive us to be stronger and more resilient.

Within our families, the virtue of "forgiveness"

must prevail. Forgiveness is vital to our emotional health and spiritual survival. Forgiveness brings joy and peace.

The family is not only defined by biological connections, but it also refers to the family of the Church. Amongst our ministries and groups, there must be this level of cohesiveness and co-operation. We must learn to serve with love and humility and give ourselves generously for the greater glory of God.



To build on the theme of the family, the 2020 Holy Hour sessions will focus on the "Beatitudes." Last year, the Holy Hour featured the

"Ten Commandments" which taught us to live in the grace of God. The "Beatitudes" will build upon that and guide us towards living a blessed life. Come for the Holy Hour and be spiritually nourished.

In 2021, we will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of our parish. We will be planning several events to commemorate this milestone. We will commence with a Parish Census this year to understand the demographics of our community and I strongly urge every parishioner to participate and register your family in our census.

Fr Peter and I look forward to serving you better and we thank you for your prayers and continuous support. We take this opportunity to wish you and all your loved ones a very blessed and spiritually filled New Year.

May the Holy Spirit fill our homes with love and may we imitate Christ in all that we say and do.

God Bless!

Fr Christopher Lee
Parish Priest

Party as a Community

The parish celebrated Christmas with a party on the evening of 28 December 2019.



Left to right: Sr Claire, Bro Dominic, Fr Peter, Vincent Lee and Fr Christopher.



Top: Music and entertainment.

Below: Makan time!



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Parish Assembly 20 May 2019

“We need more faith formation programs”,
 “We should have more family-centric activities”,
 “There is a need for facilities and activities to cater to a growing number of Elderly”,
 “Let us reach out to parishioners at the new estates”, etc.

These were just some of the many inputs that were gathered at the Parish Assembly held on 20 May 2019 at the Parish Community Hall.



Parish Assembly.



Former PPC Ex-co Chairman Dominic Soh (above left) pictured with current Chairman Gabriel Lok.

Facilitated by the Advisor to the Parish Pastoral Council, Dominic Soh, the event had an attendance of more than 200 parishioners and it provided the opportunity for parishioners to raise pastoral concerns for the attention of the Executive Committee of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC Ex-co) as well as the Ministries.

Other than addressing the concerns, the occasion also allowed for updates to be given to parishioners covering efforts taken by the parish to strengthen our worship, increase faith formation activities, to build and expand our community, to reach out to our elderly as well as many of the enhancements made to the facilities to benefit our parishioners.

Summing up the event, PPC Ex-co Chairman, Gabriel Lok aptly said, “We are glad to have gathered the feedback as these input will be useful to determine where we should be focusing our attention. Each parish is unique and will always have its own set of issues and we will immediately work to address them.”

List of Issues to be followed-up:

1. Parish Census will be rolled out so that we have a better understanding of the demographics of our Parishioners. This will enable us to create a more vibrant and inclusive Parish.
2. Major infrastructure works in 2020 would be the re-surfacing of the road.
3. To improve facilities to support our elderly Parishioners, we will be communicating with the Land Transport Authority and other relevant Governmental agencies to explore the possibility:
 - (a) of erecting sheltered walkway linking the bus stop to the main church building via the foot path.
 - (b) of improving the footpath by the Canal.
4. Implementing a program to reach out to more parishioners through the Neighbourhood Catholic Community (NCC). This is to encourage them to form and be part of fellowship groups to provide spiritual support within the parish community.
5. Enhance our GLAD programme to cater to the needs of our Seniors.



Spiritual Directors
 Fr Christopher Lee
 Fr Peter Zhang

Editorial
 Evelyn Lau
 Cecilia Lee
 Dr Rilly Ray
 Theresa Khoo
 Wendy Chan
 Claudia Ng
 Joseph Edwin D’Cruz
 Wilson Chew
 Thomas Audi Tan

Photography & Design
 SJC Media Group

Printer
 MontPrint Creative Services

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 or on Facebook: “St Joseph’s Church (Bt
 Timah) Community.”

Please send correspondence to:
admin@stjoseph-bt.org.sg

Sharing the Joy of Christmas with Friends of Other Faiths

The Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue (ACCIRD)
 hosted a Christmas gathering with representatives of other faiths
 at St Joseph’s Church on 26 December 2019.



Celebrating Christmas with representatives of other faiths.
 Archbishop William Goh is seated in the front row, seventh from left.



Christmas Carols by the 11am Choir.



Reception at the Parish Community Hall.

Nuncio's Message Delivered on Feast Day 1 May 2019

We were most privileged to have His Excellency, Archbishop Marek Zalewski, Apostolic Nuncio to Singapore, grace us with his presence at our Feast Day Mass and Celebration Dinner on 1 May 2019.

Here is an extract of his homily which aptly summarizes the life of our patron Saint and extols his virtues which we aspire to emulate.



Apostolic Nuncio delivering his homily.

19 March:

Solemnity of St. Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Patron of the Universal Church.

1 May:

Memorial of Saint Joseph, the Worker.

The devotion for St. Joseph can be already traced to the 4th century in the Eastern Church. In 17th century, Pope Gregory XV declared the Feast of St. Joseph as a Feast of obligation. In 1726, Pope Benedict XIII inserted the name of Saint Joseph in the Litanies of the Saints.

In December, 1870, according to the wish of the bishops and the faithful, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph as the Patron of the Catholic Church.

And finally, the Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, inserted the name of Joseph in Eucharistic prayers, immediately after the name of Blessed Virgin Mary. In fact, today we say: "with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with St. Joseph, her Spouse, Apostles..."

The feast of St. Joseph the Worker was established by Pope Pius XII in 1955 in order to Christianize the concept of labour and give a model and protector to all working men and women.

By the daily labour in his shop, offered to God with patience and joy, St. Joseph provided for the necessities of his holy spouse and of the Incarnate Son of God, and thus became an example to all laborers. "Workmen and all those labouring in conditions of poverty will have reasons to rejoice rather than grieve, since they have in common with the Holy Family daily preoccupations and cares" (Pope Leo XIII).

Another Roman Pontiff, Pope John Paul II had once said that "Saint Joseph is a man of great spirit. He is great in faith, not because he speaks his own words, but above all, because he listens to the words of the Living God. He listens in silence. And his heart ceaselessly perseveres in the readiness to accept the Truth contained in the word of the Living God".

There is very little about the life of Joseph in Scripture but still, we

know that he was the chaste husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus, a carpenter and a man who was not wealthy. We also know that he came from the royal lineage of King David.

We can see from his actions in scripture that Joseph was a compassionate man, and obedient to the will of God. He also loved Mary and Jesus and wanted to protect and provide for them.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph had probably died before Jesus entered the public ministry.

Joseph is the patron of many things, including the universal Church, all workers, fathers, the dying and social justice.



Various depictions of St Joseph.

As it is perceived from all these facts, the recognition that St. Joseph was very progressive in the Church. This recognition is very high, certainly not equal to the recognition that the Virgin Mary received over the centuries.

Most of what we do know of St Joseph is found in the First and Third Chapters in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Based on the content of the Holy Bible, a few months before the Annunciation, Joseph settled in Nazareth. [Lk. 2:4] From the same source, we learn that he was a carpenter, the spouse of the Virgin Mary and the foster father of Jesus [Mt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3].

When Joseph was engaged to be married to the Virgin Mary, he learned that she was pregnant. Not wanting to cause a public scandal, he was considering to dismiss her quietly [Mt. 1:19]. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife for the conception of her Child resulted from the power of the Holy Spirit [Mt. 1:20]. Consequently, as we know, Joseph took the Virgin Mary as his wife [Mt. 1:24].

From this, we are able to understand that Joseph was God's choice of a foster father for Jesus and that he was a respectable and righteous man [Mt. 1:19].

As the Holy Scriptures teach us, Joseph endured anxieties in life as we all do. When he went with Mary to Bethlehem to register themselves in the Census, "the time came for her to deliver her child." [Lk. 2:6] Mary gave birth and laid Jesus in a manger because "there was no place for them in the inn" [Lk. 2:7].

When Joseph took Mary to Jerusalem to present Jesus to the Lord, he heard what Simeon had to say about the Child. Joseph and Mary were amazed at what was being said about Him [Lk. 2:33].

The last mention of St. Joseph in the Holy Bible is when Jesus was twelve years old and the family made their annual pilgrimage to the Holy City. This is when Jesus stayed behind in the Temple without the knowledge of His parents [Lk. 2:41-8].

Over and above what has just been said, in some Bible passages, Jesus is referred to as "the Son of Joseph" [Jn. 1:45, 6:42, Lk. 4:22]. This confirms that Joseph was the adoptive father of Jesus.

Family Love

Why are family members unable to get along with each other? We witness this every day – in the MRT trains, in school, on the streets, in our own neighbourhood, in our homes – family members arguing, shouting, throwing fits of temper, using abusive and hurtful words, causing pain. Why? What is the illness that is causing so much suffering in the world? It is due to the lack of genuine and unconditional love.



St Mother Teresa once said that the most significant illness in the world is spiritual deprivation. This is a feeling of being unworthy of love. Such people feel small, unable to love or feel loved, so they are miserable. They feel that there is a great and invisible wall that separates them from others. So they withdraw into a shell. In the presence of a group, they begin to compare with others, thus feeling unworthy.

When love is conditional

For children, this begins with “conditional love”. For example, a parent may say to a child, “If you pass your exam, I will buy you a smart phone” or “If you help me wash dishes, I will give you two dollars.” He would interpret that the parent will

only love him if he passes his exam, washes the dishes, etc. That is traumatic for the child and as a result, he feels unloved except if he does what his parent wants him to.

Another example is scolding the child with words such as, “You are stupid, why can’t you do that addition in school, you stupid boy. See how smart your friend is, he scored an A in Mathematics.” Such unconditional loving care of the growing child may result in the manifestation of behaviours like anger tantrums, an inability to trust, perfectionism in actions, a desire to rationalise everything, extreme shyness, being defensive, becoming a loner, overachieving, and wearing masks.

The child will live with the feeling that God, parents and friends do not love him for who he is. These negative feelings can cause the child to get lonely, isolated and eventually develop psychological problems like clinical anxiety and depression, and Obsessive Compulsive Neurosis (OCD). Some even commit suicide.

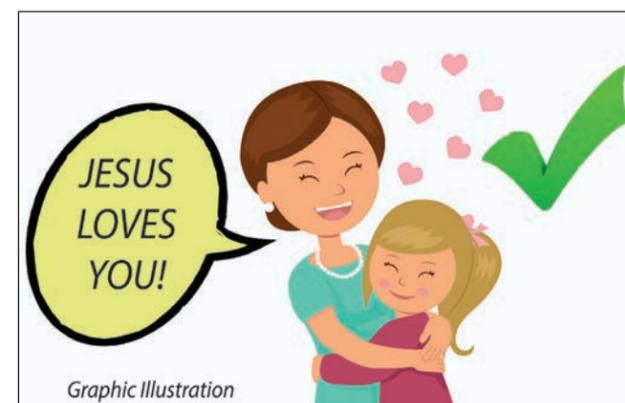
We may see more of such behavioural peculiarities in people because children are growing up in an environment where parents provide conditional love.

God’s unconditional love

Many of us are influenced by the values of the secular world, where people do not believe in God. They believe in themselves, relying on their own strength. For them, it is a waste of time to pray, or go to mass, as they believe they can use that time to generate wealth.

Morals are forgotten. They need to rationalise everything to find worldly evidence before they decide to believe. As God is absent in their lives, these people become confused and lost. They feel something missing in life, which is actually God’s Spirit pushing them towards God, to know God.

We need to accept and understand that God created us because He loves us. There is nothing we can do to earn, or lose, that love. He created us beautiful, complete and loving. His unconditional love energises us, making our lives happy and peaceful, even in difficult times. Believing in Him and keeping close to Him gives our lives meaning and a great joy that nothing else in the world can give.



Learning to love unconditionally

Parents need to provide genuine unconditional love to their children, especially during the first two years of life. A baby needs to feel loved and valued by parents and carers. Abusive and angry words are registered in the child’s mind very early causing insecurity and fear that can last through adulthood.

It is crucial for parents to give positive remarks, words of praise and love, and to demonstrate loving actions such as hugging and kissing to enable the growing child to feel that genuine unconditional love.

All of us want to be happy, get along well in our relationships and live in peace and harmony in our families. To do so, we need to put God first and then everything else will fall in place, when we learn to love others, especially our family members, unconditionally.

Happenings @ SJC: A Photo Montage Highlighting Key Events in 2018 & 2019.

27 January 2018: Appreciation Dinner.



The Appreciation Dinner for ministry members and Feast Day funfair volunteers was held at the newly renovated Parish Community Hall. A donation cheque of \$20,000 was presented by Hong Kiat Construction Pte Ltd to St Joseph’s Church.

2 February 2018: Opening and Blessing of Adoration Room.



The opening and blessing of the Adoration Room (Upper Room) after the 6.30am Mass.

4 March 2018: RCIA (Chinese) Rite of Election.



Catechumens from various parishes entered their names into the Book of the Elect, which was later presented to the Archbishop.

1 May 2018: 172nd Anniversary Celebration Dinner.



The parish 172nd Anniversary Celebration Dinner was held at the Parish Community Hall after the 5.30pm Mass.

29 May 2018: Day of Recollection for the Mandarin and Dialect Speaking Group.



Day of Recollection for members from the Mandarin and Dialect Speaking Group was held on 29 May, Vesak Day public holiday.

11 June 2018: First Mass Celebrated at New Chapel.



The first Mass celebrated at the Chapel of St Joseph took place on 11 June. The 6.30am Mass was concelebrated by Fr Chris and Fr Michael Teo.

9 August 2018: Official Opening and Blessing of New Chapel.



Archbishop William Goh blessed the new grotto and the Parish Community Hall after the Mass.

6 October 2018: Feast of the Holy Rosary.



Outdoor procession with recitation of the Rosary in English and Mandarin after the 5.30pm Sunset Mass.

17 October 2018: CDD Founder's Day Mass.

A Mass in Mandarin commemorating the 60th Death Anniversary of the founder of the Congregation of the Disciples of the Lord (CDD) was held at 8pm on 17 October.

After the Mass, Fr Peter Zhang gave a brief presentation on the history of the CDD order which he belongs to, and its missionary activities in Singapore and around the world.



Above: Portrait of Cardinal Celso Costantini, founder of the CDD religious order.

20 October 2018: Teochew Group 30th Anniversary.



The 30th Anniversary of the Sodality of St Joseph for Departed Souls (Teochew Group). A banquet dinner was held at the Parish Community Hall.

6 November 2018: Parish Day of Recollection.



The parish Day of Recollection (DOR) was held on 6 November with Fr James Yeo as speaker.

5 January 2019: ACF 5th Anniversary Celebrations at SJC.



The Archdiocesan Commission for the Family (ACF) celebrated its 5th Anniversary on 5 January with a Commissioning Mass celebrated by Archbishop William Goh. A dinner reception was held at the Parish Community Hall thereafter.

23 February 2019: "Hour of Mercy."



Fr Lionel Thomas from St Peter's Church in Malacca, Malaysia, guided the children from the primary catechism classes through "The Hour of Mercy", a Eucharistic Adoration in preparation for Lent.

27 February 2019: Inauguration of SAHOP.



The inauguration of "Sing A Hymn Of Praise (SAHOP) to God." Subsequent praise and worship sessions are held monthly at 8pm.

10 March 2019: The RCIA (English) Rite of Election.



The RCIA (English) Rite of Election for parishes in the north, east and Serangoon districts was held on 10 March.

24 March 2019: North District Legionaries Acies.



Legion of Mary members pledged their fealty during the Acies Mass.

18 April 2019: Chrism Mass and the Blessing of the "Garden of the Resurrection."



1 May 2019: Parish 173rd Anniversary Celebration Dinner.



His Excellency Archbishop Marek Zalewski (seated fourth from left) was the Guest-of-Honour at the dinner.

18 May 2019: Catechism of the Neophytes.



Archbishop William Goh addressing the neophytes.

2 June 2019: A Visit by Legion of Mary (Chinese) East Curia.



Legionaries from Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Taiwan were given an insight into the parish's rich heritage during their visit.

14 July 2019: 60th Anniversary of the Legion of Mary (Chinese), Our Lady of Mount Carmel Curia.



The Legion of Mary (Chinese), Our Lady of Mount Carmel Curia celebrated its 60th anniversary at St Joseph's Church on 14 July.

**20 July to 13 December 2019
Couple Empowerment Programme (CEP).**



Commencement of the Couple Empowerment Programme (CEP) on 20 July. Sixty couples registered for the programme which concluded on 13 December.

28 July 2019: A Visit by Students from Trinity College.



Two groups of students attended the 7.30am and 11am Masses. After each Mass a reception was organised along with a dialogue session.

23 November 2019: Bt Panjang IRCC Day.



St Joseph's Church hosted a visit from the Bt Panjang - IRCC (Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles) group. The presentation was held at the auditorium at St Francis Xavier Seminary Building.

Below: A group photo after the 11am Mass.



Annual Day of Recollection Highlights Role of Family as Church

Many parishioners who have not been able to participate in church activities because of family duties, e.g. looking after young children or aged parents, can now take comfort that they are, in fact, doing church work.



According to Fr James Yeo, the speaker for the parish's Day of Recollection (DOR) this year, the family is the domestic church, and hence taking care of the family and spending time as a family IS building up the church.

The Role of the Christian family

In Saint Pope John Paul II's 'Familiaris Consortio' (The Fellowship of the Family), the family is seen as having four tasks:

1. Forming a community of persons
2. Serving life
3. Participating in the development of society
4. Sharing in the life and mission of the Church

For more information, you can read the document on the Vatican website under the heading 'Apostolic Exhortations'.



The annual DOR took place on Monday, 26 October, a public holiday. Despite the long weekend, about 350 people turned up for the day-long event that ended with a Eucharistic celebration. Young and old, family and friends alike were treated to an inspiring series of talks on the theme of 'Spirituality of the Family' that was delivered with Fr James' trademark humor and wit.

Fr James based his talks on the papal document 'Familiaris Consortio' (The Fellowship of the Family) written by Saint Pope John Paul II, which deals with the role of the family, and the relationships within the family, as well as with society at large.

The document was brought to life with Fr James' anecdotes and examples from his own rich pastoral experience as a former parish priest and current Rector of the Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore.

"Central to family spirituality is love and forgiveness, which are both sides of the same coin," said Fr James.

This struck a chord with many parishioners.

Jaycenta Riena Simon said, "Many families nowadays suffer in their relationships not because they don't love each other, but because they don't know how to forgive one another."

Jennifer Cheang agreed, "Sometimes we need to be reminded that no one is perfect."

Besides church teaching, the attendees also took home a set of Sacramentals consisting of

holy water, blessed oil and blessed salt, packed with love by volunteers and the church pastoral workers.



Many parishioners were very grateful for the gift. Echoing their thanks, Agatha Lee said, "I now understand the use of these sacramentals and how they are crucial for peace and harmony in families."

Joseph Kennedy summed up for everyone when he said the DOR was "a fruitful way to spend time as a family and find Christ in our family life."

GLAD (Golden Living Active Disciples) Ministry

The GLAD Ministry was formed in June 2018 to build an active holistic seniors community grounded on faith and Christian love.

Objectives

1. To journey spiritually with our seniors through prayer sessions and talks.
2. To nurture an environment that encourages caring and sharing amongst the community.
3. To promote healthy living and life-long learning.

The new Ministry launched it's first activity with a Grandparents and Grandchildren's Bonding Day with a visit to the Gardens by the Bay on 14 June 2019. Joining the seniors at this event was Bro Simon Ho.

A slew of activities followed the launch.

GLAD in Adoration

Guided by Bro Simon Ho and Bro Aiden Peter Jr, OFM (Now Fr Aiden Peter Jr, OFM).

GLAD Talks

(a) Dr Rilly Ray and Wendy Louis launched a series of three talks on ageing, health, spiritual life and our mission to live in the Grace of God (pictured below).



Legal Talk.



Cloud Forest, Gardens by the Bay.

(b) Legal Talk

A most informative talk (pictured below) given by lawyer Jeanny Ng covering topics on making a will, advanced medical directive and lasting power of attorney. The response was overwhelming.

GLAD Fit

Apart from keeping us spiritually nourished, Stretch-Band classes as well as Low Impact Aerobics were started.

GLAD Eats

Seniors were introduced to scrumptious dining at The Art in Assumption Pathway School (APS) and were also taught to bake a Blackforest Cake as well as red bean buns.



Above and Below: GLAD at APS.



Scripture Series

To nourish our spiritual needs, Msgr Ambrose Vaz conducted day sessions for our seniors.

GLAD Times

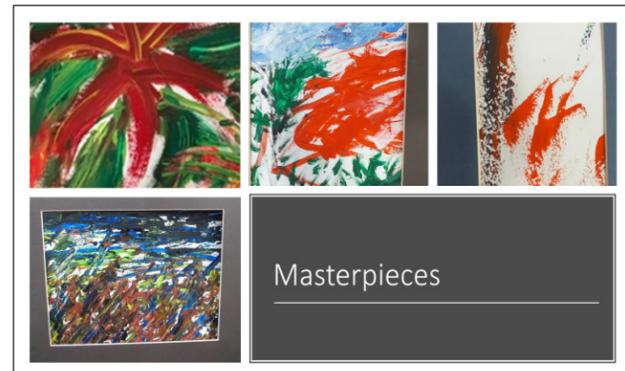
Partnering with the Health Promotion Board, the Balik Kampung Workshops and Christmas Programmes were organised.

GLAD Art

In a four-part series led by Sr Marilyn Lim and Jean and John Tan, attendees uncovered their hidden artistic talents.



GLAD Times.



GLAD Art.

2018年华文退省记

曾月丽

圣若瑟教堂在5月29日举办了堂区华文组半日退省，内容包括敬拜赞美、玫瑰经、圣言反省、和好圣事等。当天早晨阳光明媚，蓝天白云，200多位主内兄弟姐妹共聚一堂，准备以退省的方式度过公共假期。



在一群充满青春朝气并活力四射的歌咏团员的带领下，退省以半个小时的敬拜赞美拉开了序幕。

圣言反省采用的是约纳先知书。约纳先知书共有四章，退省也因此分成了四个部分，每个部分40分钟。在这40分钟里，首先以一端玫瑰经开始；接着请一位参与者宣读约纳先知书的某一章，之后避静神父张思谦神父再为大家导读与分析，不时提出问题，并请大家默思反省；在参与者反思的同时，也可以去办理和好圣事。平时办和好圣事的时间有限，这次在有充足时间和素材反省的前提下，有这个办告解的机会，实属难得。不谙华语的本堂李神父出现在告解的地方，更让我们华语教友深受鼓舞。

四个章节，参与者分别反省了四个主题：爱人、敬主、悔罪、宽恕。约纳传的四章节，每一个章节都蕴含着寓意，体现了天主的无限慈悲。张神父以互动的方式主持讲座，在一位教友念完章节内容过后，张神父就会提出一两道问题，启发我们去思考，这样的方式加上张神父认真的讲解及分析，让与会教友获益不浅。



约纳先知书的最后一章，是以天主向约纳先知提出的问题结尾：“你这株蓖麻，并没有劳过力，也没有使它生长，还怜惜它；它不过是一夜生出，一夜死去的植物；对尼尼微这座大城，其中有十二万多不能分辨自己左右手的人，且有许多牲畜，我就不该怜惜他们么？”

张神父给参与者提出了一个问题：“你认为约纳最后对天主如何回应呢？”还幽默地让我们写上（约4:12）。

我是新教友，就像看戏的人，心急地想知道主角约纳有没有悔改，翻遍了圣经都找不到，有点失望。其实想深一层，张神父的这个问题是问我们教友的感受。天主教教育约纳，也在教育我们教友，要把爱扩大到普世众人，不要只局限在教内朋友。

记得有一位慕道班的讲师告诉我们一件事。有一次在教堂，他的小组组员被困在电梯内，正好有一位姐妹经过，问道：“谁被困在里面”？讲师回答：“我的小组组员。”那位姐妹松了一口气，说：“还好，不是我的组员。”我们听了都笑了，但是笑声背后带着几许悲哀，为那位姐妹狭隘的爱而感到悲哀。

还有一些兄弟姐妹，做很多善事及义工，甚至远到关心非洲难民，但对自己身边的兄弟姐妹，亲朋戚友和同事却缺少了一份关心。

什么是爱，要如何爱人呢？张神父说：爱是让他人生活的更美好，甚至牺牲自己的利益；爱是持久忍耐，又有恩慈，爱是不嫉妒，爱是不自夸，不张狂，不求自己的好处，不轻易发怒，凡事包容，凡事忍耐，爱才能永恒不息。生活中是否有爱，重要的考验就是是否有宽恕的精神。以慈悲和怜悯之心担待兄弟姐妹的软弱和挣扎。

最后神父提醒我们要每天勤于反省，善用和好圣事。罪过并不可怕，人非圣贤，孰能无过。圣人之所以成为圣人，是因为他们谦逊地在天主台前承认罪过，并努力改正自己的过失。

我是新教友，今年四月领洗。在前几个星期的弥撒里，当捶胸说“我罪，我罪，我的重罪”时，自己总是不甚了解，自己到底犯了什么罪？只是有样学样地跟着其他教友一起捶胸。心里也难免有一定程度的压力。通过这次退省，我深刻体会到天主对世人的爱和宽恕，也比较明瞭告解的意义。张神父当天鼓励教友问自己两个问题：“你有没有请求过某人的宽恕或宽恕过某人的经验呢？”“你需要与某人和好吗？”

沿着这两个问题去思考，我找到了答案。虽然还没告解（我需要一点勇气），但在弥撒中捶胸说“我罪，我罪，我的重罪”时，我明白了其中的原因和必要性。我非常感恩天主给予我学习的机会。



芥子剧场

以下是教友的观后感：（摘自facebook）

常在媒体或YouTube看到基督徒，尤其是新教教徒分享见证，这次终于有机会看到大马天主教制作的作品，我感到无比的喜悦与荣耀，天主教在福传上需要大家的支持与鼓励下些功夫，浮在舞台上发光发亮要靠你我的无私奉献。当你说主：我愿意成为祢使用的器皿时，后面的路不再害怕，主将与你同行。加油！加油！致主内亲爱的芥子制作组。（Isabelle Sao）

这样的福传放映会非常的棒，过后大家可以一起分享，反省等。终于看到了本土（大马）自己本身的福传片，太感动了。求主能够继续的保守光盐社，让他们可以继续的拍摄更加多的片子，为主做见证，把主的爱传出去，让大家活出爱，把冷淡教友心中的热火再一次唤醒，也让不认识主的人可以感受到主的爱。（Magdalene Duang）

感谢圣若瑟堂的本堂神父Rev Fr.Christopher Lee及副本堂张思谦神父及执委们的邀请，让芥子剧场能够与更多的教友共享。一切荣耀归于主。主与我们同在。阿们。（芥子）



芥子剧场：场面壮观，出席人数超约270人

张思谦神父晋铎15周年

张思谦神父晋铎15周年庆典(2018年10月26日)



我要在万民中称谢祢 参加小磐石研读罗马书有感

韦海霞

小磐石研读班的每一小组由两位催化员带领，先以感恩、求宽恕和代祷为前提做聚会祈祷，接着是分享上周的作业，时间约1个多小时。

我被分配到第6组，每一周组员的读经分享都很精彩，让我从中了解到罗马书的主要概述。一般我们读经时对圣经的理解，多半是取决于当下的状态；同样的一段经文，这段时间阅读跟上一次的阅读，其感受是不一样的；而且同样的经文，每个人的理解与吸收也是不一样的，这就是圣经的奇妙之处。小磐石研读班就用了这样的方式，通过各位兄弟姐妹的分享，让我听到跟自己不一样的感言，通过这个不一样，让我对经文有更深一层的了解，更好的帮助我理解主的教诲，增加我的信德。比如在第六课的第14题，“你在生命中，追寻或设法了解天主的临在时，如何让你有所改变、或受到挑战、或得到回应”，兄弟姐妹都分享的特别精彩热烈，一个姐妹分享她去国外朝圣时，当时尚未领洗，神父一路上很是关照，却不劝她领洗，让她的心充满了喜乐，深深体验到圣神的临在。另一位兄弟分享他在人生最低谷时，学会祈祷，学会交托；以前祈祷时得不到主的回应会感觉失望；“主不会让你一无所有”，“主所给的挫折是你所能承受的范围内的”这些金句，让他修复了与主的关系，他回到堂区为主服务，当他这样改变时，主把他失去的加倍的还给了他，好感动。在这样的氛围内，组员们都各自反省了自己与主的关系。

我们是否也有对主失望、生气？你们纵然不善，尚且知道把好东西给你们的儿女，何况在天之父，有不更将圣神赐与求他的人吗？（路11:13）



罗马书结业礼



领受结业证书



宗徒大事录结业照



宗徒大事录结业礼团契



玫瑰经结业礼



路加福音结业礼

新团员入会宣誓（2019年1月27日）



候洗者退省日@博爱村（2019年2月17日）



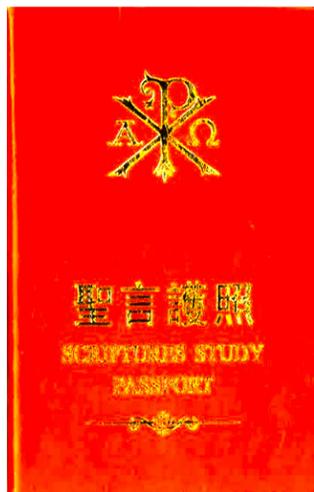
圣若瑟潮州炼灵会庆祝31周年（2019年10月26日）



三一神学院交流会（2019年7月28日）



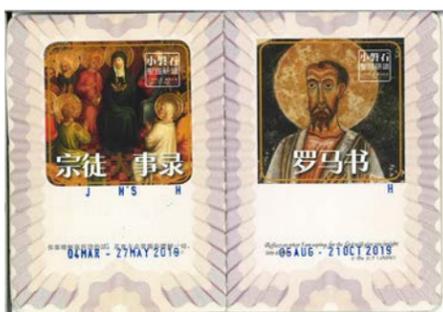
参加玫瑰经课程的纪念书签



圣言护照



结业证书：玫瑰经、路加福音



结业证书：宗徒大事录、罗马书

参加小磐石研读路加福音感言

陈婉清

本堂小磐石圣经研读班的“玫瑰经”课程在七月份结束后，获得了教友们的热烈回应，于是紧接着在八月末，开办了为期四个月的课程——研读“路加福音”，每周一次。

课程内容包括学习作者——路加圣史。他是位专业人士，且带有神学的角度来记载的。学员们从路加的身世背景和身份，就明白他所记载关于基督事迹的含义，才不会犯下断章取义，或是误解福音真正的教导。为了让学员们更能认识以及体会耶稣基督传福音的环境和面对的挑战，课程加添了文化和历史背景，作了比较深入的研讨，远超过一些学员的想象。第一堂课后就想打退堂鼓的学员在其他学员及前辈的鼓励下，渴望认识基督圣言的热忱继续燃烧，所有学员完成了整个课程。如今路加福音对我而言，不再是一篇又一篇的寓言故事，而是耶稣基督让我们更能认识天国，让我们学习到不单是祂显现的事迹，也让我们从祂所说的寓言里把福音（喜讯）传扬给未认识天主的爱的人。这个课程的特别之处就是教导我们如何将福音生活化，以分享具体的生活体验为例，把福音的讯息带给身边的人。一直陪伴着我们的张思谦神父，在我们毕业的那一天，引用了一句深入心里的圣言：“天地将要过去，但是我的话决不会过去”（谷13：31）。虽然这个课程已经结束了，但这一部福音从此也刻画在我的心里了。

圣若瑟堂挥春的一天

陸彩屏

今天对我而言，2019年1月27日，是对自己承诺的首个月份。答应了自己，一份坚持的快乐分享在新年前必须达到。

我加入国际左手书法研究会才十一个月，为了训练自己在大庭广众下挥毫，自告奋勇地向学姐问及是否可在她的那所天主教堂写新年祝词。目地很单纯，我不喜欢牵涉复杂关系和任何利益冲突，这也是张思谦神父最想知道我来此的原因。我告诉学姐，全部一切费用自付，包括斗方33x33cm大的红纸，平均一张要花四十秒完成，一共写了320张以備不时之需。写完得等隔天再另行盖名章，涂云母金粉在名字上，使得更精致。当然这个过程就是用上书法课去做，为期二十天才写完。



我凌晨5:00起床，一切的东西都得准备好，不可缺一。6点载了好友，用了早餐，到教堂排好桌上的笔墨，这是我生平第一次做的事情，有点紧张。但得从容的面对，我把对联：“家和祥瑞迎新春”，“庭海鴻福頌主恩”（由张思谦神父提供的字句），贴在墙上，用福字围起来，果然有些新年的气息和鸿福感恩到临。

早上7:45全部已经就绪了，我用左手挥写了几张福字放在桌上，准备现场派送，那320张预先写好的【福】字也依然在桌上。偶尔有一两位长者进来看看，时间越来越近弥撒完毕了，学姐拉我去听神父在通知教徒们可以向楼下的陆小姐索取新年贺联。我回到桌边，一会儿，就有姐妹来排队了。她们要求我写：“荣归天主”、“主爱人间”，还有：“辞旧岁感谢主爱”，“迎新春祈求神恩”，横幅“感谢主恩”。我都一一的有求必应，当我在写完最后一个字的时候，回馈的掌声和道谢，这就是我要来的目的：分享快乐。

此次的书写新春对联为时一个半钟头，但盛情难却，我写了三个钟头全用站着写。堂内的教友们的支持，乐捐不少。那份热情就在匆忙与喜乐中度过。本堂李神父也送了一本Mission on a Hill给我，我也感谢两位神父的热心支持。

今天，我又上了自己的一课，“只要自己想做而有意义的事情，除了积极以外，心想做的，手脚就得快马加鞭。没有什么不能做的事，只有要或不要”。



激情飞扬歌声荡漾

记圣若瑟堂华文歌咏团32周年庆典

鸡蛋~小鸡~母鸡~公鸡... 这是什么? 哦! 原来是庆祝开场的游戏。每个人开始都是鸡蛋，鸡蛋找鸡蛋，以石头剪刀布定输赢，赢的成小鸡，小鸡找小鸡定输赢，依此类推，谁先成为公鸡谁就是赢家。负责人靖怡和雪薇对游戏规则介绍下，我们圣若瑟教堂华文歌咏团成立32周年庆典也拉开了序幕。

圣若瑟教堂成立已有170多年历史，是新加坡第二间天主教堂，也是目前唯一一间建筑设计保持中西结合的教堂，神圣而庄严。我们歌咏团除了在华语弥撒中带领教友以歌声赞美、敬拜天主外，也举办各种户外活动，集体庆祝团员生日等等，来增进团员之间的关系。圣诞节期间我们也去老人院报佳音，把基督诞生的好消息带给老人们。唱圣歌是心灵喜乐的表现，自古以来就有“唱圣歌是双倍祈祷”的说法，感恩主一直的垂顾。

这是一场激情飞扬，充满欢声笑语的庆祝活动，圣若瑟华文歌咏团是一支四代同堂的团体，有老年、中年、青年和童年等各年龄层的教友组成。尽管团员之间年龄相差很大，最年长的已80多岁，最小的才有6岁，可并不影响团员之间的合作和沟通，在“猜成语”和“按要求唱歌”的游戏环节中更是表现出团队合作共进的精神和友好的互助关系，其中一项比赛要求所唱的歌词中必须带有人名字，刚做完弥撒赶来的张思谦神父立刻和弟兄姐妹们抢麦唱出“耶稣.....”、“玛利亚.....”等圣歌，把庆典推到了高潮，掌声、笑声连成一片，这是主所喜悦的。

很荣幸的是，张神父的父亲和堂哥一起参加了我们的庆祝活动，主的安排很奇妙！

在张神父降福食物后，终于开始了美食分享，哇，好丰富的午餐，牛肉、鸡肉、鱼肉，色拉，甜点等等，关键还有小孩子游乐场所，爸爸妈妈们都可以放心吃饱饭。

庆典活动虽然已经过去了，可我们记忆犹存，期待明年的周年庆。

2019圣诞节晚会庆典

曾月丽

堂区在12月28日举办的圣诞庆典，有聚餐和文娱表演，400名主内兄弟姐妹和亲朋好友共聚一堂，其乐融融。乐队演唱圣诞歌拉开了序幕，轻快优雅的音乐把我们带入节日的气氛中。

首先由堂区理事会主席骆国豪兄弟致词，他分享了堂区这一年来所举办的活动：有讲座，健身班等，也预告堂区有意举办排舞和夏威夷四弦琴课程，我们的堂区是越来越有活力了。接着是本堂李光兴神父致词，他先用潮州话向大家问好，把大家都逗乐了；再以英语感谢大家为堂区所做的贡献和努力，提醒大家要时时感谢天主；并带领大家作餐前祈祷。

当晚的美食非常丰富，餐后有文娱表演。华文慕道班表演小品，内容是叙述一对沉迷于物质生活的夫妇如何成为教徒的过程，小品以堂区华委同仁上台合唱三首脍炙人口的歌曲谢幕。“平安夜”这首歌让人沉浸在宁静与安详中，同时不忘为世界和平祈祷。“朋友”这首歌则提醒我们要珍惜眼前的友谊，歌词中那句“朋友一生一起走，朋友不曾孤单过”，真的，有了朋友，在人生的旅途上我们会走得更起劲，更扎实，不会孤单。“明天会更好”是一首激励人心的歌，“唱出你的热情，伸出你的双手，让我拥抱着你的梦，让我拥有你真心的面孔，让我们的笑容充满着青春的骄傲，为明天献出虔诚的祈祷”，这充满正能量的歌词和旋律激发了台下观众的热情，也加入一起合唱，大家都期望明天会更好。

接着，青春活泼的青年团呈献午蹈表演，看到他们轻快活泼的舞步，我也随着音乐摇摆，彷彿回到青

我在基基团的心得

黄应兰

回顾我在2004年领洗后所加入的第一个团体，就是圣若瑟堂的华文基层基督徒团体；简称：基基团。

感谢天主通过吉丝姐妹的邀请，让我有机会来到基基团，从开始以徐锦尧神父所撰写的《基层基督徒团体》册子，到现今所采用林康政兄弟的《主日圣言诵读》分享主的话语，让我不断地学习如何做一个天主所喜悦的基督徒，与主内的兄弟姐妹在主的爱内成长。

每个星期二晚，我都以满怀期待的心，风雨不改地与团员们聚在一起，对我而言，每一次的团体聚会，就是赴主耶稣的约会，怎能错过与主相遇的美好时刻呢！



无可否认，这些年来在基基团的学习，天主不但拉近了我和祂之间的距离，还加强我对圣言的热爱，更坚定我对祂的信赖，加上团员们互相扶持与关怀，让我不论是面对生活上或福传上的种种挑战，都能感受到主的助佑，使我有信心地把主的教导，实践在团体、家庭、工作及社会中。就如我们基基团的宣传单中所写的：肯定自己、欣赏别人、丰富自己、互相学习。愿我能继续在主的恩宠中，努力不懈地将天主给予我的爱，与更多人分享。

年时代。过后是张新平兄弟和梁文辉兄弟的弹唱组合表演，他们以华语、福建话、英语及粤语为大家献唱了5首歌，在在展现出他们特有的才华。最后是团体游戏，是一个字母游戏，很佩服主持人的急智，他在游戏中顺带提问胜利组的每位组员在教堂担任的工作，有时夸奖，有时调侃，大家都乐开怀。

随着游戏的结束，庆典也到了尾声，圆满的结束了。

