

# today's CATHOLIC

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## New St Peter's Catholic Church is 'God's wonderful Gift'



*Soft Opening of St Peter's Catholic Church: Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, 25 December 2024. (Photo: Danison Manium)*

**KUCHING** — The iconic St Peter's Catholic Church in Padungan that had social media abuzz with excitement over its impending opening finally gave the public, Christians and people of all faiths, what they had been waiting with anticipation to see.

At midnight on Christmas Eve, the Church launched its soft opening with the first Mass to rejoice the Nativity of the Lord. It was livestreamed for all to view the magnificent interior of the Church. The exquisite stained-glass windows of the Church depict events of Jesus' life and His ministry.

By 6.00 pm, people started gathering outside the Church compound although Church notices cited the door would only open at 10.00 pm for Christmas carols scheduled at 11.00 pm and Christmas Eve Mass at 12.00 am. With seats

to accommodate only 1,000, it was reported there were more people outside the Church than inside.

### Blessing of Church Door a Symbol of God's welcome

Kuching Archbishop Simon Poh blessed the doors at the Church entrance with holy water and incense before proceeding to preside over the Christmas Midnight Mass that was concelebrated by Fr Vincent Chin the parish priest for St Peter's, and Fr Galvin Ngumbang.

In his homily, Archbishop Simon invited everyone to "pray in solidarity with Pope Francis to welcome the birth of Jesus as we celebrate and enter Jubilee Year 2025." (Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the Jubilee of Hope 2025 on Christmas Eve).

Archbishop Simon felt the

blessing of the new Church door symbolises a "welcoming God opening the door for each one of us to come in to experience his love, mercy and hope," although the solemn dedication and consecration of St Peter's Church will only take place on 29 June 2025.

### "God's wonderful Gift"

Fr Vincent Chin, in his address to the congregation, expressed happiness to be in the Church, a Church he firmly believes is "God's wonderful Gift." He felt only God could have made what they have achieved throughout the progress of the Church, possible. He promised to make the Church "a place of prayer, a place of blessing," and to always trust in God.

After the blessing of the Christmas Manger and final blessing to conclude the Mass, Archbishop Simon Poh on



*Gothic inspired architecture of St Peter's Church.*



*A section of the Christmas Eve congregation.*



*The Christmas Choir.*



*Blessing and incensing of a door (left pic) and the Christmas manger (right pic) by Archbishop Simon Poh.*

behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Malaysia, priests, religious and deacons, Archbishops Emeriti Peter Chung and John Ha, and Fr Vincent Chin and Fr

Galvin Ngumbang, wished everyone a blessed Christmas filled with joy and peace.

**Ivy Chai**

## Editorial

It is now 2025. How was the year 2024 for you? As for me, it felt like I was caught up in a whirlwind. Still, it was a blessed year.

In this first publication for 2025, we bring you highlights of 2024 in a collage of photos on Page 3. May you look back with fond memories the events of the past year.

The much-anticipated soft opening of the iconic St Peter's Church in Padungan became a reality on Christmas Eve, 24 December. The Midnight Mass at 12.00 am attracted Christians of all denominations and people of all faiths, not only Catholics. Social media was abuzz with photos and video clips of the gothic architecture and exquisitely crafted stained-glass windows of the Church months before it was completed.

## A time to give thanks

In solidarity with Pope Francis' call to the universal Church to launch the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 on 29 December, Archbishop Simon Poh launched the Jubilee 2025 at the 7.00am Mass for the Archdiocese of Kuching. The five designated pilgrimage centres for the Archdiocese of Kuching includes the newly opened St Peter's Church. A full list of the pilgrimage sites can be found on Page 8.

For those of us celebrating the Lunar Chinese New Year of the Snake this year, there is a feature article on the Snake written by Fr Stephen Chin.

Let us give thanks for all the answered prayers, blessing, healing and anointing we have received in 2024. May God continue to bless us and our family abundantly in 2025. Happy New Year!

today's **CATHOLIC**  
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### Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings and blessings for New Year 2025. Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a Jubilee Year of Hope. We are all invited to be Pilgrims of Hope.

Though we have just crossed the threshold of the new year 2025, we can clearly recall the challenging events of 2024. The conflicts in Ukraine, Middle East and Myanmar still continue to haunt us. Many lives are lost and the wounds of war and sufferings are still being inflicted with ongoing conflicts. Children and women, especially the poor are those who suffer the most. In his new year message on 1 January 2024, on the 58th World Day of Peace, Pope Francis has chosen to focus on the theme, "Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace". We are invited to enter Jubilee Year 2025 as Pilgrims of Hope.

Pope Francis addressed all Heads of State and Government, Heads of International Organisations, Leaders of different religions, every person of good will, and to all of us. Pope Francis recommends three actions as the path of peace:

- forgiveness of the international debt;
- abolition of the death penalty;
- establishment of a World Fund that will definitively eliminate hunger.

Christmas event is an event of love and hope. When Jesus was born, there

was no room at the inn that night and everything seemed like a disaster. Joseph and Mary simply trusted the Lord and in the dark cold night, they warmly welcomed Jesus with their open arms and warm hearts. Today, we may feel powerless to change the whole world, but we can always do something right where we are. And when each of us, every Catholic does some good and gives hope right where we are, together we make a difference in the world. Jesus comes to us as the "Emmanuel"—a name which means that God-is-with-us.

The Jubilee Year with the Opening of Holy Doors symbolises that God comes to visit us through the open doors—so that we can confidently step and enter into the threshold of God's presence, to experience God's mercy, forgiveness, peace and be rekindled in our faith, our hope and our charity to serve one another.

✠ Archbishop Simon Poh

**Today, we may feel powerless to change the whole world, but we can always do something right where we are.**

## Archbishop's Christmas Open House at ACCPC



Visitors to the Archbishop's Christmas Open House held at the Grand Hall, ACCPC, 25 December 2024. (Photos: Danison Manium)

# GOODBYE 2024

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



Sarawak Regional Pastoral Assembly  
18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024



# 13th General Chapter of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Francis of Sarawak (SSFS)

**KUCHING** — 25 Sister Delegates participated in the 13th General Chapter of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Francis of Sarawak. Convened in the Convent of the Immaculate Conception, Central Road, Padungan, it ran from 3–10 December 2024 and bore the overall theme: “Advancing our Union with Christ towards the Centenary and Beyond.”

To mark the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi’s Stigmata, we also kept in mind the theme, “You Are Love”. As a Chapter that joyfully looks forward to the Centenary of the Congregation in 2028, we started with a brief presentation of the history of the Congregation to provide us with a sense of where we had come from and where we are in the present. Hopefully, this will enable us to chart our course into the future—towards the Centenary, the next General Chapter and beyond.

Preceded by a three-day retreat from the evening of 29 November to 2 December, this 13th General Chapter drew inspiration from Chapter 21 of the Gospel of John. For we could relate with the seven disciples’ decision to “go fishing” that conveyed a sense of loss of hope, to say the least. They saw no point to

stick to Jesus. Returning to their former profession for livelihood and for their future seemed to be the best option of hope for them in their given situation.

But here again, their hope was dashed, for a whole night of hard labour yielded nothing! But this fruitless labour took an opposite turn when they “cast their net to the right side of the boat” in obedience to the instruction of the risen Jesus: they caught 153 large fish. After their fruitless night, this great catch led them to recognise Jesus: “It is the Lord,” the beloved disciple told Simon Peter. The basic option for them was either to work with the Lord or without the Lord.

The disciples’ two subsequent actions signified their choice to return to the Lord and work with Him: (1) Peter jumped into the sea to move to the risen Lord on shore; and (2) the other disciples dragged their heavily loaded net also to the shore. Jesus’ invitation to them, “Come and have breakfast” marked His acceptance of their return. His dialogue with Simon Peter, son of John, led to His entrusting to the disciple a vital pastoral ministry to look after His flock. The exercise of this ministry called for love, whatever be the level of this love.

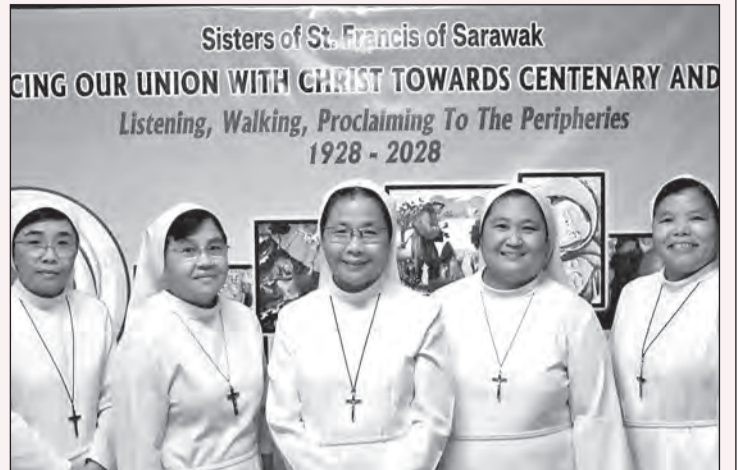
We read in Jn 21 a story of Jesus restoring discipleship to

His disciples who had failed Him, and, despite his triple denial of Him earlier, placing His trust in Simon Peter as He entrusted the care of His flock to him. We took courage from this reading of the story.

Reports from our various Commissions provided a good overview of our strengths and our weaknesses. They also pointed out the challenges we encountered, coming mainly from the growing number of our aging Sisters without a corresponding increase of active ones, and influence of secularism and world trends.

Inspired by the story in Jn 21, we heard Jesus inviting us to breakfast with Him and restoring our discipleship, as well as calling us to continue our mission and ministry as Sisters of St Francis of Sarawak. While acknowledging them, we refused to let our weaknesses and failures overshadow our strengths and overwhelm us into despair.

On the contrary, we felt inspired by our predecessors who weathered all storms to follow in the footsteps of our Seraphic Father, St Francis of Assisi, and respond to the Lord’s call to “restore My Church”. Our celebration of his stigmata in a meaningful and prayerful service reminded us of his acceptance of Jesus’ sufferings which our



**Superior General and her Council. From Left to Right: Sr Natasia Tay (Second Councillor), Sr Irmina Peter (Assistant General), Sr Rose Wong (Superior General), Sr Agatha Ling (First Councillor) and Sr Catherine Uming (Third Councillor).**

predecessors sought to imitate.

Believing in the risen Lord’s gift of the Holy Spirit to be with us and lead us, we plucked up courage to respond with ever greater commitment to the Lord’s call of us to “restore His Church” today, regardless of the challenges this task may involve.

To this end, we proceeded to elect the Superior General, her Assistant and Council, to lead us in the next term of six years. We re-elected Sr Rose Wong as Superior General, Sr Irmina Peter as Assistant Superior General, Sr Agatha Ling as the First Councillor, Sr Natasia Tay as the Second Councillor, and Sr Catherine Uming as the Third Councillor.

Encouraged by Jesus’

restoration of discipleship to and trust in Simon Peter, each of these elected Sisters humbly and whole-heartedly accepted our election of them to look after us and motivate us to look after others in love like Christ.

Filled with the assurance of the Holy Spirit’s guidance, we confidently adopted the Proposals and Resolutions as agreed.

We now commend our Proposals and Resolutions to the intercession of our Blessed Mother as we embark on their implementation in the spirit of her FIAT to God, and to our Seraphic Father St Francis, and St Clare.

**Sisters of St Francis of Sarawak (SSFS)**

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**PILGRIMAGE TOUR 2025**  
 Spiritual Director For All Pilgrim Groups: TBA  
 Updated: 10/12/24

<p><b>2025 HOLY DOOR</b></p> <p>8D Italy                  "The Papal Audience"</p> <p>ROME/ LANCIANO/                  SAN GIOVANNI/ ROTONDO/                  ASISI/ VATICAN/                  THE PAPAL AUDIENCE</p> <p>Departure Dates:                  20 Feb 25, 26 May 25,                  13 Sep 25, 18 Oct 25,                  13 Nov 25</p>	<p><b>12D LOURDES + FATIMA + BARCELONA</b></p> <p>BARCELONA/ LOURDES/ LONDRA/ BURGOS/ AVILA/                  SALAMANCA/ FATIMA/ SANTAREM/ LISBON</p> <p>Departure Dates:                  → 25 May 25,                  13 Nov 25</p>
<p><b>14D Medjugorje &amp; Balkan</b></p> <p>SARAJEVO, MEDJUGORJE, MOSTAR,                  DUBROVNIK, SPLIT, ZADAR,                  PLITVICE LAKES, POSTOJNA,                  LJUBLJANA, BLED, ZAGREB</p> <p>Departure Dates:                  20/2/25, 25/5/25, 15/10/25</p>	<p><b>11/12D Turkey 7 Churches</b></p> <p>ISTANBUL, CANAKKALE,                  TROY, PEROGAMON,                  THYATIRA,                  KUSADASI, EPHESUS, SARDIS,                  PHILADELPHIA,                  LAODICEA, PAMUKKALE,                  CAPPADOCIA, ANKARA</p> <p>Departure Dates: 20/2/25,                  26/5/25, 10/10/25, 18/11/25</p>
<p><b>14D St Paul's Footsteps</b></p> <p>Turkey &amp; Greece                  ISTANBUL, ANKARA,                  CAPPADOCIA, TARSUS,                  KONYA, YALVAC,                  PAMUKKALE, KUSADASI,                  IZMIR, CANAKKALE, ECEBAT,                  IPSALA, KAVALA, LARISSA,                  ATHENS</p> <p>Departure Dates: 20/2/25,                  15/4/25, 28/5/25, 18/9/25</p>	

**PILGRIMAGE ASIA 2025**

<p><b>5D Pontianak</b></p> <p>+ Singkawang / Toho</p> <p>Departure Dates:                  15/2/25, 31/5/25</p>	<p><b>5D Makassar</b></p> <p>Toraja Pilgrimage</p> <p>Jesus Statue in Burake Hill</p> <p>Departure Dates:                  10/2/25, 15/3/25,                  18/4/25, 29/5/25</p>	<p><b>5D Bali</b></p> <p>Departure Dates:                  10/2/25, 15/3/25,                  18/4/25, 29/5/25</p>	<p><b>6D Bandung</b></p> <p>Departure Dates:                  12/2/25, 15/3/25</p>	<p><b>5D Yogyakarta</b></p> <p>Christian Church Java Catholic</p> <p>Departure Dates:                  19/2/25, 18/3/25,                  20/4/25</p>
<p><b>5D Danang</b></p> <p>Our Lady of Tra Kien                  Our Lady of Sao Bien                  Our Lady of Lavang</p> <p>Departure Dates:                  18/3/25</p>	<p><b>5D Ho Chi Minh</b></p> <p>Departure Dates:                  29/3/25, 29/4/25</p>	<p><b>6D Hanoi</b></p> <p>St. Joseph Church                  Phu Nhai Church                  Phat Diem Stone</p> <p>Departure Dates:                  20/2/25, 29/3/25</p>	<p><b>5D Manila</b></p> <p>Departure Dates:                  9/2/25, 20/4/25</p>	<p><b>8D Korea Seoul</b></p> <p>Departure Dates:                  11/2/25, 29/4/25,                  26/5/25, 4/6/25,                  18/10/25, 20/12/25</p>
	<p><b>5D Bangkok</b></p> <p>Departure Dates:                  15/3/25, 29/4/25,                  26/5/25, 4/6/25,                  18/10/25, 20/12/25</p>			

## Christmas Gathering for Carmelite nuns and OCDS community



*OCDS members join the Carmelites in the Visitors Parlour.*

**KUCHING** — This Christmas, the Carmelite nuns and Christ the King OCDS community had the privilege of gathering to celebrate the joyous occasion. The atmosphere was filled with peace, warmth, and a deep sense of devotion as we came together to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

The event began with a heartfelt fellowship, invoking blessings for peace and goodwill. The simplicity and reverence of

the ceremony reminded everyone present of the spiritual significance of the season.

The fellowship emphasised the importance of charity, love, and service to others, especially during this time of year. It was both inspiring and humbling, reminding us all of the importance of giving, not just in material ways but also through acts of kindness, sharing compassion, and forgiveness.

The gathering included a

carolling session, sung with love and joy. There was laughter, as the OCD nuns and OCDS members sang beloved carols, their voices blending beautifully in the spirit of unity, joy, peace and with the vision of HOPE to journey together in this year of JUBILEE 2025 with our Holy Mother Catholic Church.

The gathering was purely a session of deepening bonds of friendship and spiritual connection, concluding with the song *Feliz Navidad*, thanking God for the gift of Christ and an enriching experience of bond of unity between OCDS and OCD nuns. Being one family of the DISCALCED CARMELITES ORDER is a significant blessing of GOD to journey with the Archdiocese of Kuching, in this year of HOPE, JUBILEE 2025.

**Christ the King OCDS community**

## Huge turnout for Kuching Christmas Parade 2024



The Roman Catholic float. (Photo: Dominic Bong)



Happy bystanders enjoying the parade. (Photo: Peter Chai)

**KUCHING** — The annual Kuching Christmas Parade was held on 7 December 2024. This year's Parade organised by the Association of Churches Sarawak (ACS) and the Sarawak Evangelical Christian Association (SECA) was hosted by the Methodist Church SCAC with the theme: *Peace Be With You*.

Participating Churches included the Roman Catholic Church, Anglican Church,

Methodist Church SIAC, BEM (SIB) Church, Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Salvation Army, Sarawak Baptist Church, Sarawak Blessed Church, as well as SECA member Churches such as Christ Baptist Church, City Harvest Church, Hope Church Kuching, and GIS Gospel Harvest Kuching.

An estimated 7,000 plus participants from these Churches gathered at the Kuching City South Council

(MBKS) Jubilee Ground well before 6.00 pm.

As in previous years, the field was a sea of colours with participants dressed in colours depicting Christmas as well as characters in the Bible.

The choir from the Roman Catholic Church led the opening with familiar old time-tested carols such as 'For Unto Us a Child is Born' and 'O Come, All Ye Faithful'.

A recitation of the Apostle's Creed and Scripture Readings

in English, Iban, Malay, and Chinese were read by representatives from the different Church denominations.

To begin the parade, Catholic Archbishop Dato Dr Simon Poh delivered the benediction, to bless Kuching city and its people.

At around 7.00 pm, the parade began its procession into the city streets, with characters dressed in costumes reminiscent of scenes from the Bible. Accompanying them

were 11 beautifully decorated floats, some blaring out Christmas carols that prompted bystanders to join in the singing.

The Christmas Parade would never be complete without the familiar Boys' and Girls' Brigades. Their marching bands were a joy to watch and the loud trumpets and drums added festive cheer all around.

Participants were seen distributing Christmas gifts about an hour into the parade, and little children lining up the streets gleefully accepted them with open palms.

The 2-hour long procession concluded with many participants and floats stopping by the new St Peter's Church at Jalan Padungan to take snapshots with the beautifully lit Church as a backdrop.

Ivy Chai

## Over 2,000 join Christmas Prayer Service, embracing God's love across faiths in Kuching



A musical performance during the joint Christmas prayer service organised by ACS at Christian Ecumenical Worship Centre in Jalan Stampin on 19 December, 2024.

**KUCHING** — Over 2,000 participants gathered for a powerful joint Christmas prayer service at the Christian Ecumenical Worship Centre in Jalan Stampin on Thursday (Dec 19), coming together to celebrate the theme 'Love that Transforms Lives.'

Organised by the Association of Churches Sarawak (ACS), the event highlighted the transformative power of God's love in reshaping human lives, with representatives from various faiths, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Baha'i, joining in a show of interfaith unity and harmony.

In a news report by Sarawak Public Communication Unit (UKAS), the Bishop of the Anglican Church in Sarawak and Brunei Rt Revd Datuk Danald Jute, who led the service, emphasised that Christmas is not just a celebration for Christians but a universal message of love, hope, and unity meant for all

of humanity.

He underscored that the spirit of Christmas transcends traditions, serving as a poignant reminder of God's love that unites people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

In his address, he stressed that this season represents more than just customs and rituals; it is a reflection of the boundless love of God that reaches out to every individual, regardless of faith.

The event featured a variety of meaningful activities, including readings from sacred texts in multiple languages,

reflecting the multicultural fabric of the community.

There were also musical performances and a choir presentation that uplifted the spirit of the celebration.

The sermon was delivered by SCAC Methodist Church president Rev Dr Lau Hui Ming, who spoke on the importance of love and unity in the Christ-centered celebration of Christmas.

In attendance were prominent figures such as Batu Kitang assemblyman Dato Lo Khare Chiang, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kuching Dato Simon Poh, and representatives from various church associations across Kuching, who all came together in the spirit of shared faith and mutual respect. The event served as a testament to Sarawak's commitment to fostering peace, understanding, and collaboration among its religious communities.

Dayak Daily



Danald (centre) flanked by Poh on his right together with others during the prayer ceremony at Christian Ecumenical Worship Centre on 19 December, 2024. (Photo: UKAS)

## 'Peace Be With You' Christmas Parade celebration lights up Samarahan



Dancers performing on the stage outside Farley Supermarket in Kota Samarahan.

**KOTA SAMARAHAN** — The Sarawak Association of Churches Samarahan Branch (ACSSB), in collaboration with the Methodist Church, successfully hosted the Christmas Parade and Celebration themed 'Peace Be With You' on the evening of 10 December 2024.

The event began at St Francis' Church Kota Samarahan, passed through residential areas, and concluded at Farley Supermarket Kota Samarahan.

"The Christmas Parade and Celebration took place with great fanfare. This is the first Christmas parade event since 2018, and the public Christmas celebration attracted many local residents," ACSSB said in a statement today.

"The event was aimed to convey the message of Christmas joy and peace. Approximately 700 church members from various denominations of the ACSSB participated in the parade," it added.

Following the parade, the Christmas celebration continued on the stage outside Farley Supermarket.

The celebration featured a variety of programmes, including choir performances, dance shows, and a blessed draw, all presented by different denominational churches under the ACSSB.

The celebration attracted about 800 spectators, creating a strong festive atmosphere.

The preacher for the event, Revd Steward Damat from the Sarawak Iban Annual Conference Methodist Church, shared a message about the birth of Jesus Christ and how his love is meant to transform this generation.

The organisers stated that this event was not only a religious celebration but also an opportunity for community cohesion, showcasing the spirit of multiculturalism and religious harmony in the Samarahan community.

The Borneo Post

## Sibu Diocese launches Jubilee Year 2025



Bishop Joseph Hii with Sibu priests at the launching of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025. (Photo: Sibu SOCCOM)

**SIBU** — On 1 January 2025, Wednesday 2.00 pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, on the auspicious day of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Bishop Joseph Hii of the Diocese of Sibu launched the Jubilee Year 2025 with the theme, “Pilgrims of Hope”.

In his opening remark, he echoed Pope Francis’ message for the World Day of Peace, “forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace”, reminding his people to recognise that we are “forgiven debtors”. We are pilgrims of hope “rediscovering the path of hope and peace in Jesus Christ”.

In his homily, Bishop Joseph Hii reminded the people of God that all graces have been given in Jesus Christ.

Jubilee Year serves us a reminder for pilgrims to rediscover the treasure of all that God has given to humanity through His Church.

“Do not be obstacles to others to receive this grace.”

He challenged his people, “be a channel so that others may receive the mercy of God through you, for we are forgiven debtors ourselves!”

Three pilgrimage centres have been designated in the Diocese of Sibu namely Sacred Heart Chapel, Bawan (1899), St Anthony’s Heritage

Centre, Sarikei (1940) and St Teresa’s Oratory, Sibu (1960).

With him to celebrate the launch of this Jubilee Year of Hope were Vicar General Fr Michael Lee, Chancellor Fr Alphonsus Tang, Rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Fr Philip Hu, Rector of St Mary of Divine Mercy, Fr Paul Chee, Rector of Sts Peter and Paul, Mukah, Fr Joseph Sebastian, Rector of Church the Christ the King, Fr Simon Lau, Assistant Rector of St Francis Xavier, Kanowit, Fr Ravi Pulagam, Assistant Rector of St Anthony, Sarikei, Fr Fabian Kong, Assistant Rector of St Peter’s College Seminary, Fr Paul Ling, Assistant Rector of St Bernard’s Church, Dalat, Fr Johanez Ling, Assistant Rector of St Teresa, Fr David Lau, Assistant Rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Fr Raphael and Rector of St Francis Xavier, Kanowit, Fr George Odero Omuto, and Fr Olivier Lomboto.

In conjunction with the launch, as the President of Regional Episcopal Commissions for Creation Justice, he also launched its ninth year out of a decade of Creation Justice with the new theme “Year of Sister Mother Earth and Holy Orders: Stewardship of All Creation (Culture of Care)”.

In his pastoral letter, he reminded all that we cannot “remain indifferent to the negative impacts resulting from

our selfish lifestyles/wastefulness especially towards the poor and marginalised, as ‘God shows Himself to be the one who hears the cry of the poor, sees the misery of His people, and cares for those who are least and for the oppressed (Exodus 3:7; 22:20-26).’

“Only by contributing to the restoration of God’s justice on this earth and not closing our ears to the cry of the poor can we advance towards the goal of peace and the dawn of a new and better world.”

He further emphasised that “We cannot exist without other Creation for we are all interconnected and interdependent on each other, from the very air that we breathe, water and all living beings, the smallest star in the galaxy to the smallest microorganism in the soil.”

Representatives from various parishes of the Diocese of Sibu were present to receive the promotional banners and books for the diocese-wide campaign to spread awareness of the Jubilee Year of Hope and “Year of Sister Mother Earth and Holy Orders: Stewardship of All Creation (Culture of Care)”.

He also gave thanks to all his sons in the Presbyterium to continue to serve humbly toward the people of God. He expounded that “true greatness is found in humbly serving others.” As scripture says, “to be great is to be servant of all” (Mk 10:43-44, Mt 20:26).

“We must learn to put the needs of others before our own, and becoming a loving neighbour to everyone including the whole of Creation. Our every word and gesture of mercy becomes a reflection of God’s love for them.”

The event saw rector Fr Philip Hu leading the leaders of Sacred Heart Cathedral, who made pledges to make Sacred Heart Cathedral an ecological parish.

**Sibu SOCCOM**

## St Stephen’s 2024 Parish Sale

**BAU** — The St Stephen’s Church compound came alive with parishioners from the 49 churches who came in a show of unity to this year’s Parish Sale.

More than 2,000 people visited the stalls lined up at the car park transforming the space into an instant vibrant marketplace.

This year’s event with the theme, “it is more blessed to give than to receive”, marked a milestone with the sale being conducted on a grander scale. For the first time it included a



Lucky winner (centre) of the Grand Prize, a Perodua Bezza. (Photo: Arnold Molujin)

live band that entertained the crowd and lucky draws, offering a Perodua Bezza as the grand prize.

Each of the 49 churches had diligently set up their stalls selling homemade foods, handicrafts, jungle produce, artworks, barbeques and drinks. There was even a photo booth.

The Catholic Nurses Guild organised free health screening and the Parish Youth Ministry assisted with the promotional, entertainment and sales of essential goods.

Proceeds from this year’s Parish Sale are to support activities in 2025, Church maintenance and outreach programmes for the community.

**Nathan Achuk**

## Christmas Day at Chapel of Mother Mary, Stutong



Christmas Day morning Mass at Chapel of Mother Mary, Stutong. (Photo: Jude De’Rozario)

**KUCHING** — At the Chapel of Mother Mary Stutong, two Masses were celebrated during Christmas Day (Morning Mass and Evening Mass).

Christmas Day Morning Mass at 9.00 am in combined Bahasa Malaysia and English

was celebrated by Msgr William Sabang, the Rector of Chapel of Mother Mary, Stutong.

Fr Martin Wong, celebrated the Christmas Day Evening Mass at 6.00 pm in English.

**Jude De’Rozario**

## Christmas gift with visit to foster unity



Archbishop Simon Poh showing the SIIC delegation the Library and History Gallery at ACCPC, 19 December 2024. (Photo: Today’s Catholic)

**KUCHING** — In a visit aimed to foster goodwill and strengthen interfaith relations, a delegation from the Sarawak Islamic Information Centre (SIIC) paid a courtesy call on Catholic Archbishop Dato Dr Simon Poh at his office at

ACCPC on 19 December 2024.

Led by Acting Chief Executive Officer Tazudin Mohtar, the delegation included officers from SIIC and the Sarawak Islamic Council (MIS). They also came bearing festive gifts.

2025 PILGRIMAGES		Emirates
<b>13D HOLYLAND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 APR</li> <li>24 MAY* (SCHOOL HOLIDAY)</li> <li>04 SEP</li> <li>05 OCT</li> <li>17 DEC*</li> </ul>	<p>from RM 14,500 p/p</p>
<b>15D EASTERN EUROPE + MEDJUGORJE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>06 MAY</li> <li>04 OCT</li> <li>17 OCT</li> </ul>	<p>RM 17,500 p/p</p>
<b>11D HOLYDOOR JUBILEE - ITALY + VATICAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 MAY</li> <li>16 SEP</li> <li>31 OCT</li> <li>18 NOV</li> <li>09 DEC</li> </ul>	<p>RM 14,500 p/p</p>
<b>10D RUSSIA - ST PETERSBURG + MOSCOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28 AUG</li> </ul>	<p>RM 15,100 p/p</p>

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# Nation Building: Christianity and Corruption Seminar



*Christianity and Corruption Seminar participants with Fr Clarence Devadass (seated third right). (Photos: CSTM)*

**KUCHING** — “Why have we become so numb to the evil in the world today? We are afraid to oppose, we are afraid to offend people. As people of God, we have to speak out.” Such were among the profound words spoken by Fr Clarence Devadass during his recent visit to Kuching for a seminar on *Nation Building: Christianity and Corruption*.

The seminar was one of a series of talks and seminars organised by the Catholic Social Teaching Ministry (CSTM), aimed at increasing public awareness and being a platform for promoting open discussion and

education on challenging social and political issues from a Catholic perspective.

A total of 58 participants joined the seminar which was held in Blessed Sacrament Church Hall at BSC Church, including Fr Ramon Borja, SDB and Fr Felix Au.

The opening prayer and remark were done by Fr Leonard Yap as rector of BSC, followed by a brief introduction to Catholic Social Teaching by Simon Siah. Fr Clarence conducted the seminar in three parts, namely: Biblical Foundation, Ethical Implications and Call for Action.



*Fr Leonard Yap (centre) presents a token of appreciation to Fr Clarence Devadass. At left is Simon Siah.*

He started off by highlighting the various forms of moral degradation in society as well as the economic imbalance in the world today, with examples from the Bible to support the ongoing injustices and remind us of God’s plans for humanity.

He then went further in-depth about the ‘corrosion of truth’ brought about by corruption and how it ties to freedom. “We live in an era where moral (ethical) relativism—the idea that moral principles have no objective standards—penetrate our society. The corrosion of truth brought about by corruption impacts the

culture of truth that Christians are called to promote.”

“Since corruption contradicts the Bible and fractures the harmony, stability and solidarity in a human society, Christians have a moral obligation to fight against all forms of corruption, whatever the cost.”

There was barely enough time for the Q&A Session as there were so many issues and thoughts brought forth by the members of the audience. To conclude, Fr Clarence called everyone to build on three virtues that help overcome greed—integrity, temperance and justice.

In the call to action, he stressed three main points which were the call to conversion, the voice against evil, and character education for change. Everyone walked away from the seminar feeling inspired and motivated to become a more responsible and mature Christian.

The Catholic Social Teaching Ministry acknowledges and appreciates all who have contributed generously towards the success of this event be it through time, talent or finances and we sincerely hope that more will continue to show support for this ministry so we can keep bringing truth to all who seek it.

**Eva Simrenjit Kaur**

## St Joseph Cathedral Parish’s English RCIA Candidates Immerse in Church Life and Mission



*With Empowered Ministry during their Friday Youth Gathering. (Photo: Feni Diwvya)*

**KUCHING** — The English RCIA team at St Joseph’s Cathedral went going the extra mile to ensure the 2024-2025 batch of RCIA enquirers embark on a truly transformative journey of faith.

Over three weeks in November 2024 and beyond the usual catechesis, the team partnered with several lay ministries to give the candidates a firsthand experience of the Church’s life and mission.

In collaboration with the Legion of Mary, Bread of Life Covenant Community, and EMPOWERED Ministry, the RCIA and Reception candidates, along with participants from the adult confirmation group, were invited to attend meetings and prayer gatherings hosted by these ministries.

Through these sessions, the

candidates experienced a variety of prayer forms, from the devotional practices of the Legion of Mary to the charismatic prayer style and a glimpse of family life ministry in action within the Bread of Life Charismatic Covenant Community. They also engaged in young adults’ fellowship with EMPOWERED Ministry.

The objective of this initiative was to expose the candidates to the breadth of ministry opportunities within the Church and help them discern where they feel called to serve. By immersing them in the Church’s mission, the RCIA team guides them to deepen their faith while fostering a sense of belonging and purpose.

May this effort inspire all of us to live out our call to serve in Christ’s mission!

**Sarah Marimuthu-Lo**

## Strength in Unity: Elevation Fitness Studio Spartan team at Mt Hosanna Chapel

**SRI AMAN** — On Saturday 30 November 2024, in an inspiring show of teamwork and community spirit, the Spartan team from Elevation Fitness Studio comprising approximately 12 individuals and led by Arthur of Sacred Heart Church, Kuching, dedicated their day to assisting construction efforts at Mt Hosanna Chapel. The team tackled the challenging terrain with determination, transporting sand, cement, and bricks to aid the ongoing development of this cherished spiritual retreat and pilgrimage site.

Arthur, the team leader, shared the group’s motivation: “It was a privilege to contribute to such a meaningful project. Our Spartan team believes in giving back to the community and using our strength and unity to make a positive impact.”

The committee team at Mt Hosanna extended their heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers, acknowledging how the Spartan team’s unwavering commitment significantly lightened their workload and uplifted their spirits.

The Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish deeply appreciates Elevation Fitness Studio Spartan team’s selfless service and invaluable contribution, as a sign of love and mercy through the light of their words and works. Their actions reflected the strength of unity and the transformative power of community collaboration. May their inspiring efforts



*Spartan team from Elevation Fitness Studio poses proudly in front of Mt Hosanna Chapel after a successful day of volunteer work on 30 November 2024.*



*Dedicated volunteers transporting sand and cement to the front of Mt Hosanna Chapel.*

motivate others to support meaningful causes.

**Vanessa Imelda Anak Marshal**

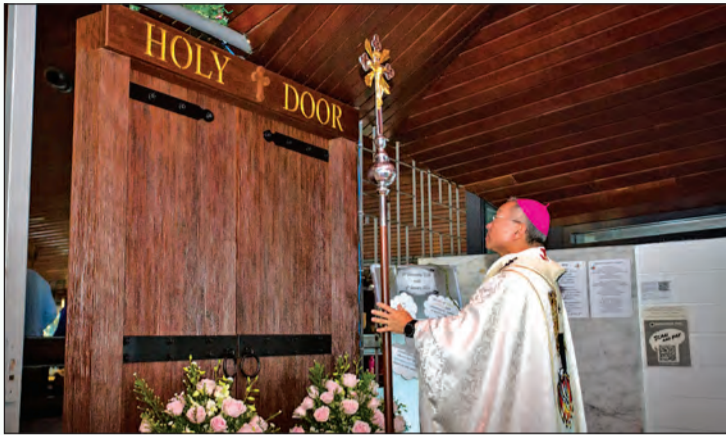
## Archbishop Simon Poh launches Jubilee 2025 for Archdiocese of Kuching

**KUCHING** — Pope Francis chose the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph on 29 December 2024 for all bishops throughout the Catholic dioceses in the world to launch the Jubilee Year 2025 with the theme: *Pilgrims of Hope*.

To inaugurate the Opening of the Jubilee Year of Hope in the Archdiocese of Kuching, Archbishop Simon Poh began with praise and prayer, followed by rites for the Jubilee Year at the entrance of St Joseph's Cathedral, before the celebration of the English Mass.

The Gospel Reading from John preceded the reading of an extract from the *Bull of Indiction* for the Jubilee Year.

Archbishop Simon then proceeded to the Holy Door with the Jubilee Cross to affix it at the entrance of the Door,



Archbishop Simon Poh places the Jubilee Cross at the entrance of the Holy Door with a prayer, St Joseph's Cathedral, Kuching, 29 December 2024. (Photo: Danison Manium)

marking the launch of Jubilee 2025 for the Archdiocese of Kuching.

The procession entered the Church singing 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' for the celebration of Sunday Holy Mass, presided by Archbishop Simon Poh and concelebrated by Fr Galvin Ngumbang and Fr

Davie Entalai.

### Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in Rome before Mass on Christmas Eve, officially launching the Jubilee Year 2025.

The opening of the Jubilee Year on 29 December in the

Archdiocese of Kuching was in solidarity with the Pope and the whole Church. "Together we join the Holy Father to enter this Jubilee Year as pilgrims of hope," said Archbishop Simon Poh. This is "a time of blessing, a time of grace, a time of reconciliation and healing," he added, as in accordance with the Scripture readings for the Mass.

The prelate said the Door to the new St Peter's Church in Padungan opened on Christmas Eve, alluding that to an invitation to "enter the door to encounter our loving God." He referred to Pope Francis' explanation of the Holy Door as "Jesus, the door of salvation that is always open to all... Jesus is the door of peace," and Pope Francis invites us to become "pilgrims of hope".

### Pilgrimage Centres

In inviting the congregation

to begin the Jubilee Year 2025 with "hope" and as a family of "pilgrims of hope", Archbishop Simon confirmed that five sites in the Archdiocese of Kuching have been designated as pilgrimage centres for the Jubilee Year.

They are:

1. St Joseph's Cathedral, Kuching.
2. St Peter's Church, Padungan.
3. Catholic Memorial Pilgrimage Centre, Mt Singai, Bau.
4. Gethsemane Pilgrimage Centre, Bunan.
5. Mt Hosanna Chapel, Sri Aman.

The celebration of Sunday Mass for the Holy Family of Nazareth included the Jubilee Prayer and concluded with a final blessing from Archbishop Simon Poh with a reminder that the Jubilee 2025 has begun.

Ivy Chai

## A Glowing Night of Carols at St Ann's Church



Choir performance by Sunset Group Choir. (Photo: St Ann Media, Micklong Studio)

**KOTA PADAWAN** — The spirit of Christmas came alive on the evening of 22 December 2024, as St Ann's Church hosted its annual "Christmas Carol by Candlelight" celebration. The event, held at the church's open-air grounds (Piazza of Mother Mary), attracted hundreds of parishioners and visitors from the local community, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.

The celebration began at 7.30 pm with an opening prayer led by the newly appointed assistant priest, Friar Nelson Evarinus, OFM, while the rector, Friar Don Don Romero Ramirez, OFM, welcomed attendees with heartfelt words. He emphasised the importance of unity, peace, and joy during the Christmas season. "Tonight, we gather not just to sing carols but to reflect on the light of hope in Christ that

shines in our lives and in the world, especially with this beautiful weather. He has answered our prayers," he said. In his speech, he posed the question, "am I open to God?" and reminded everyone that "even when life is full of challenges, God never leaves us. He sent His child so we may live in peace and love."

Following the opening speech, a stunning fireworks display officially inaugurated the carol night ceremony. The evening's programme featured performances by nine church choirs from various zone chapels, youth groups, and the children's ministry. Traditional carols such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "O Holy Night" resonated beautifully in the candlelit setting, evoking a sense of wonder and reverence. Contemporary Christmas songs added a modern touch, delighting younger audience members.

One of the highlights of the evening was a re-enactment of the Nativity scene by the children's ministry. The young performers, dressed as angels, shepherds, and the Holy Family, captivated the audience with their heartfelt portrayal of the story of Christ's birth.

As the evening progressed, attendees joined in a communal carolling session, holding candles that illuminated the night with a soft, flickering glow. This symbolic act of lighting candles served as a reminder of the light of Christ dispelling darkness and bringing hope to the world.

The celebration concluded with a blessing by Friar Don Don Romero Ramirez, OFM, and the singing of "Joy to the World" filled the air with jubilant voices and a renewed sense of community. Many attendees stayed afterward to share fellowship over light refreshments provided by the church.

The "Christmas Carol by Candlelight" event has long been a cherished tradition at St Ann's Church, fostering a sense of togetherness and spiritual renewal. This year's celebration was particularly meaningful, marking the first Christmas celebrated on the open-air grounds.

As the candles dimmed and the crowd dispersed, the joy and peace of the evening lingered in the hearts of all who attended, reminding them of the true meaning of Christmas. May God bless everyone. Merry Christmas!

St Ann's Parish

## ACS Christmas High Tea 2024



ACS committee with Head of State and other dignitaries and invited guests at the Christmas High Tea 2024, CEWC.

**KUCHING** — In a spirit of unity and harmony, the Association of Churches in Sarawak (ACS) organised a Christmas High Tea on 21 December at the Christian Ecumenical Worship Centre (CEWC). It was graced by Head of State Tun Pehin Sri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar and his wife Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Fauziah Mohd Sanusi.

ACS Chairman, Anglican

Bishop of Kuching Datuk Daniel Jute said politicians play an important role as builders of unity for a more united Malaysia, and called for continuous peace and harmony in the state.

Tun Pehin Wan Junaidi and Toh Puan Fauziah also presented Christmas gifts to residents from the Salvation Army and Sarawak Society for the Blind.



A Nativity scene by the Children's Ministry.



# Pope opens Holy Door at a prison for first time ever

VATICAN CITY — “I wanted the second Holy Door I open to be here at a prison,” Pope Francis explained. For the 2025 Jubilee of Hope, the first Door to be opened was the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica on 24 December 2024, then, for the first-time ever, the Pope opened the Holy Door at a prison.

Arriving at the Rebibbia New Complex Prison in Rome, the Pope spoke about the importance of opening the Door there. In front of the prison’s chapel, the Church of Our Father, he explained that he wanted everyone to “have the opportunity to fling open the doors to their hearts and to understand that hope never disappoints.”

## Open doors, open hearts

After walking through the Holy Door himself, the Pope presided over Mass in the church. In his homily, Pope Francis reflected on the historic reason for his visit, describing it as “a beautiful gesture of opening.” But more than simply opening doors, the Pope



encouraged the prisoners present, to open their hearts. Brotherhood, he said, is “open hearts.”

The Pope warned against closed, hardened hearts, which keep us from living. He explained that the Jubilee gives us the grace to “fling open” our hearts to hope. Even in the most difficult and challenging times, he reassured, hope does not disappoint.

## Hope is an anchor

Pope Francis likened hope to an anchor on the shore, tied securely with rope. “Sometimes, the rope is hard,” he continued, “and it hurts our hands.” Yet even in these moments, the anchor of hope keeps us moving forward, because, he said, there is always something ahead of us.

## Don’t leave it half-closed

“When one’s heart is closed, it becomes hard like stone; it forgets tenderness,” the Pope cautioned, expressing this is why it is necessary to

keep the doors of our hearts open, even in the most difficult situations. He challenged the prisoners present to be open to hope, encouraging them as he said, “everyone knows how to do it.” Pope Francis also explained that everyone knows if their heart is closed or half-closed, and concluded by reminding those present that the Holy Door he opened is “a sign of the door of our heart.”

Pope Francis asked for their prayers, telling the group that he truly prays for them, and that it is “not just a figure of speech.”

## Offering of gifts

At the end of the Mass, some of the prisoners and guards presented the Pope with gifts, including a miniature reproduction of the Holy Door and a basket containing oil, cookies, and ceramics.

The Prison Administration gave Pope Francis a painting of Christ as the Savior created by a former prison officer, artist Elio Lucente. The Pope, in turn, gave the prison a parchment commemorating the event.

Vatican News

## Bible Society Malaysia launches three local bibles



(Left) Rev Mathew Punnoose, General Secretary and (Right) Rt Rev Datuk Ng Moon Hing, President of the Bible Society Malaysia showing the three bibles launched. (Photo: Richard Chia)

SELANGOR — On 30 November 2024, the Bible Society Malaysia (BSM) launched the Alkitab Kudus Malaysia (BM Formal), Alkitab Berita Baik (Edisi Studi) and the Iban Study Bible (Trial Edition), during its 40th anniversary celebration held in PJ Evangelical Free Church, Petaling Jaya.

The event was attended by more than 100 persons invited from many churches in Malaysia, including the Catholic Church and representatives from the Bible Society of Indonesia.

BSM embarked on the Alkitab Kudus Malaysia translation in the year 2011, to meet a long-standing demand from the BM-speaking churches. It is a formal translation of the bible closer to the original text, and will be mainly used for scholarly research, study and preaching purposes.

The Alkitab Berita Baik study bible took almost 20 years to complete. This bible was the result of the demand from the BM-speaking churches for a good study bible in Malaysia. The Iban Study Bible (Trial Edition) was also in the pipeline since the year 2015, to serve the Iban community in Sarawak and elsewhere in Malaysia.

At the launching, Ms Tan Hwee Yong, one of the translators, read out

several verses from different parts of the Alkitab Kudus Malaysia. A token of appreciation was also given to Rev Dr Anwar Tjen and Rev Dr Daniel See, who were the translation consultants for the Alkitab Kudus Malaysia and Alkitab Berita Baik (Edisi Studi) respectively.

Rev Mathew Punnoose, the General Secretary for BSM, gave a brief sharing of the history and achievements of BSM, beginning from the founding years of Bible Society in Wales, United Kingdom in the year 1804, until the formation of the Malaysian chapter in 1984.

He highlighted an impressive list of local bibles translated and published in Malaysia in the last 30 years, and the many new ongoing language projects that are underway.

In his presentation, Rev Mathew highlighted many challenges faced by BSM in its past 30 years, especially in Semenanjung Malaysia. He also mentioned the lack of sufficient warehouse space to facilitate inventory and logistics management of its locally printed bibles.

In conjunction with its 40th anniversary, BSM also launched its building fund to buy a larger warehouse space in Selangor.

Richard Chia

## Pope’s January prayer intention: ‘for the right to an education’

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis’ monthly prayer intention this January is for “the right to an education.”

The Pope invited the Church to pray for this intention in this month’s The Pope Video, which is entrusted to the entire Catholic Church through the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network.

In The Pope Video for January, the Holy Father warned that today, “we’re experiencing an educational catastrophe,” and underscores, “this is no exaggeration.”

## 250 million without

Due to wars, migration, and poverty, the Holy Father decried, some 250 million boys and girls lack education.

“All children and youth have the right to go to school,” the Pope insisted, adding, “regardless of their immigration status.”

Education, he went on to say, is a hope for everyone. In addition, he reminded, “it can save migrants and refugees from discrimination, criminal networks, and exploitation.”

## Tool for integration

“So many minors,” he decried, “are exploited!”

Education, therefore, is essential, the Holy Father suggested, because it “can help them integrate into the communities who host them.”

## A better future

Education, the Pope underscored, opens the doors to a better future. “In this way,” he explained, “migrants and refugees can contribute to society, either in their new country or in their country of origin, should they decide to return.”

The Holy Father concluded his Video with some food for thought, saying, “let’s never forget that whoever welcomes the foreigner, welcomes Jesus Christ.”

With this in mind, Pope Francis urged faithful to join him in praying for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, “that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a more human world, might always be respected.”

## The Pope Video

The Pope Video is an official global initiative with the purpose of disseminating the Holy Father’s monthly prayer intentions. It is carried out by the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer). Since 2016, The Pope Video has had more than 203 million views across all the Vatican’s social networks and is translated into more than 23 languages, receiving press coverage in 114 countries.

The videos are produced and created by The Pope Video Prayer Network team, coordinated by Andrea Sarubbi, and distributed by La Machi Communication for Good Causes. The project is sponsored by Vatican Media.

The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network is a Vatican foundation, with the mission of mobilizing Catholics through prayer and action in response to the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church. These challenges are presented in the form of prayer intentions entrusted by the Pope to the entire Church.

Vatican News



# YEAR OF THE SNAKE



by Fr Stephen Chin

29 January 2025

Snake! Some shudder at the mention of the word 'snake' or just from seeing it. Others revel in eating snake meat; the gall mixed with wine is considered to be of great medicinal value. Snake meat is good for the human skin that is plagued with skin diseases, so they say.

## Strange but true

I still remember some of my college mates from Thailand in the major seminary in Penang describing the way the snake meat was cooked! They relished it. Saliva seemed to flow out from their mouths, I observed. They said that the more poisonous the snake, the sweeter it is. We caught a cobra at the grounds but we had no time in the evening to cook it to try it out. They said that after you have slain it, cut off its head and finely chop the snake including the bones to make curry out of it, it is very delicious. It's a delicacy! Do you believe that?

You may take that with a grain of salt. However, different people have different tastes! Many people in the East enjoy themselves with a bowl of snake meat that could be prepared in so many ways with medicinal herbs and wines! I have seen a lot of this throughout Taiwan. Of course, in Hong Kong it is also common! You can find it also delicately prepared in Malaysia and many love to taste this delicacy.

## Snake as a symbol in Chinese tradition

Snake is a symbol of evil in many human traditions. It is also true in the Chinese tradition. The Chinese consider the snake in different aspects of the snake's qualities and capabilities towards good and evil.

The snake is considered by the Chinese as the manifestation of elves, fairies and demons of all sorts. The snake is also considered to be cunning, swift in catching its prey, unflinchingly getting what it wants with a careful and set purpose—a determination that wins the admiration of all. It sneaks along quietly, stealthily and takes one by surprise. The victim finds out too late and seldom gets off from its wild clutches and succumbs to it. One hates a snake and considers it to be an enemy.

Yet there is at the same time, admiration, awe and veneration rendered to the snake because of its closeness and resemblance to the wonderful and auspicious dragon, serpentine in form but terribly active, powerful and virile. It is said that buying a snake from captivity and giving it freedom is a good and benevolent deed that will never go unrewarded.

**It is said that buying a snake from captivity and giving it freedom is a good and benevolent deed that will never go unrewarded.**

This snake is one of the symbolic creatures corresponding to the sixth of the 12 Terrestrial Branches. It comes after the dragon. This year of 2025 is the year of the Snake.

The snake in symbolical form in our Biblical

Tradition is considered to be the embodiment of evil and is equated to the devil or Satan. In the Book of Genesis, the devil in the form of a serpent or snake tempted Adam and Eve and caused them to fall from grace by disobeying God's Commandment. The devil is indeed very cunning. The snake is also very cunning. Therefore, they are more or less equated and the snake symbolises the devil and all his wiles and cunning behaviour. Hence, the devil ought to be hated and ostracised from us; we must, in short, turn away from the devil and cling on to God who is all-wise and able to protect us from the evil one.

## The bronze serpent

Yet in the Bible, the raised bronze serpent in the Book of Numbers saved those who looked up to it in repentance. Those who rejected God were bitten by the poisonous snakes; some died; while those who repentantly looked up at the raised bronze serpent lived! Here we are attracted by that great and most powerful event of Jesus being raised on the Cross on the day of His Crucifixion. Those who look up to Him and accept Him, will live and be saved! Isn't this a wonderful comparison?

## Love your enemies, do good to them

On the Cross, Jesus prayed for His enemies. The Chinese say that to buy a 'snake' from captivity and releasing it is a good deed that will never go unrewarded. This is another aspect of the snake symbolising not the devil itself but an enemy. I cannot help but think of Jesus praying and forgiving His enemies and telling us to do the same. "Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate and persecute you. Give them food and drink in their needs." Yes, return good for evil. Isn't it true that we will not go unrewarded by doing good to our enemies? Isn't the Chinese tradition and belief right in saying that by buying a snake out of captivity and releasing it is a good deed and that it will always be rewarded!

## Swiftness of the Snake in catching its prey

The determination of the snake to catch its prey with swiftness and cunningness is something for us to mediate and imitate in attaining our goal in life. Take the swiftness of the snake for example! We must have that swiftness to catch the opportunity while it is there; swiftness in understanding God's Holy Word and Will in all situations with the help of the Holy Spirit. We must have the swiftness to see danger and avoid it in time. We must have the swiftness in doing good. When there is light, work; when darkness comes, you can work no more!

## Cunning is another example

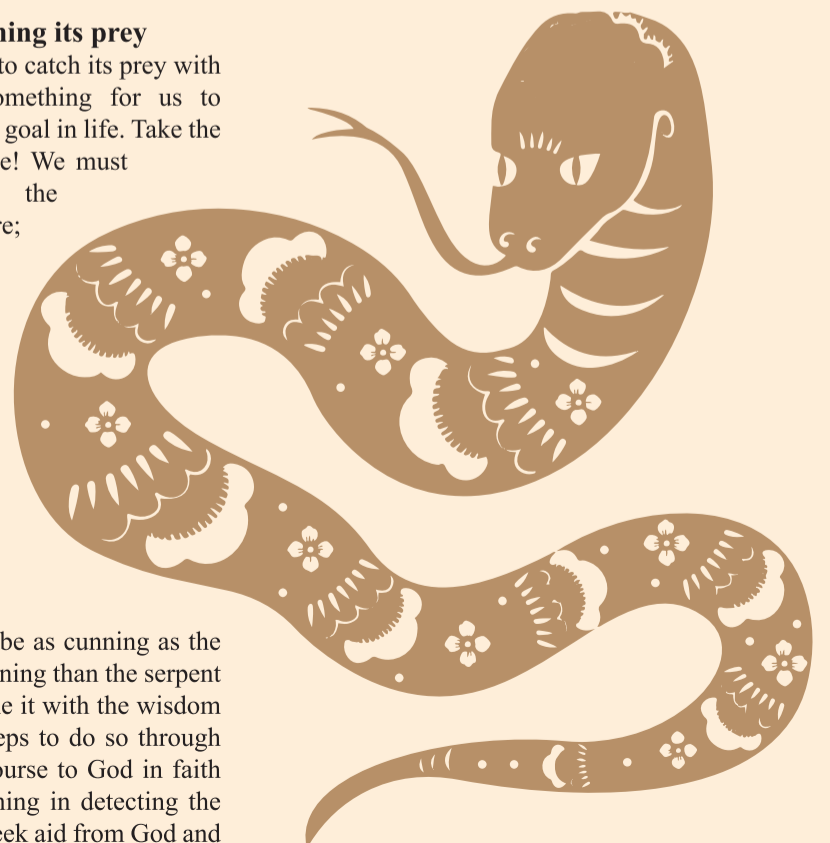
The devil is cunning. We must be as cunning as the serpent. We must be even more cunning than the serpent to see the evil at once and overcome it with the wisdom of God by taking the necessary steps to do so through assiduous prayer and constant recourse to God in faith and action. Yes, be swift and cunning in detecting the devil's wiles and temptations and seek aid from God and His Divine Protection. Yes, we must be more intelligent

than the devil in listening to the Word of God and to act upon it.

We must be like a cunning businessman, be swift in making abundant profit in the things of heaven and earn an eternal reward. A year is filled with so many opportunities. Grab them as they come along, catch them and turn them into mass profits by being industrious and hardworking in fulfilling God's commands of love and service to God and our neighbours, especially our enemies. Yes, love your enemies! Do good to them! Look to Christ on the Cross symbolised by the bronze serpent that saved those who looked up to it. Be truly wise in the things of God! Swift must we be and swiftly will we amass abundant profits that neither rust nor moth can consume.

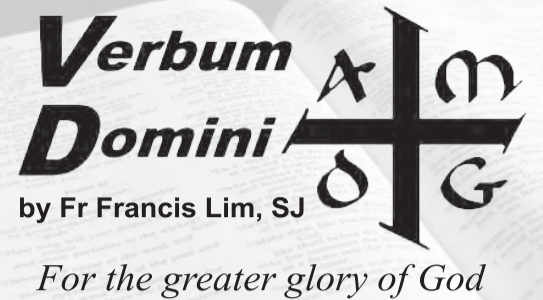
This year of the Snake gives us many good and wise ideas that could be of benefit to us in avoiding evil and nipping its ugly head at the bud, while positively and swiftly doing good to bear abundant fruits that will last forever! When you see a snake, see it as a creature of God with many fine qualities. True, at first it looks ugly and evil yet beautiful and good. Avoid the evils symbolised by the snake, admire and strive to attain the good qualities it possesses and win an eternal reward. May this year of the Snake bring you to live and serve your neighbours especially your enemies with the greatest heavenly profits most satisfying to you and to God as well. (Have a snake soup if you like but don't do so if you abhor it so that it will not wriggle and chum in your stomach!)

**Yes, love your enemies! Do good to them! Look to Christ on the Cross symbolised by the bronze serpent that saved those who looked up to it.**



# A feature on Sunday's Mass readings:

19 January 2025 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C  
(Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11)



## The Sign of God's Abundance



At the end of the Gospel of John, he writes, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (Jn 20:30-31) All in all, John presents to us seven signs so that we, the readers of his Gospel, can believe that Jesus is the Christ and having faith in him, we may have life, and this life is to the full.

In the original Greek, the word for sign used here is *sêmeion*, which can be translated as miraculous sign. They are not just random miracles, but they are miracles with a deep significance. They point to something, that is, these signs point to Jesus as the much-awaited One sent by the Father. The Greek word generally used for miracle is *dunamis*, which is an act of power. Therefore, we can see the difference employed here by John between *sêmeion* and *dunamis*.

At the end of today's Gospel passage, John declares, "This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him." (Jn 2:11) What is the point that John is trying to tell us

with the sign of the changing of the water into wine? Is he aiming that Jesus' first miracle in producing more than enough good wine is to get a crowd of people drunk? Many times, I have heard Catholics using this story as justification for us to enjoy more alcohol at social events!

Well, one thing is sure; Jesus is very human and He wants to share in human celebrations, especially a wedding. He is invited together with His disciples to a happy celebration of love between a man and a woman and their families, and His mother is there too.

He cares for the embarrassment of the hosts when they run out of wine. The wedding party may have grown in size by the attendance of Jesus and His disciples because of His reputation. Jesus would therefore be responsible for them as their guest, and thus resulting in the shortfall in party supplies.

Even though initially Jesus may have answered His mother quite blankly, He listens to her request, "they have no wine." Mary also informs the servants to "do whatever He tells you." In a way, Mary pushes Jesus into His first sign. Mary intercedes for us before her Son.

The six stone ablution jars are for purification purposes which are religious rules. By using them, Jesus turns a tool for fulfilling an obligation under purity law into a gift of God's blessing and reason for celebration. Each jar can contain between 20 to 30 gallons of water. So their total is the equivalent of about 600 bottles of wine today, which is a huge amount for a wedding! This is the notion of plenitude of God's blessings. God is a God of abundance who gives with overflowing amount.

Turning water into wine is not just a trick displaying Jesus' miraculous ability. Wine is a symbol for blessing. Dozens of times in the Old Testament, the prophets use the metaphor of a wedding to describe the relationship between God and the people. To have the wine running out would be saying that the relationship has run out of blessing.

All in all, the first sign of Jesus points to many aspects that involve active participation of God in people's lives, and that God is generous and blesses all with plenty. The sign points to Jesus as the anticipated Messiah. At the same time, Mother Mary is also engaged as a powerful intercessor.

## In Loving Memory of JOY JANICE JEE

Joy,  
The day you left us, you left an indelible mark on our lives, just like angels do.  
Your simplicity, honesty, integrity, generosity, compassion, forgiveness, and faithfulness to God have been invaluable lessons in life.  
I will cherish the memories of you in silent tears, but the most painful part is learning to live each day without you.

I love you deeply, Mommy

One year since you left, Joy, bringing light & love to many. Forever in our hearts, rest in peace. - Pam, BKK

A heartfelt tribute to Joy, honoring her compassion, bravery, & serenity, with prayers for eternal peace in paradise. - Stel, KCH

Joy, you are always with me, forever will be a part of me. ♥ you. - Mei, KL

Joy, you're forever in my thoughts and prayers. Pray for me. ♥ you always - Tah Ee, KCH

On this day, I don't just mourn the loss of a friend; I celebrate the incredible person you were and the profound impact you had on my life. You may be gone, but your spirit lives on in the hearts of all who loved you. Rest easy, my friend-you are forever missed & endlessly loved - Matron Guence, KCH.

One year has passed, Mak Nenek. Miss you dearly, our teasing moments. May perpetual Light Shine Upon you always. Rest in peace Joy. 🌸🌸. - Perl, BKK

Dear Sister Joy, rest peacefully among the angels. You are always in my prayers 🙏. - Meen, KCH

Joy, my Music Angel. Will always love & miss you. I know you are in a better place now. ♥ Cel, KCH

Thank you for your friendship. - Steph, KCH

Still can't believe you are gone Joy. Missing you but wishing you blissful eternal peace & ♥. - Tina, KL/KCH

You gave me JOY & PEACE in my life. Miss you deeply and always ♥ you. - Dynn, KCH

Still learning to not live without you Joy, but rather to live with the love you left behind. ♥ Beth, PERTH

Until We Meet Again. As we agreed on No Goodbye. Thank you Joy. I ♥ you. - Yo, KCH

Dear Joy, a year has passed, but your presence is still felt. We miss you dearly. With much love. ♥ Len Ee, KCH

Joy, you were deeply loved and profoundly impacted my life. I'll forever long for one more moment with you. - Yvon, SG

Love always! ♥ Leo, FRANCE

Dear Joy, It felt just like yesterday but a year have past. We want you to know you will always be in our hearts & prayers. ♥ you always. - Chen, Gordon, Ashley & Charlene, BINTULU

Whenever I think of you Joy it's all about thoughtfulness, kindness, love & more. I cherished the memories we had especially the laughters. I ♥ you & miss you... kawan. - Joyce L., POLAND

May the memory of Joy be remembered for her strong belief in the Lord, her gentle soul, her love for all... be a reminder of hope for everyone. RIP Joy. - Susanna G., AUST

You're now a star in the sky but will forever live in our hearts. ♥ you. - Leng & the boys, SG

What a joy to have known Joy ♥ she spread peace wherever she was 🙏. We miss you Joy, pray for us please. 🙏🙏🙏 Ann K., IRELAND

Joy... you are like your name describe... full of joy. You were an angel on earth... now an angel in heaven. ♥ Ngian, KCH

You are forever our JOY in our life - Maria, KCH

Remembering a beautiful, gentle & humble soul, whose absence had left a deep impact in our lives. Deeply missed & always in our hearts. - Aunty Nan @ JOYHAVEN, KCH

God called and Joy with her gentle soul left peacefully, no pain no sorrows, but with gratitude & a smile on her face. - Cindy L., KCH

Dearly missed & always remembered. ♥ you always. - Lyss, KCH

We know it's painful without Joy... but we are blessed to have an Angel in heaven... - Jelena & Niko, MEDJUGORJE

Dear Joy, I miss all that you are, all that you were & the effect you had on my life. - Dr SK Jong, KL

Each time I think of you Joy it brings tears to my eyes... miss your soft spoken & loving voice... know that I love you very much. ♥ Aunty Vero, KCH

Dear Joy, you were selfless, kind, & full of light. I believe you're still protecting us, like a guardian angel. Rest peacefully. ♥ Juliette Allan, FRANCE

Joy has been a source of support for me in many things. Her superpower was her quiet strength. I miss you Joy... - Deborah, AUST

With Joy we are in Communion with the Saints. - Luca, ITALY

Until we meet again. ♥ Wen, KCH

Remembering Joy "Forever in our hearts, Joy's light & love will never fade." We will meet you in Heaven. ♥ Elim Chew, SG

Joy, keep smiling up there. Je l'aime. - Louis, FRANCE

JOY  
11.04.1975  
29.01.2024

# SELAMAT TAHUN BARU 2025!

HELLO KIDS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! HAVE YOU DECIDED ON YOUR NEW YEARS RESOLUTION?

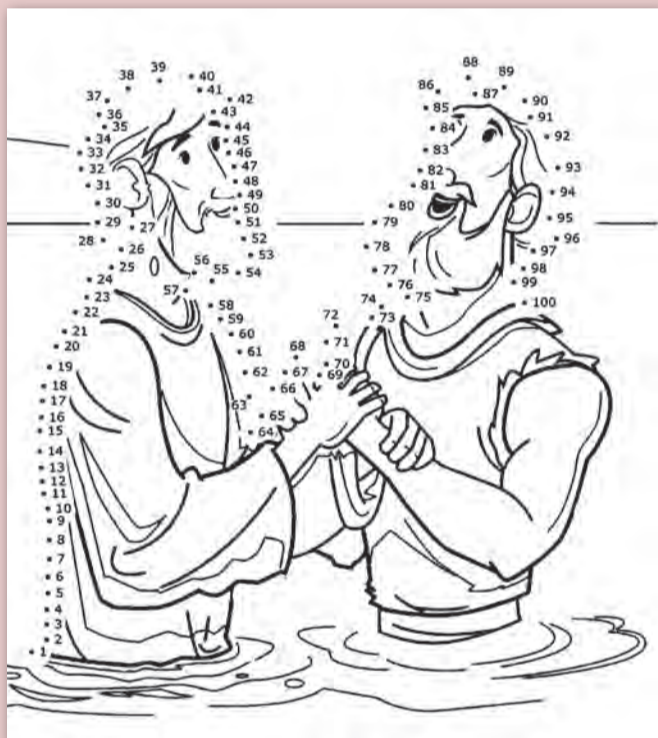
WE WISH YOU PEACE AND JOY IN YOUR HEARTS. MAY JESUS SHOWER YOU WITH HIS LOVE EVERYDAY!

LOVE,  
JOYSOME SIBLINGS



## PEMBAPTISAN TUHAN

HARI UNTUK MEMPERINGATI PEMBAPTISAN YESUS DI SUNGAI YORDAN OLEH YOHANES PEMBAPTIS. GABUNGAN TITIK DI BAWAH DAN WARNAKAN IMEJ TERSEBUT.



Salam Maria, penuh \_\_\_\_\_  
Tuhan sertamu,  
\_\_\_\_\_ engkau di antara wanita  
dan terpujilah buah tubuhmu \_\_\_\_\_

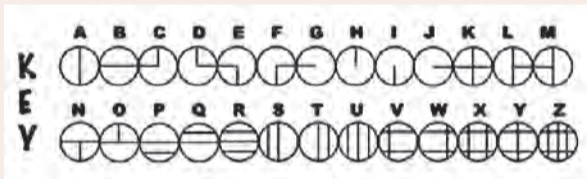
Santa Maria \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ kami yang berdosa ini  
sekarang dan \_\_\_\_\_ kami mati,  
Amin.



WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

## THE 3 WISE MEN

A short story taken from Matthew 2: 7-11  
Clue: use the keys given to complete this story.



Then Herod called the wise men and learnt from them exactly what time the \_\_\_\_\_ appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search out exactly concerning the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word, that I also may come and \_\_\_\_\_ him. And they, having heard the king, went their way and, lo, the star, which they saw in the \_\_\_\_\_, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great \_\_\_\_\_. They went into the house and saw the young child with Mary, his Mother. They fell down and worshipped him, then opening their treasures, they offered unto him \_\_\_\_\_ of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

**11TH ANNIVERSARY**

In loving memory of our beloved

**STIAN @ JOHN SEBASTIAN GUDANG**

(29 May 1951 - 4 January 2014)

Remembering you, 11 years have passed on 4 January 2025, for the Heavenly Father loves you more.

*"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living." (Romans 14:8-9)*

Deeply missed and always remembered by

Wife: Mdm Rosaline Kamen ak Dulis  
 Children: Jenifer Stian, Henry Stian, Caroline Stian  
 Daughter-in-law: Valerie Jessica Lim  
 Grandchildren: Nathan Alan Henry, Nativ Adan Henry.  
 God-son/ Foster son: Dave Sebastian Santang,  
 And all relatives and friends.



*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
 May his soul rest in peace. Amen.*

**3RD ANNIVERSARY**

In ever-loving memory of our dearest departed



**SYLVESTER AUSTIN AK MINJAP**

who was called home by our Lord on 8 January 2022

*Happy are those who die in the Lord!  
 ...They can rest forever from their work. (RV 14:13)*

You are forever in our hearts. Deeply missed and fondly remembered by all your loved ones.

**9TH ANNIVERSARY 22ND ANNIVERSARY**

In loving memory of



**PETER LIGAM**

whom the Lord called to rest on 8 January 2016



**MARTHA LIGAM**

whom the Lord called to rest on 13 June 2003

*"I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in me, even if he dies, will live." (Jn 11:25)*

Dearly missed by beloved family.

**"Life passes so quickly that we ought to think of how to die than how to live"**

~ St Teresa of Avila



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Email: sjkch.counsellor@gmail.com

**6TH ANNIVERSARY**

In ever-loving memory of our dearest departed



**ROLAND LATED**

who was called home by our Lord on 5 January 2019

*"I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in me, even if he dies, will live." (Jn 11:25)*

You are forever in our hearts. Deeply missed and fondly remembered by all your loved ones.

**3RD ANNIVERSARY**

In loving memory of

**IR DOMANIC @ DONIK ANAK DOMBA**

(5 April 1959 - 2 January 2022)

*In memory of a great man and a visionary, who will forever live in the hearts and minds of the countless well-wishers and friends. May God grant you eternal peace in heaven.*

From Management and Staff of SIES ENGINEERS SDN BHD

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for January**



**For the right to an education**

**Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.**

*9th Anniversary*  
 IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF OUR DEAREST



*Justin Teo*

25 JANUARY 1977 ~ 16 JANUARY 2016

*Forever in our hearts, All the Way*

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# YOUTH 2025

## “VESPERSSS”...

### An Evening Prayer of Hope with Singing and Sharing



'Music Game' by St Stephen's Bau Youth.

**KUCHING** — Holy Trinity Church, Kenyalang came alive on 30 November 2024 with an Advent and Christmas-themed evening prayer and celebration.

This special gathering was inspired by the Church's sacred and solemn tradition of evening prayer, known as Vespers (from the Latin word “vesperi”, meaning evening), a part of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Imbued with the desire to spread “hope” (“spe” in Latin) through singing and sharing, the event themed around Psalm 89:1: “I will sing the Lord's great

love forever; I will speak of His faithfulness to everyone.” Young Catholics from different places met up and enjoyed the night with Jesus—the reason for the season.

The evening began with the celebration of Sunset Mass. After a short break, the youths gathered to pray Vespers, accompanied by some reflections on Advent. The evening then transitioned into a time of singing and sharing, with a live acoustic performance by St Peter's College seminarians, and youths from St Stephen's Bau further enlivened the

gathering with their special 'Music Game'.

Interwoven between those musical segments were inspiring faith testimonies given by Aaron Wong, Eva Simrenjit Kaur and Brother Joseph Uvarajah. Their sharings highlighted Advent as a season of HOPE, with God's love as its foundation.

They also highlighted the role of Jesus as the assurance of eternal joy and peace and source of our hope, inviting everyone to be “home” to others for us to share hope. How? By providing love, comfort and light, especially to those in darkness, as an embodiment of Christ's presence. The blend of singing and sharing that evening created an intimate atmosphere of community and connection.

Young people from various youth groups such as SEEKERS, Holy Trinity Church Youth, Alumni of Kuching Archdiocese Youth Apostolate (AKAYA) and Kuching Campus Ministry (KCM)

prepared food and drinks for all to enjoy. They offered chicken rice, hot dogs, fries, pastries as well as Christmas-themed chocolate drinks to enhance the evening.

There were also merchandise stalls run by the Kuching Archdiocesan Youth Commission (KAYC) and St Mark's Church Youth which offered unique items such as 3D printed rosary cards and 'emotion treasure boxes' filled with the scripture passages that give reassurance in times of need.

The evening concluded with rector of Holy Trinity Church, Fr Eugene Maglasang, SDB giving a message and imparting to everyone God's blessing. With smiles from everyone, the evening ended with the resounding message of the night—that faith and fellowship are powerful tools for inspiring hope.

**Christine Cyrill**



Food stall by AKAYA and KCM

## Ignite the Spirit of Advent: A Vibrant Youth Mass at OLQP Sri Aman



The youths gather with Fr Henry Jimbey for a memorable group photo, celebrating their journey of faith and community. (Photo: Peter Tan)

**SRI AMAN** — On the morning of 8 December 2024, Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP) Church, Sri Aman was filled with youthful energy and spiritual devotion as the parish community gathered for its first-ever Youth Mass.

Celebrated by Fr Henry Jimbey, the event marked the Second Sunday of Advent and highlighted the active participation of the parish's young members in strengthening their faith and community spirit.

The day began with a Rosary prayer at 7.30 am, creating a reflective and prayerful atmosphere as the youth arrived and registered for the event. By 8.00 am, the Holy Mass began, with the young attendees taking an active role in leading various parts of the liturgy, imbuing the celebration with their distinctive vibrancy. Fr Henry's homily encouraged the youth to embrace their faith journey with courage and dedication, drawing on the Advent themes of peace and preparation for

Christ's coming.

A notable feature of the Mass was the File and Souvenir Exchange Ceremony, symbolising unity and collaboration among the youth. Further adding to the occasion, appreciation plaques were presented to Cikgu Antonious Anak Remon, Cikgu Azlin Wetty and Cikgu Natalie in recognition of their invaluable contributions and leadership within the Youth Ministry.

Their steadfast dedication has played a crucial role in fostering the spiritual and communal growth of the parish's youth. Maria Amella, the representative from the Kuching Archdiocesan Youth Commission (KAYC), also participated in the event, adding a regional dimension to the celebration.

The Youth Mass was held as a gesture of thanksgiving and appreciation to the outgoing office bearers of the Parish Youth Ministry (PYM) for their dedicated service. It also served as a kick-start for the next session of PYM, inspiring the new office bearers and members to continue the

mission of serving God and the community.

Following the Mass, the congregation participated in a lively fellowship session, featuring refreshments and warm camaraderie. The Youth Sale, organised by the Youth Ministry, displayed an array of items for purchase, with proceeds allocated to supporting Church activities and youth programmes. This initiative showcased the creativity and resourcefulness of the youth while underlining their commitment to the wider mission of the parish.

The Youth Mass at OLQP Sri Aman was more than an event; it was a celebration of the energy, dedication, and faith of the parish's young members. As Advent progressed, their efforts served as an inspiring reminder to prepare our hearts and communities for the joy of Christmas.

Through events like these, OLQP Sri Aman reaffirms its commitment to empowering the next generation of Catholics, nurturing their faith, and fostering a spirit of service that embodies the love and peace of the season.

**Peter Tan**

# Sing Together at KUCHING CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE

KUCHING — The annual Kuching City Christmas Parade was organised by the Association of Churches Sarawak (ACS) and the Sarawak Evangelical Christian Association (SECA) and hosted by the Methodist Church SCAC last year on Saturday, 7 December 2024. Notably, for the first time in its history, the Roman Catholic Church led the Singspiration Team, singing carols and praising God at the grandstand as the parade contingents departed from the gathering point within Jubilee Ground. The team was led by Julian Gabriel and Emmanuel Foong from the St Joseph's Cathedral Evening Mass Band. They were joined by musicians from the Evening Mass Band and others from various parishes in Kuching such as EMPOWERED Ministry, forming a collaborative group.



Being part of the Singspiration Team was fun filled and an exciting experience. It was amazing to hear voices come together in harmony, full of joy and celebration for Jesus.  
~ Janine Kimura



I am grateful to be part of the Singspiration team, where I experience the joy of playing and singing with youths from different Churches in Kuching. It strengthens bonds and enables us to spread the Christmas spirit in Kuching, uniting our community through music and faith.  
- Anastassia Clement Het

Being a part of the Christmas Parade Choir with my fellow singers and musicians was a joyous experience, witnessing the people of Kuching united in celebrating the true spirit of Christmas! - Hillary Edry



With this being my first time carolling in such an event and witnessing the Christian community gathering together in a common goal of celebrating Christmas, it was an uplifting sight to behold.  
- Julian Gabriel



EMPOWERED Ministry wishes all readers of the Today's Catholic a Blessed Season of Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025!



# 今日教友

Permit No PPK 148/01/2013(031378)

第441期

『若翰便向眾人說道：「我固然以水洗你們，但是比我強的一位要來，就是解他的鞋帶，我也不配。他要以聖神和火洗你們。」』(路3:16)

## 砂勝越古晉總教區

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## 教宗開啟禧年聖門：把希望帶到已經失去希望的地方



教宗開啟禧年聖門

(梵蒂岡新聞網)「這是上主的門，正義的人由它進入」。12月24日晚上7點，教宗方濟各在西斯汀堂聖詠團的歌声中乘坐輪椅向聖門前進。他低頭默禱，全神貫注。然後在講述救恩故事的方格青銅門上敲了几下，聖伯多祿大殿的聖門立即敞開。大殿的鐘聲隨之敲響。教宗方濟各率先跨越聖門，進入大殿。

禧年開始。希望的聖年開始了。大赦、寬恕、重生、更新的時期開始了。這是承諾將「希望帶到已經失去希望的地方」的時期。大約25,000人在聖伯多祿廣場透過大屏幕、6000名信眾則在大殿內參加了開啟聖門儀式，以及隨後的聖誕子夜彌撒。這是一個莊嚴且喜樂的時刻。

教宗在鐘聲的伴隨下緩緩前行，54名不同國籍的朝聖

者，包括五大洲的天主子民的代表，在教宗之後跨過聖門。人群中浮現出羽毛頭飾、花朵頭帶、闊邊帽、頭巾等。他們是第一批「希望的朝聖者」，隨後還有樞機、主教、參加共祭的聖職人員、其他基督信仰團體的代表，以及羅馬市長和意大利總理。

在當晚的隆重儀式中，教宗主持開啟聖門儀式，這是一個象徵性的舉動，邀請所有人與上主耶穌相遇，祂是唯一的救贖「之門」。教會的使命就是在普天下始終向世人宣告我們的希望。開啟聖門後，教宗接著主持聖誕子夜彌撒，慶祝救主耶穌基督的誕生。

彌撒結束後，教宗在一群不同國籍的兒童陪同下，前往大殿內的聖誕馬槽，將聖嬰耶穌像恭放在馬槽內。在基督降生的這個場景前，教宗也祈禱片刻，提醒眾人關注生命。最後，教宗乘坐輪椅穿過大殿中央通廊，問候兩邊的信眾。

## 教宗2025年世界和平日文告：我們都欠天主的債

(梵蒂岡新聞網)「願2025年是增進和平的一年！」：在禧年和第58屆世界和平日即將來臨之際，教宗方濟各再次呼喚和平，一種「真正而持久」的和平、超越契約爭議或人的妥協的和平，一種由天主賜予的和平，不再斤斤計較、不再固執於自私和沮喪，而是懷著希望展望未來。

### 對抗剝削的邏輯，需要一種文化變革

聖座新聞室12月12日公布及介紹了教宗方濟各第58屆世界和平日文告的內容，其主題為：「寬免我們的罪債：將你的平安賜予我們！」這個主題取自《天主經》，意在開啟一種文化變革，讓人與人之間的關係不再受「剝削邏輯」所支配，不再是強者凌駕弱者。

教宗表示，「在今日世界這個相互連結的地球村」里，需要聆聽窮人和大地的呼聲，聆聽「受威脅的人類」的呼聲，因為「沒有人來到世界上是為了受壓迫」，而「我們生來就是為按照上主的旨意，做自由的人」。

### 人類生存受到的具體威脅

回顧聖若望保祿二世昔日已經指出的「罪惡結構」，今天因「廣泛的同謀」，這些結構進而得到鞏固和支持，教宗方濟各因此譴責那些損害地球的「各種不平等」：

「我特別指的是對移民的非人性待遇、環境惡化、錯誤資訊造成的混亂、拒絕任何形式的對話，以及對軍事工業的巨額投資。這些都是具體威脅全人類生存的因素。」

### 折斷不義的枷鎖，開啟希望的道路

羅馬主教敦促道，我們都有責任，我們都必須「打破不義的枷鎖，宣揚天主的公義」，同時開啟文化與結構上的改變，從而認識到我們不僅是天主及其恩賜的「債務人」，也「依照共同與不同責任的邏輯，彼此互為需要」。只有讓這些改變「觸動我們的心靈」，禧年為我們每個人「才能重新開啟希望的道路」。

希望藉著慷慨而變得豐盛，不計較、不算計債務人的

口袋、不操勞自己的賺取，心中只有一個目的：扶起跌倒的人、包紮破碎的心，釋放被各種形式的奴役所束縛的人。」

### 寬免外債，承認生態債務

因此，教宗建議在2025年採取「可能的行動」：第一項行動是關於外債和生態債務這「同一枚硬幣的兩面」。外債和生態債務的邏輯導致富有國家肆意剝削最貧窮國家的「人力和自然」資源，「以滿足自身市場的需求」。

「我邀請國際社會採取行動免除外債，承認世界的北部和南部之間存在的生態債務。這是對團結互助的呼喚，尤其對公義的呼喚。」

教宗強調，我們不能僅限於「孤立的慈善行為」，也需要「發展新的金融結構，進而建立一種全球性的金融章程，以各民族之間的團結互助及和諧為基礎」。

### 在所有國家廢除死刑

第二項行動是「一種促進尊重人性尊嚴的堅定承諾，從受孕到自然死亡的人的尊嚴」。為促進「生命文化」，教宗指出「一個具體行動」。

「我指的是在所有國家廢除死刑。事實上，這項措施不僅損害了生命的不可侵犯性，也毀掉了對寬恕和重生的各種希望。」

### 投資於對抗飢餓，而非軍備

此外，為了在「這個滿是戰爭的時代建立新的和平道路」，教宗希望沿著保祿六世和本篤十六世的足跡，讓金融投資重新得到思考。

「我們至少應將軍備開支的一個固定百分比用於建立一個世界基金，最終消除飢餓，並促進最貧困國家的教育活動，促進可持續發展，以及對抗氣候變化。」

### 解除武備的心必會聽到窮人的呼喚

教宗繼續表示，誰採取這三項行動，就會看到那「萬分渴望」和平的目標正在接近，因為和平「不僅是停止戰爭，也是一個新世界的開始，一個我們發現有所不同、更團結、更友愛的世界」。和平文告的結尾是祈禱，祈求上主將和平賜予每一個善心的人。

## 聖座禮儀及聖事部：藉著禧年重振教會的祈禱

(梵蒂岡新聞網)2025年禧年前夕，聖座禮儀及聖事部部長羅赫(Arthur Roche)樞機向梵蒂岡媒體表示，該部會於10月28日的例行會議中決定出版兩本禮儀書籍，這在完成梵二大公會議禮儀改革的行程中走出了新的一步。這兩本新書分別是《誦讀日課增補》和《羅馬殉道者名錄》第三版。

羅赫樞機解釋這兩項計劃的重要性說，首先是《誦讀日課增補》，因為我們確實面臨一個重要時刻，去實現梵蒂岡第二屆大公會議所期望的改革計劃。至於《羅馬殉道者名錄》，這是一本禮儀書，必須定期加以更新和補充，將教會認為是聖德



祈禱

典范的男人和女人的名字列入。最新的版本是2004年出版的。

羅赫樞機補充道，「在過去的20年里，聖人和真福的人數增加了不少，我們的部會也收到了關於對這些聖人和真福的歷史、地理、生平進行說明和指正的請求和指正，對這些要求和

指正有待進行仔細的研究」。

關於《誦讀日課增補》具體的新意，羅赫樞機說，目前使用的《誦讀日課》在聖經經文和教父作品的選讀上是以一年為循環，即每年重複相同的誦讀內容。只有一些主教團和幾個隱修會要求使用「兩年循環」的選讀並得到許可。現在「兩年循環」的聖經經文、教會的教父及作家的作品則向普世教會推薦使用。

樞機闡明，這不是簡單地由「一年循環」來補充「兩年循環」，儘管所選讀的經文和作品在「一年循環」中已經存在。「兩年循環」的使用是自主的、「原創的」，而且是有選擇性的，也就是說可在兩者之中選擇其一。

## 教宗方濟各首次在監獄開啟聖門

(梵蒂岡新聞網)12月26日上午，教宗方濟各在羅馬雷比比亞監獄開啟聖門，並為服刑人主持彌撒。

教宗方濟各解釋說：「我希望我開啟的第二扇聖門是在監獄里」。在2025年的希望禧年，首扇聖門於2024年12月24日在聖伯多祿大殿開啟，而隨後於26日上午，教宗首次在羅馬的雷比比亞監獄開啟了聖門。

26日上午，教宗抵達羅馬雷比比亞監獄時，首先談到了在那里開啟聖門的重要

性。在監獄的小堂，教宗解釋說，每個人都「有機會打開心靈之門，明白希望永遠不會令人失望」。

### 敞開大門，敞開心門

在親自跨過聖門之後，教宗主持了彌撒。彌撒講道中，教宗省思了此次訪問的歷史意義，並將其描述為「一種美麗的敞開之舉」。然而，教宗不僅僅是要開啟大門，他還鼓勵在場的囚犯敞開心門。他說道，兄弟情誼就是「敞開心門」。

教宗勉勵眾人不要讓封



教宗方濟各首次在監獄開啟聖門

閉、冷硬的心阻止我們活出真我。他解釋道，禧年給予我們恩寵，讓我們「徹底敞開」心門，迎接希望。他也向大家保證，即使在最艱難、最具挑戰的時刻，希望永遠不會令人失望。

(接自第十八頁)



在巴西的窮人(© Renan Dantas)





### 教宗2024年聖誕文告：讓我們邁向天主的心門

为此，教宗高声疾呼说：「姊妹弟兄们，天主的心门永远敞开，让我们回到祂身边去吧！让我们回到那爱我们、宽恕我们的圣心！让我们领受祂的宽恕，让我们与祂和好！」

#### 禧年圣门的真谛

这便是禧年圣门的真谛。教宗阐明，他前一晚在圣伯多禄大殿开启的圣门是「为所有人敞开的救恩之门」。「那是仁慈的天父在世界当中、在历史当中打开的门，让我们大家都能回到祂身边。我们每个人都有如迷途的羊，需要一位牧者和一道门来回到天父的家。耶稣就是牧者，耶稣就是那道门。」

「弟兄姊妹，你们不要害怕！门已经敞开，门已大大敞开！不必敲门，它已经开了。你们过来吧！让我们与天主和好，从而与自己和好，能够彼此和好，甚至与我们的敌人和好。」

教宗说：「在这圣诞节、禧年之初，我邀请你们每一个人，每一个民族和国家要有勇气跨越圣门，成为希望的朝圣者，让武器噤声，超越分歧！」

#### 挂念世界上受苦的百姓

教宗由此念及在世界各地

受苦的百姓，祈愿在「饱受磨难的乌克兰」和中东不再有武器的嚣张。「目光注视著白冷城的摇篮」，教宗惦记著「在巴勒斯坦、以色列，尤其是在加沙的亲爱的基督徒团体」，并且关怀在黎巴嫩，特别是该国南部的基督徒团体，以及在叙利亚的基督徒团体。教宗也关心利比亚人民，「鼓励他们找出一些能促成全国和解的方法」。

刚果民主共和国有成千上万的孩童因罹患麻疹而命悬一线，「但愿救世主的降生能将希望的时节带给这些孩童的家庭」，并带给该国东部、布基纳法索、马里、尼日尔、莫桑比克的百姓。「他们遭遇人道主义危机的主因是武装冲突和恐怖主义的祸患，而且此危机在气候变化的破坏性效果下不断恶化」。

教宗也牵挂著非洲之角各国的人民，为他们「呼求和平、和谐与友爱之恩」。教宗恳求「至高者的圣子支持国际社会」将人道救援物资送去给苏丹平民百姓的工作，以及促进停火谈判的任务。

「愿耶稣圣诞的宣报能为

缅甸居民送去安慰。他们因为持续的武装冲突，遭受严重的苦难，不得不逃离家园。愿耶稣圣婴启发美洲的政治当局和所有善心人士，好能尽快在真理和正义中找到有效的解决之道来促进社会和谐。我特别想到海地、委内瑞拉、哥伦比亚和尼加拉瓜。」

禧年也是促使一切制造隔阂的墙倒下的机会，例如已经严重伤及塞浦路斯岛50年之久的分裂。教宗祝愿「能够达成一个有共识的解决方法来终止分裂，并且让塞浦路斯所有团体的权利和尊严都完全受到尊重」。

#### 重新发现生命的意义与神圣性

我们受邀去跨越耶稣这道大大敞开的门，「去重新发现我们生命的意义和一个生命的神圣性，恢复人类大家庭的基本价值」。主耶稣「在门槛那里等待著我们，等待我们每一个人，尤其是最脆弱的人」，包括：「孩童，所有饱受战争之苦和忍饥受饿的孩童；老人，那些迫不得已孤苦零丁且被遗弃的老人；那些失去家园或逃离故乡，试图寻找安全

的栖身之地的人」。祂等待那些「失业或找不到工作的人，虽然坐牢却始终是天主儿女的人，以及因信仰而受迫害的人」。

在这喜庆的日子，教宗不忘向「默默且忠实」行善的人表达感激，例如：「父母、教育者和老师，他们肩负著培育后代子孙的重大责任；警方，以及投入爱德善功的人，特别是散落在世界上的传教士，他们将光明和安慰带给许多处于困境的人。我们要对他们所有人说声：谢谢！」

#### 禧年是宽恕的良机

教宗最后祈愿「禧年是免除债务的机会，尤其是重压在最贫困国家上的债务」。「每个人都蒙召宽恕所受到的冒犯，因为天主子诞生在寒冬黑夜里，免除了我们的一切罪债」。

「祂来是为了治愈我们并宽恕我们。希望的朝圣者，让我们前去与祂相遇！我们要向祂敞开我们的心门，让我们向祂敞开我们的心灵之门，如同祂向我们大大敞开了祂圣心之门一样。」

(梵蒂冈新闻网) 教宗方济各依循惯例于12月25日耶稣圣诞正日从梵蒂冈圣伯多禄大殿的中央阳台发表《圣诞文告》，并降福罗马城和全世界。他吁请众人鼓起勇气「让武器噤声并克服分裂」。他祈愿在乌克兰、中东、非洲、缅甸、塞浦路斯和美洲多国的冲突和危机得以结束。在禧年，教宗邀请众人不要害怕，因为天主等著我们回到祂的身边，祂宽恕一切。

#### 天主敞开的心门

教宗首先指出，天主子降生成人的奥迹发生在两千多年前；今天，「救恩的永恒圣言今天再次且真实地道成肉身」。祂告诉每个男女，告诉全世界：「我爱你，我宽恕你。回到我身边吧！我的心门为你敞开。」

## 嗨，小朋友！

天主教会将2025年定为禧年 (Holy Year)，主题是「希望的朝圣者」 (Pilgrims of Hope)。今天就让我们藉着圣女依搦斯 (St Agnes) 这位大圣人的善表，勉励自己在新的一年成为「希望的朝圣者」，在生活中播种信仰与爱的种子！

### 圣人榜样班：圣女依搦斯 (St. Agnes)

时代：约291年-301年 纪念日：1月21日



#### 圣女依搦斯 (St Agnes)：「耶稣基督是我唯一的夫君。」

圣女的名字，在希腊文中有“纯洁”的意思，在拉丁文中，则让人想起羔羊 (Agnus)。

圣女是罗马贵族的后裔，她在年幼时曾向天主誓愿永保童贞。她爱主至深，痛恨罪恶甚于死亡。

由于她长得很漂亮，因此许多富家子弟都来向她求婚，但她都一一拒绝。当时有个罗马长官的儿子因被拒绝而老羞成怒，下令将她逮捕。

尽管被威胁利诱，依搦斯完全无动于衷。最终，这位罗马长官将她斩首。这时的依搦斯才13岁。她的牺牲换成了双重的殉道：为洁德和信德。她保持了自己的贞洁，也获得了殉道的荣冠。

圣女的图像上，常绘有一只羔羊和一束棕榈叶，这表达了她的纯洁、信仰的坚定和为主殉道的荣耀。

孩子们，新的一年也让我们像圣女依搦斯一样，努力

跟随耶稣：珍视信仰和内心的纯洁。

#### 思考题：

1. 在日常生活中，我们是否也能坚定信仰，不被困难或他人的看法所动摇？
2. 我们如何在日常生活中保持内心的纯洁，不让贪欲、嫉妒或懒惰等负面情绪侵蚀自己？

### 信仰小灯塔：主受洗节 (1月12日)



耶稣受洗表示祂要开始默西亚的使命，传报天国的好消息，并按照父的计划为人类赎罪。

### 教会新视窗：2025禧年 — 希望的朝圣者



禧年是天主教的重要传统，每隔25年举行一次，是一个特别的恩宠时期，所有教友，包括孩子们，都被邀请反思信仰、寻求悔改、并参与教会特别的朝圣与活动。

#### 我只是小朋友，应该怎样参与？

在这个特别的禧年，孩子们可以通过简单而有意义的方式参与“希望的朝圣者”的主题活动，如：在信仰中成长，在行动中实践爱，参与教会活动和在生活中成为“希望的种子”。

新的一年，让我们体验信仰的恩宠，并学习关爱他人。

现在，请你把能做到的，或想要做到的，都圈出来，并跟父母分享图片的内容。



我们受洗表示我们愿意弃绝罪恶，跟随耶稣基督。求主帮助我们，永远保持领洗时的纯洁，做天父的好儿女。

## 教宗鼓勵朝聖者在聖誕節走進和平之門

(天亚社) 在数以百万计的朝圣者为进入圣伯多禄大殿的圣门作准备的同时，教宗方济各呼吁个人、国家和国际社会透过此耶稣基督的「救赎之门」，为和平与和解迈出变革的一步。

他在12月25日圣诞节于大殿的阳台上說：「耶穌是和平之門。今年聖誕節，在禧年伊始，我邀請每一個人、所有民族和國家，鼓起勇氣走進那扇門，成為希望的朝聖者，平息武器的聲音，克服分裂。」

在献上 *urbi et orbi* (对城市和世界) 的祝福前，教宗为正在努力解决冲突和危机的各国祈祷。

尽管刮着大风，罗马的阳光依然明媚地照耀着聚集在圣伯多禄广场与他一起祈祷的人群。

教宗于圣诞节致词中呼吁结束在乌克兰的敌对行动，并祈求「要有勇气打开谈判的大门，以对话和接触，实现公正和持久的和平」。在广场的人群中可以看到几面乌克兰国旗。

教宗坐下时发表讲话，然后为中东和平祈祷，促请「在整个地区打开对话与和平的大门」。

他说：「由白冷马槽内的圣婴，我想到了以色列和巴勒斯坦的基督徒团体，特

别是加沙，那里的人道局势极其严峻。」他呼吁「停火，愿人质被释放，并向因饥饿和战争而疲惫不堪的人民提供援助。」

他也提到「在这个最微妙的时刻」黎巴嫩和叙利亚基督徒的困境，以及阿萨德政权倒台两周后，数百名示威者于12月24日走上大马士革街头，抗议叙利亚中部一棵圣诞树被焚毁后的反基督教情绪。

教宗恳求禧年成为世人互相宽恕的机会，特别是减轻世界上最贫穷国家的经济负担。

在教宗于阳台上发表演说时，站在他身边的是曾为世界上最贫穷国家谈判债务减免协议、已荣休的梵蒂冈外交人员托马西(Silvano Tomasi) 枢机。

据世界银行的数据，2023年底，低收入和中等收入国家的所欠债务达到创纪录的8.8兆美元，比2020年增加8%，而发展中国家偿还外债的支出亦达到创纪录的1.4兆美元。

教宗在圣诞节致词中说：「我们每个人都都被呼叫去宽恕那些冒犯我们的人，因为在寒冷和黑暗之夜出生的天主之子已宽恕了我们。」

教宗也为刚果受麻疹疫情影响的社区以及布吉纳法索、马利、尼日尔和莫三比克遭受人道危机的人们祈祷。这些危机「主要由武装冲突和恐怖主义祸害造成」，并「因为气候



教宗方济各。(图片：资料图片)

变迁的破坏性影响而加剧」。

关于美洲，他请求耶稣激励政治当局和所有人「尽快在公正和真理中找到有效的解决方案，以促进社会和谐，特别是在海地、委内瑞拉、哥伦比亚和尼加拉瓜。」

他说：「在这个节日里，让我们不要忘记向那些默默奉献、忠实地行善和服务他人的人们表示感谢。」他也赞扬了父母、教育工作者、教师、医护人员、慈善工作者和传教士对社会的贡献。

他在演讲中说，耶稣「是一扇敞开的大门，我们被邀请进入，重新发现我们存在的意义和所有生命的神圣性，并恢复人类家庭的基本价值观。」

他祈求社会上最脆弱的成员——儿童、老人、难民、失业者、囚犯和受迫害的人——可以在那扇门的门槛与天主相遇。

他说：「作为希望的朝圣者，让我们出去迎接祂。」「让我们向祂打开我们的心门，就像祂向我们打开祂的心门一样。」

(接自第十六页)

## 教宗方济各首次在監獄開啟聖門

### 希望是锚

教宗方济各将希望比作岸边的锚，牢牢系在绳索上。「有时候，绳索很硬，会伤到我们的手。」然而，即使在这样的时刻，希望之锚依然让我们继续前行，因为我们的前方总会有些什么。

### 不要半封闭

教宗勉励说，「当一个人的心封闭时，它变得像石头一样坚硬，忘记温柔」，这就是为什么即使在最困难的情况下，我们也必须保持敞开心门。他鼓励在场的服刑人要对希望保持开放，鼓励他们说：「每个人都懂得如何做到。」

教宗方济各还解释道，每个人都自己的心是否已经封闭或半封闭，并在结束时提

醒在场的所有人，自己所开启的圣门「是我们心门的象征。」

教宗请求他们为自己祈祷，并告诉大家，他真心为他们祈祷，而「不仅仅是说说而已」。

### 奉献礼物

弥撒结束时，一些服刑人和狱警向教宗献上了由女服刑人亲自制作的礼物，其中包括一扇圣门的微型复制品以及一个装有油、饼干和陶瓷品的篮子。

监狱管理局向教宗方济各赠送了一幅由前任狱警、艺术家埃利奥·卢琴特(Elio Lucente)创作的《救世主基督》画作。教宗则回赠监狱一份纪念该事件的羊皮卷。

## 孟加拉基督徒望復興 即將消逝的聖誕節傳統



孟加拉北部帕布纳区圣方济各沙勿略天主堂2023年12月24日的圣诞马槽。(图片：Rock Ronald Rozario/UCA News)

他说：「唱圣诞颂歌……有助我们促进团体的团结。」

然而，他留意到，随着村民搬到城市寻求比务农更好的前景，人们对这些传统的兴趣正在逐渐下降。

达卡圣母玫瑰堂的堂区司铎戈麦斯(Joyanta S. Gomes) 神父表示，巴瓦尔地区的人们不再有组织地举行传统圣诞活动。他们喜欢以小组或仅与家人一起，以更非正式的方式进行。

他向天亚社说：「我听说巴瓦尔的一些基督徒过去常常在聚会期间喝醉并卷入争吵。此类事件最终也导致了这一传统的衰落。」

他解释，衰落的另一个原因是经济繁荣和数码科技的使用推动了个人主义的出现，这使社会团体生活处于次要地位。

位于加济布尔地区的基督教社区组织斤基督教福利协会主席罗萨里奥(Bijoy Linus Rozario) 说，尽管发生了这些变化，「我们需要看看如何在社交生活中进行更多的互动、沟通和参与」。

他说，他和一些朋友去年成立了该协会，旨在提高人们对需要「复兴我们的好传统的认识」。「我们还可以利用新科技在我们的团体中建立强大的凝聚力。」

戈麦斯神父表示，天主教会的主教会议鼓励植根于基督徒价值观、包容和参与的强大团体生活。

他说，随着我们尝试建立一个共议同行教会的旅程，像这样一直传承的传统「现在比以前更重要」。「我们要复兴这样的传统。」

博尔尼堂区的罗扎里奥(Mukul Rozario) 认为，保留传统对于维持社会团结和圣诞节庆祝活动的独特性至关重要。

他说：「只要我还活着，我就会继续坚持秉承传统。我认为它们对于社会凝聚力非常重要。」

## 新加坡總教區榮休謝益裕總主教逝世



(天亚社) 新加坡总教区已荣休的谢益裕总主教于12月17日去世，享年86岁。他是该总教区首位出生于新加坡的主教。

教区吴成才总主教于12月18日在社交媒体帖文中公布了谢主教的死讯，称这位主教「今晚在圣德肋撒之家安详地去世了」。

他在帖文中表示：「公众悼念和葬礼程序的安排将在稍后公布。」

新加坡总教区在其网站上发表悼文，回顾了谢主教作为一位「人民的神父」的称誉。

悼文指出，谢主教「强调灵修对天主教徒，无论是神职人员还是平信徒，在抗

衡世俗主义和社会物质主义对道德价值挑战中的重要性」。

他于2011年成立了专业标准办公室，「以指导神职和教会工作人员，特别是那些与儿童接触的人，包括义工的专业精神」。

总教区表示，「他也孜孜不倦地致力促进神职人员的圣召培育」。

新加坡总理黄循财、国会议员和人民对他的去世表示哀悼。

黄循财在社交媒体帖文中说：「作为一个虔诚的牧者和天主教团体的坚定支柱，他坚定不移的信仰、谦逊和同情心丰富了许多人的生活。我向天主教团体致以最深切的哀悼。」

立法会议员任雅历(Alex Yam)表示，谢益裕主教「是一位信仰坚定不移、谦逊和以爱为人民服务的牧者」。

谢主教生于1938年4月8日，于1964年1月26日在善牧主教座堂晋铎。

他在圣伯多禄圣保禄堂担任堂区助理司铎，开始他的牧民工作。其后于1966年在永援圣母堂和1980年在圣十字教堂工作，并在那里服务了21年。

他创立了新加坡总教区牧民学院，并于1978至1990年间担任院长。

他于2001年10月7日接替出生于马来西亚的杨瑞元总主教担任新加坡总主教。

退休后，他住在新加坡的天主教灵修中心。

今年二月他曾摔倒。经过一段时间的康复后搬到圣德肋撒之家，在那里居住直至去世。

新加坡总教区表示，葬礼将于12月21日在万礼火葬场举行。

## 教宗三鐘經：今天仍有很多人因福音而遭受迫害甚至死亡

(梵蒂冈新闻网) 12月26日是圣斯德望庆日。教宗方济各于当天中午时分在梵蒂冈宗座大楼带领信众诵念《三钟经》，他在念经前的讲话中着重提到教会首位殉道者的事迹。教宗说，圣经中记载，斯德望被乱石砸死时，他为「自己的凶手祈祷」。这一举动表面看来是他消极地接受暴力，但其实所传达的是，这位圣人爱他的迫害者的完全自由的意志，就如耶稣那样，为「他们献出自己的性命」。

斯德望希望自己的凶手

悔改得救赎，他是天主的「唯一伟大愿望」的拥护者，就是说「天主愿意所有的人都得救。这是天主的内心渴望，连一个也不失掉」。教宗说，斯德望是「那位天父、我们的天父的见证人，祂爱自己的每个孩子，而且只爱并一直爱他们」。天父「不排斥任何人」，天父「不知疲倦地寻找他们，在他们远离后、当他们悔改归向祂时，祂接纳他们」。

「天父不知疲倦地宽恕。你们要记住这一点，天主始终宽恕，天主宽恕一切」。

圣斯德望的形象反映了我们

们时代的许多殉道者。在「我们这个时代」的殉道者中，教宗提到真福克拉弗里(Christian de Chergé)，他是七位在阿尔及利亚提比里殉道的严规熙笃会隐修士之一，他的精神遗嘱是：在临终前，称下手杀害他的人为「最后一分钟的朋友」。

教宗提出几个问题来结束他的省思。他说：「我们每个人都问问自己，我渴望所有人都认识天主、所有人都得救吗？我是否也会爱那些让我受苦的人？我有关心很多因信仰而遭迫害的兄弟姐妹并为他们祈祷吗？」

### 樞機諮議會探討集體領導、女性角色、聖座大使和世界危機

(梵蒂冈新闻网) 教会内的集体领导、女性的角色、近期举行的世界主教会议、《你们去宣讲福音》宗座宪章在教区公署内的落实、圣座大使的议题，以及对危机与冲突下的世界局势的担忧及希望。这些是枢机咨议会今年12月在会议上讨论的主题。枢机咨议会由9位枢机组成，旨在辅佐教宗方济各并提供建言。

#### 教会内的集体领导

继今年2月、4月和6月的会议后，枢机咨议会12月2日至3日在梵蒂冈圣玛尔大之家举行的会议是2024年的最后一次，教宗方济各亲临与会。圣座新闻室通知，本次会议探讨了许多主题，首先是与圣座封圣部部长塞梅拉罗 (Marcello Semeraro) 枢机一起讨论了「教会内的集体



领导，因此谈了地方教会与教会会议之间的关系，然后针对刚刚闭幕的世界主教会议一同进行交谈」。

#### 妇女和圣座大使的角色

此外，会议上也「深入探讨了妇女在教会内的角色，为枢机咨议会最近四次会议过程中浮现的问题找出一个概述」。最后，与会者谈论了在教区公署内研究并落实《你们去宣讲福音》宗座宪章的原则与准则，以及「在同道偕行的传教愿景下圣座大使的角

色」，并且与相关研究小组主席、孟买总主教格拉西亚斯 (Oswald Gracias) 枢机交谈。

#### 省思教会和世界的情况

圣座新闻室进一步表示，「一如既往，枢机咨议会的会议是个机会，借以对枢机们出身背景各地区的教会和世界现况进行全面省思，分享对当前冲突与危机形势的担忧及希望」。

枢机咨议会预计将于2025年4月份举行下一次会议。

### 教宗：只有男性的神學只是一半神學，神學需要女性的貢獻

(梵蒂冈新闻网) 教宗方济各12月9日上午在梵蒂冈接见了参加关于神学的未来国际会议的人士，此次会议由圣座文化教育部主办，主题为神学的「遗产与思考」，与会者超过450人。

#### 神学如「光」

教宗首先提醒来自世界各地的神学家，如何继承先人的伟大神学遗产，从而思考神学的未来。教宗表示，每当他思考神学时，脑海中就浮现出光。「光、谨慎、柔和、谦逊」，光「使事物显现出来，却不显示自己」。同样，神学也应「隐密而谦卑」地工作，使基督的光和祂的福音得以显现。

教宗说：「从这个观察中，就能看到一条道路：那就是，寻求恩宠并存留在与基督的友谊恩宠中，基督是来到这个世界上的真光。」

#### 思考未来

教宗反省到，每一种神学都「产生于与基督的友谊，以及祂对兄弟姐妹和世

界的爱」。「过去的神学遗产若能继续回应今天的挑战」，并帮助「思考未来」，神学家们蒙召共同行走在这个旅程中，这几天的神学会议会是重要的。于是，教宗提醒道，「只有男性的神学只是一半的神学」，因为「有些事情唯有女性才能直觉到，神学需要她们的贡献」。

#### 神学应为众人所用

随后，教宗谈到今天的一个趋势，说道：「一些年以来，在世界许多地方，男人和

女人，尤其是中年人，也许已经大学毕业。他们渴望加深信仰，愿意开始一个新的旅程，他们经常注册大学的一个课程」。

为此，教宗最后说：「拜托了，如果这些人中的任何一个人去敲神学、神学院的大门，请让他们看到大门是敞开的。你们要让这些女性和男性在神学中找到一个开放的家，一个他们能继续行走的地方，他们在那里能够寻找、找到并再次寻找的地方。」



### 教宗擢升新樞機：切莫陷於有害的競爭，卻要建設合一



(梵蒂冈新闻网) 教宗方济各12月7日下午在圣伯多禄大殿主持了第10次擢升枢机的枢密会议，新枢机共21位。在这洋溢著将临期既庄严又温馨的礼仪中，5500名信众在场参加。教宗在讲道中再次强调他训导的一个支柱：且莫追求首位，却要谦卑地培养友爱之情。新枢机中年纪最长、99岁的阿切尔比 (Angelo Acerbi) 总主教向教宗致词，表明「一起行走」的必要性。

「教宗首先提到曼佐尼的小说《婚约夫妇》中的一句话，我们的心是一个「混合物」。在《马尔谷福音》第十章的记述中，正当耶稣走一条艰难、将祂带往加尔瓦略山的上坡路时，祂的门徒们却思念著走平坦及下坡路的凯旋的默西亚。教宗说，这是跟随基督的一大误解，需要「谦卑地意识到」。

「这种情况也能发生在我们身上：我们的心迷失了道路，被声望的吸引力、权力的引诱、对上主过于人性化的热情所迷惑。因此，注视我们的内心很重要，谦卑地站在天主面前，诚实地面对自己，扪心自问：我的心往哪里去？它往哪个方向走？也许我走错方向了？」

#### 返回内心，让耶稣成为枢纽

圣奥思定叮嘱我们，要「返回内心」。教宗表示，回到内心是极重要、极深刻，而且也是真正需要的。因为我们经常会混淆计划，把不重要的看作是重要的。教宗借用「枢纽」的图像说，我们生命依托的重心必须是基督。

「领受枢机衔的亲爱的弟兄们，今天，我要特别对你们说：好好走跟随耶稣的道路。这意味着什么？走耶稣的道路首先意味著回到祂那里，将祂置于一切的中心。在灵修生活中，如同在牧灵生活中那

样，我们有时会专注于次要的事，却忘记根本。」

#### 在路上行走，与他人相遇

教宗继续指出，效法耶稣的形式在祂的道路上就能找到：护理人的创伤、减轻他心中的负担、除去罪过的顽石，以及折断奴役的枷锁。教宗强调，枢机衔不是将自己隔离开来，而是不断地深入人群、了解他们的疾苦和伤痛。路途中的冒险、与他人相遇的喜悦、关怀最脆弱的人：这些必须激励你们作为枢机所提供的服务」。

#### 寻求合一，而非居首位

在耶稣的门徒中，竞争的「蛀虫摧毁合一」。教宗勉励新枢机们切莫陷于这个诱惑，却要推倒敌意的围墙，凭著赤胆忠心寻求合一。在这个充满激烈竞争的世界中，在这个一味追求外表和首位的社会中，寻求合一的精神会带来不一样的色彩。

「正因如此，上主将祂的目光投向你们这些来自不同历史和文化、彰显教会至公性的各位，召叫你们成为友爱的见证人、共融的工匠，以及合一的建设者。这就是你们的使命。这就是你们的使命。」

#### 建设教会的光辉仆役

教宗讲话完毕，新枢机们列队走到教宗面前，领受红方帽，走在最前面的还是年纪最长的阿切尔比总主教。枢机们也领受了戒指、小圆帽和领衔证书。每一位新枢机都宣誓效忠和服从教宗及其继承人。最后，在场众枢机们彼此拥抱，表达仁爱。在场参礼者一起诵唱《天主经》。

在教宗擢升了21位新枢机后，枢机团的人数达到253名，其中140位有选举权，113名因年逾80，丧失了

### 古晉聖三堂兒童聖道禮儀組聖經分享聚餐



(古晋讯) 2024年12月14日(星期六)，古晋圣三堂儿童圣道礼仪组圣经班举办了一场别开生面的分享聚餐。这场活动不仅是一次感恩与回顾的聚会，更是一场充满信仰交流与爱的盛宴。

当天的活动邀请了圣三堂堂主施友仁神父、古晋华文信仰培育神师黄天赐神父以及王博弟神父作为桌上嘉宾，礼仪组的老师们及圣经班的兄弟姐妹们也到场，共

襄盛举。聚餐以「百乐餐」(Potluck)的形式进行，参与者纷纷带来自己精心准备的美味佳肴，场面热闹而温馨。在正式开始前，老师们和兄弟姐妹们自由地写下感恩语，然后张贴在白板上，以表达感谢以及对彼此的祝福。这些真挚的话语为聚会增添了暖意，也成为了活动的一大亮点。

活动由神父致辞揭开序幕。黄天赐神父首先分享了对

圣经班的肯定与祝福，勉励大家在信仰的道路上继续前行；黄天赐神父温暖的话语与大家的互动，气氛十分融洽。

聚餐正式开始后，大家一边享用美食，一边通过大屏幕回顾圣经班三年半以来的点滴瞬间：课堂的认真学习、考试的努力作答、活动中的欢笑与收获……这些画面让在场的每一个人都感到无比感动和自豪。

聚餐的高潮是老师们和

主内的兄弟姐妹们的生活见证，他们以真挚的话语讲述了自己所获得的成长与信仰的启迪。这些见证深深感染了在场的每一位，进一步拉近了彼此的心灵距离。

活动中筹备小组还特意将这些年来的圣经讲义整理成册并分发给参与者，以方便日后温习。此外，还特别准备了奖品，颁发给最用功的学员，以表彰他们的努力与坚持。

在酒足饭饱、欢声笑语

中，聚餐圆满结束。大家满载着感恩与喜悦乘兴而来，尽兴而归。这次聚餐不仅是一次美好的回忆，更是信仰团体的深厚凝聚力和主恩无限的体现。

通过这次聚会，圣经班的老师们与主内的兄弟姐妹们更加坚定了对主的信靠，也为未来的学习和生活注入了满满的动力与祝福。

(报导：冯素芳)

### 傅雲生總主教的訊息



亲爱的基督内弟兄姐妹们：

愿2025年的新年为您带来平安与祝福！教宗方济各宣布2025年为「希望禧年」，并邀请我们成为「希望的朝圣者」。

虽然我们刚刚跨入2025年的门槛，但2024年的种种挑战仍历历在目。乌克兰、中东及缅甸的冲突持续不断，战争带来的创伤与苦难仍未消散，许多生命在冲突中逝去，尤其是妇女、儿童及贫困者首当其冲地受害。在2024年1月1日第58届「世界和平日」致辞中，教宗方济各选定的主题是「宽恕我们的过犯，赐给我们你的平安」。我们也被邀请以「希望的朝圣者」身份迈入2025年的希望禧年。

教宗方济各向各国元首、国际组织领袖、不同的宗教之领导人、每一位善心人士以及我们所有人提出了和平之路的三项行动建议：

- 国际债务的宽免；
- 废除死刑；
- 建立「全球消饥基金」，以彻底消除饥饿问题。

圣诞节是爱与希望的节日。当耶稣降生时，客店里没有地方，一切看似无望。但若瑟与玛利亚信赖上主，在那寒冷黑暗的夜晚，以敞开的双臂和炽热的爱心迎接了耶稣。今天，或许我们也觉得自己无法改变整个世界，但我们总能在自己所在之处做些善事。当我们每一位信徒都在自身的位置播撒希望与善行时，我们便能够共同改变世界。耶稣以「厄玛奴耳」的名号来到我们中间，这个名字的意义是「天主与我们同在」。

禧年中的圣门开启，象征着天主通过敞开的门来到我们中间。我们可以怀着信心跨入这神圣的门槛，进入天主的临在之中，体验祂的仁慈、宽恕与平安，并在信德、望德与爱德中得到更新，以服务彼此。

愿在这希望禧年中，主的平安常与我们同在。

✱ 傅云生总主教 (译文)

### 砂朥越伊斯兰资讯中心以探訪 傳遞聖誕禮物，促進合一



图中为傅云生总主教于2024年12月19日向砂朥越伊斯兰资讯中心 (SIIC) 代表团介绍天主教会牧灵中心的图书馆与历史馆。

(古晋讯) 为促进善意与加强跨宗教关系，砂朥越伊斯兰资讯中心 (SIIC) 代表团于2024年12月19日到访总主教署与总主教座堂牧灵中心 (ACCPC)，礼节性拜访天主教傅云生总主教。代表团由代理首席执行

官塔祖丁·莫赫达 (Tazudin Mohtar) 率领，成员包括砂朥越伊斯兰资讯中心 (SIIC) 及砂朥越伊斯兰理事会 (MIS) 的官员。他们还带来了节庆礼物，表达佳节的祝福。报导：蔡艾薇 (译文) 摄影：《今日教友》

### 陳聯瑞神父蛇年說蛇

可敬的教友：

您好！今年是「蛇」年。提到「蛇」，人都会觉得不喜欢它，是不是？

照我们华人的传统，蛇是「巳」的象徵。「巳」是十二地支之第六支。「蛇」代表魔鬼和他所作所为的一切坏事，黑暗的事。毒蛇会咬死人；魔鬼会害死人。蛇实际上有点像龙，就因为龙是个很好的象徵，所以人会稍微敬爱「蛇」。

在我们的《圣经》中也曾提到过蛇。魔鬼利用蛇的肖像去骗人 -- 骗我们的原祖亚当和厄娃。蛇使他们犯罪，远离天主。蛇行事迅速，狡猾又聪明，诡诈又欺骗。

天主的子民有一次在旷野里反抗天主和梅瑟。天主派毒蛇去咬他们，有的被蛇咬死了。于是他们很后悔得罪了天

主，并求天主宽恕他们。天主叫梅瑟把一条打造好的铜蛇竖立在棍杖上。凡是被蛇咬到的人，一看这条铜蛇就会痊愈而不会死。这也就提醒我们不得不会到耶稣在十字架上拯救了我们的事实。

华人虽然很憎恨蛇的象徵，不过也会敬重「蛇」，因为蛇跟龙有「亲」，有一点像。所以「蛇」不是完全坏的象征，在圣经里，「蛇」也不是完全不好的，蛇是天主所创造的，本来是好的，而那条旷野中的铜蛇还救了那些悔过的人。不过，魔鬼和魔鬼的行为用蛇来代表是很适合的。

我们教友们不要听魔鬼的话，应该听天主的话。蛇所代表的一切不良不善的事，我们都不要接受。我们都要遵守天主的诫命。我们应该祈求天主赏给我们智慧，时时刻刻行



善立功。我们体会到耶稣为了拯救我们怎样死在十字架上，就不要犯罪得罪天主，而要做天主耶稣喜欢我们做的事。我们要在耶稣内去找真正的福乐。

在这蛇年里，我们要勤劳避恶行善，热心朝拜天主，知道天主不会忘记我们的。天主会保护我们，使我们获得平安和永远的福乐。恭祝：

新年进步；  
主赐宏恩！  
陈联瑞神父启

### 砂朥越聖方濟修女會 (SSFS) 第十三次代表大會



修女会会长及其执行委员会成员。从左至右：第二参议郑芝君修女(Sr Natasia Tay)、助理会长伊尔米娜·彼得修女(Sr Irminda Peter)、会长王碧玲修女(Sr Rose Wong)、第一参议林书琼修女(Sr Agatha Ling) 和第三参议凯瑟琳·尤明修女(Sr Catherine Uming)。

(古晋讯) 我等，二十五位修女会代表，参加了砂朥越圣方济修女会 (SSFS) 的第十三次代表大会。主题为：『偕同基督，迈向百年庆，展望未来』的代表大会于2024年12月3日至10日，在砂朥越古晋浮罗岸中央路的无玷圣母修院召开。

为纪念圣方济受五伤圣痕八百周年，我们时刻谨记「你是爱」的主题。憧憬满怀喜悦与展望的修会百年庆典（即2028年），我们将从简地介绍修会的创始，好了解自身该何去何从。希望这有助我们对未来制定方向——百年庆、下届代表大会，以及迈向更遥远的未来。

在代表大会前，从11月29日晚至12月2日，我们进行了为期三天的退省。在此期间，我们从《若望福音》第21章汲取灵感，对七位门徒决定「出海捕鱼」的典故产生共鸣。至少说，这是门徒们表现的一种失落和绝望。他们对追随耶稣的前景感到失望，所以折返了曾经的职业生涯。继续的谋生和为将来铺路，似乎成了他们当时唯一的希望和出路。

然而，他们的努力却再次落空，整夜的劳苦终究一无所获！但，在听从了复活耶稣的指示「将网撒向船的右边」时，一切就发生了变化：他们捕獲了153条大鱼。原本的一

夜徒劳，到此次的丰收使他们认出了主耶稣：「是主！」耶稣最爱的门徒告诉了西满伯多禄。对他们而言，领悟了最基本的选择：与主同行，或背主独行。

门徒们接下来的两个行动象征着选择回归主怀并与主同行：(一) 伯多禄纵身入海，游向岸上的复活救主；(二) 其餘的门徒则将满载的渔获拖回岸边。耶稣邀请他们「一同吃早餐」，则表示祂接受了他们的归来。耶稣与西满伯多禄对话，并托付了他至关重要的牧职——即，照顾祂的羊群。行使这牧职需要爱，而这份爱是无可掂量的。

我们在《若望福音》第21章中读到，耶稣恢复了背叛者的门徒身份，尽管伯多禄曾三次否认耶稣，但耶稣仍旧信任他，将照顾羊群的重任托付给了伯多禄。我们也从这事件中汲取了勇气。

各委员会的汇报为我们提供并概述了相关修会的优点和缺点。这也指出了我们所面临的挑战，主要是来自于日益年长的修女人数与活跃修女人数之间的不平衡，以及受到世俗化和世界趋势的影响。

受到《若望福音》第21章故事的启发，我们听到耶稣邀请我们与祂共进早餐，恢复了我们的门徒身份，并召唤我们继续以砂朥越圣方济修女会

的身份，完成使命和侍奉工作。在接受挑战的同时，我们弃绝让本身的缺点和失败盖过我们的优点，也不让它们使我们陷入绝望。

相反的，我们受到历任前辈们的启发，她们克服了重重波涛，跟随着我们圣洁之亲圣方济的脚步，回应主的召唤：「复兴我的教会」。我们透过意向祈祷来庆祝圣方济的圣痕，并提醒自己，他是如何接受了耶稣的苦难，而这也是历任前辈们在努力效法的。

深信复活的救主赐下圣神与我们同在并引导我们，使我们鼓起勇气，回应主的召唤——「复兴我的教会」，无论此任务将带来任何的挑战。

因此，对未来六年理事会的新任期，我们进行了选举，投选新的会长、副会长及理事会成员。众望所归，王碧玲修女 (Sr Rose Wong) 再次当选为总会长，伊尔米娜·彼得修女(Sr Irminda Peter) 为副总会长，林书琼修女 (Sr Agatha Ling) 为第一参议（即主要协助者），郑芝君修女(Sr Natasia Tay) 为第二参议，凯瑟琳·尤明修女(Sr Catherine Uming) 为第三参议。

在耶稣恢复了西满伯多禄的门徒身份并任命他为宗徒之长的鼓励下，当选的修女们都谦卑而全心全意地接受了使命，愿意效法基督并以爱相待。

在满溢着圣神的引导和信心下，我们决议通过了商定的提案和决议。

我们现在将提案和决议奉献给圣母玛利亚，请她代祷，愿我们在实施这些提案和决议时，怀着她对天主【言在行】的精神，也求圣洁之父圣方济和圣嘉勒为我们代祷。

砂朥越圣方济修女会(SSFS) (译文)

### 2024年砂朥越基督教會聯合會聖誕下午茶會

(古晋讯) 秉持合一与和谐的精神, 砂朥越基督教会联合会 (ACS) 于12月21日在基督徒合一崇拜中心 (CEWC) 举办圣诞下午茶会。砂朥越元首敦佩欣斯里拿督旺朱乃迪·端姑再法博士 (Tun Pehin Sri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar) 与夫人

多潘拿督巴丁宜傅兹雅·莫哈末·沙努西 (Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Fauziah Mohd Sanusi) 亲临活动, 为其增添光彩。砂朥越基督教会联合会主席兼圣公会古晋教区主教拿督丹尼尔·朱德 (Datuk Daniel Jute) 表示, 政治领袖在促进国家合一方面扮演重要角色。

他呼吁大家共同努力, 确保砂朥越的和平与和谐得以持续。敦佩欣旺朱乃迪 (Tun Pehin Wan Junaidi) 及夫人多潘傅兹雅 (Toh Puan Fauziah) 还向救世军和砂朥越盲人协会的成员分发了圣诞礼物, 表达节庆的关怀与祝福。

报导: 蔡艾薇 (译文)



砂朥越基督教会联合会委员会与元首及其他贵宾和受邀嘉宾于2024年圣诞下午茶会合影, 地点为基督徒合一崇拜中心 (CEWC)。

### 古晋肯雅蘭聖三堂華語將臨期退省



(古晋讯) 圣三堂华文联委会于2024年12月7日成功举办了将临期退省, 此活动总共有205位教友踊跃参与, 从早上8时15分开始至中午12时30分圆满结束。退省以颂念玫瑰经和赞美敬拜歌揭开序幕, 由张小燕姐妹带领敬拜环节。讲座于上午九时正式开始, 由林克润神父 (Fr Paul Ling) 主讲, 安琦绮姐妹主持。林神父强调教友需反思每日生活, 摒弃世俗欲望, 追随圣人榜样, 即使他们是平信徒

如真福卡洛·阿库蒂斯和真福傅乔治, 他们也努力过圣洁生活。林神父也勉励教友借将临期办和好圣事, 为迎接基督的来临做好心灵准备。茶点后, 林神父带领教友进行动作祈祷, 帮助大家更专注于祈祷的投入。第二部分讲座中, 他再次提醒教友关注心灵需求, 可以通过避静和静默祈祷与主建立亲密关系。随后举行平日弥撒, 由林克润神父主祭, 陈其裕兄弟负责领经和读经。林神父在讲道中重申, 信仰生活需超越物质层面, 照

顾自己的心灵的需要和灵修的深化。活动结束后, 参与的教友们与工作团队以及林神父在教堂内合影留念, 为此次退省画上圆满的句号。

(摄影: 蔡明洸, 报导: 池采恩)



### 加爾默羅隱修女與世俗加爾默羅會會員一同歡慶聖誕節



(古晋讯) 在这个圣诞节, 加尔默罗隐修女与基督君王世俗加尔默罗会 (OCDS) 团体有幸于12月28日欢聚一堂, 共同庆祝这一充满喜悦的节日。这次聚会洋溢着和平、温馨与深深的虔敬之情, 我们齐聚一堂, 反思圣诞的真正意义。活动以真诚的团契交流拉开帷幕, 祈求和平与善意

的降福。整个仪式的简朴与庄严提醒在场的每一位, 圣诞节不仅是庆祝, 更是对这一圣洁时节精神意义的深刻反思。团契交流突显了爱德、慈爱与服务他人的重要性, 尤其是在这个充满希望的节日里。此次聚会不仅带来启发, 也使人心存谦卑, 提醒我们在给予时, 不仅限于物质上的分享, 更应通过善行、怜悯与宽恕去

传递爱与希望。聚会中还包括了一场充满爱与喜悦的报佳音环节。加尔默罗隐修女与世俗加尔默罗会会员们以和谐歌声欢唱深受喜爱的圣诞颂歌, 洋溢着团结、喜乐与平安的精神, 并怀着希望的愿景, 与圣母天主教会共同迈向2025禧年之旅。此次聚会纯然是一次深化友谊与灵性联系的时刻, 以《Feliz Navidad》这首歌为活动画上句点, 感恩天主赐予我们基督的降生, 也感恩这次充实心灵的联谊, 使加尔默罗隐修女与世俗加尔默罗会团体更加合一。作为赤足加尔默罗会大家庭的一员, 我们深感这是天主赐予的一大祝福, 能与古晋总教区共同踏上充满希望的2025禧年旅程。

报导: 基督君王世俗加尔默罗会团体 (译文)

### 编余

## 感恩的時刻

现今已是2025年。2024年对您而言如何? 对我来说, 这一年如同经历了一场旋风般忙碌, 然而, 这却是充满恩宠的一年。

在2025年的首期刊物中, 我们为您呈现2024年的精彩回顾, 第3页的拼贴照片带您回首过去一年的美好回忆。愿这些回忆带给您温暖和喜悦。

备受期待的浮罗岸圣伯多禄堂在2024年12月24日平安夜正式开幕。这座标志性教堂的子夜弥撒于凌晨12点举行, 不仅吸引了天主教徒, 也吸引了各基督宗派信徒及其他宗教人士。早在教堂竣工前几个月, 其哥特式建筑风格和精美的彩绘玻璃窗就已在社交媒体上引发广泛关注, 相关照片和视频片段备受热议。

为响应教宗方济各于2025年12月29日为普世教会启动「希望禧年」的呼吁, 古晋总教区在傅云生总主教主持下, 于早上7点的弥撒中开启了古晋总教区的禧年庆典。在总教区内指定的五大朝圣中心中, 刚落成的圣伯多禄堂名列其中。完整的朝圣中心名单请见第8页。

我们正在庆祝蛇年农历新年的信徒, 第20页特别刊登了由陈联瑞神父撰写的文章, 探讨「蛇」的意义。让我们感恩天主在2024年所有蒙垂允的祈祷, 赐予我们的恩典、医治和降福。愿天主在2025年继续丰厚地降福我们和我们的家庭。新年蒙恩!

蔡爱薇 (译文)

## 主的话

耶稣会士, 林进才神父



2025年1月19日 - 丙午常年期第二主日

(读经一: 依62:1-5; 读经二: 格前12:4-11; 福音: 若2:1-11)

### 天主豐盛恩賜的標記

在若望福音的结尾, 圣史若望写道: 「耶稣在门徒前还进行了许多其他的神迹, 没有记在这部书上; 这些所记录的, 是为叫你们信耶稣是默西亚, 天主子; 并使你们信的人, 赖他的名获得生命。」(若20:30-31) 总体而言, 若望在他的福音中为我们呈现了七个标记(神迹), 目的是让我们相信耶稣是默西亚, 因而在信仰中获得丰盛的生命。

在希腊原文中, 这里的「标记」一词是sêmeion, 可译为「奇迹的标记」。这些标记不仅是随机发生的奇迹, 而是具有深远意义的事件。它们指向某事, 即耶稣是天父所派遣的、众人期待已久的默西亚。通常希腊语中用于描述奇迹的词是dunamis, 意为「权能的作为」。因此, 我们可以看到若望在这里将sêmeion与dunamis区分开来。

在今天福音的结尾, 若望宣告道: 「这是耶稣所行的第一个神迹: 是在加里肋亚的加纳行的。祂显现了自己的光荣, 祂的门徒就信从了祂。」(若2:11) 那么, 圣史若望通过变水为酒的神迹究竟想告诉我们什么呢? 难道他是想说明, 耶稣的第一个奇迹是制造足够多的美酒让人们在婚宴上尽情畅饮吗? 事实上, 不少教友常用这个故事来为社交聚会上多饮点酒辩解。

可以确定的是, 耶稣非常有人性, 祂愿意参与人类的庆祝, 尤其是婚宴。祂与门徒一同被邀请参加这一庆祝爱情的盛宴, 与新郎新娘及其家人分享喜乐, 圣母玛利亚也在那里。

当主人家因酒用尽而感到尴尬时, 耶稣表现出对他们的关怀。或许因为耶稣和祂的门徒的到来使婚宴的规模扩大了, 导致了酒的短缺。作为受邀的宾客, 耶稣也因此负有一定责任。

尽管起初耶稣对祂母亲的请求似乎显得有些冷淡, 但祂还是倾听了圣母的请求: 「他们没有酒了。」而圣母对仆人们说: 「祂告诉你们什么, 你们就做什么。」某种程度上, 圣母推动了耶稣完成祂的第一个标记。圣母玛利亚作为有力的代祷者, 为我们向祂的圣子转求。

六口石缸原本是为宗教洁净礼使用的工具。然而, 耶稣却将这些与洁净法律有关的器具变成了天主祝福与喜庆的象征。这些石缸每口可盛20到30加仑的水, 总量相当于今天约600瓶酒。这是天主祝福丰盛的象征——天主是满溢恩赐的天主, 祂的慷慨是无穷无尽的。

变水为酒不仅仅是展示耶稣奇迹能力的表演。酒是祝福的象征。在旧约中, 先知们多次用婚宴来比喻天主与祂子民的关系。如果婚宴中的酒用尽, 就意味着这种关系中的祝福耗尽了。

总而言之, 耶稣的第一个标记彰显了天主积极参与人类生活的层面, 表明天主是慷慨的, 祂以丰盛的祝福惠及众人。这个标记指向耶稣作为众人期待的默西亚。同时, 圣母玛利亚也展现出她作为强而有力的代祷者的重要角色。

方济各 (译文)

# Persidangan Agung ke-13 Kongregasi 'Sisters of St Francis of Sarawak' (SSFS)

Seramai 25 wakil delegasi rohaniwati (Sister Delegates) mengambil bahagian dalam Persidangan Agung ke-13 Kongregasi 'Sisters of St Francis of Sarawak' (SSFS). Ia diadakan di Biara Immaculate Conception, Jalan Sentral, Padungan, Kuching, pada 3–10 Disember 2024. Tema keseluruhannya adalah 'Advancing our Union with Christ towards the Centenary and Beyond' (Memajukan Kesatuan kita bersama Kristus Menuju Ulang Tahun ke-100 dan Seterusnya).

Bagi meraikan ulang tahun ke-800 stigmata Santo Francis di Assisi, tema 'You Are Love' (Kamu Adalah Kasih) turut difikirkan. Persidangan itu, yang dengan sukacita menantikan Ulang Tahun ke-100 Kongregasi pada 2028, bermula dengan pembentangan ringkas tentang sejarah kongregasi kami. Ia memberikan gambaran kepada peserta tentang asal usul kongregasi kami dan di mana kami berada sekarang. Ini diharapkan dapat memperkasakan kongregasi kami untuk melakar hala tuju ke masa hadapan—menuju Ulang Tahun ke-100, Persidangan Agung selepas ini, dan seterusnya.

Didahului oleh retreat selama tiga hari bermula pada petang 29 November hingga 2 Disember 2024, Persidangan Agung ke-13 ini mendapat inspirasi daripada Fasal 21 Injil Yohanes. Kita dapat memahami keputusan tujuh murid berkenaan untuk "menangkap ikan", yang membayangkan setidak-tidaknya rasa putus asa atau hilang harapan. Mereka tidak dapat melihat sebab untuk terus mengikut Yesus. Kembali kepada pekerjaan lama untuk menyara hidup demi masa hadapan mereka kelihatan seperti pilihan harapan terbaik bagi mereka dalam keadaan mereka ketika itu.

Namun di sini sekali lagi, harapan mereka punah, kerana kerja keras mereka selama ini tidak menghasilkan apa-apa! Namun kerja yang tidak membuahkan hasil ini sebaliknya berubah apabila mereka "menebar jala mereka ke sebelah kanan perahu" seperti yang disuruh oleh Yesus: mereka menangkap 153 ekor ikan besar. Selepas malam yang tidak membuahkan hasil, tangkapan luar biasa ini membolehkan mereka untuk mengenali Yesus: "Ia adalah Tuhan", kata murid yang dikasihi kepada Simon Petrus. Pilihan asas bagi mereka adalah sama ada untuk bekerja dengan Tuhan atau tanpa Tuhan.

Dua tindakan murid-murid itu seterusnya menandakan pilihan mereka untuk kembali kepada Tuhan dan bekerja bersama-Nya: (1) Petrus terjun ke dalam laut untuk melangkah ke arah Tuhan yang berada di pantai; dan (2) murid-murid lain juga menarik jala mereka, yang penuh dengan ikan, ke pantai. Ajakan Yesus kepada mereka, "Marilah dan bersarapan", menunjukkan bahawa Dia menerima keputusasaan mereka. Dialog-Nya dengan Simon Petrus, anak Yohanes, mendorong-Nya untuk mengamanahkan kepada murid itu satu pelayanan pastoral yang amat penting bagi menjaga kawanan domba-Nya. Pelaksanaan pelayanan ini menuntut kasih, tidak kira apa pun tahap kasih ini.

Kita membaca dalam Injil Yohanes, fasal 21, satu kisah tentang Yesus memulihkan pemuridan kepada murid-murid-Nya yang telah mengecewakan-Nya. Walaupun Simon Petrus tiga kali menafikan-Nya sebelum itu, Yesus tetap meletakkan kepercayaan-Nya kepada Simon Petrus apabila Dia mengamanahkan penjagaan kawanan domba-Nya kepadanya. Kongregasi kami mendapatkan keberanian daripada pembacaan kisah ini.

Laporan daripada berbagai komisi memberikan gambaran yang baik tentang kekuatan dan kelemahan kongregasi kami. Ia juga menunjukkan cabaran yang dihadapi kongregasi kami, terutamanya dari segi jumlah rohaniwati kongregasi yang semakin berusia tanpa peningkatan selari anggota aktif, selain pengaruh sekularisme dan trend dunia.

Daripada kisah dalam Injil Yohanes 21, kongregasi mendengar Yesus mengajak kami untuk bersarapan bersama-Nya dan memulihkan pemuridan-Nya, selain menyeru kepada kami untuk meneruskan misi dan pelayanan sebagai rohaniwati SSFS. Kami mengaku kami ada kelemahan dan kegagalan, namun kami enggan membiarkannya untuk membayangi kekuatan kami dan menyelubungi kami dengan keputusasaan.



*Ketua Pemimpin bersama Majlis. Dari kiri ke kanan: Sr Natasia Tay (Ahli Kedua Majlis), Sr Irmina Peter (Timbalan Ketua Pemimpin), Sr Rose Wong (Ketua Pemimpin), Sr Agatha Ling (Ahli Pertama Majlis) dan Sr Catherine Uming (Ahli Ketiga Majlis).*

Sebaliknya, kami mendapat inspirasi daripada para rohaniwati sebelum ini yang mengharungi semua badai untuk mengikut jejak langkah Bapa Serafik kami, Santo Francis di Assisi, dan menyahut panggilan Tuhan untuk "memulihkan Gereja-Ku". Merayakan stigmata Santo Francis dalam ibadat yang bermakna dan penuh doa mengingatkan kami kepada hakikat bahawa beliau menerima penderitaan Yesus yang cuba dicontohi para rohaniwati sebelum ini.

Dengan kepercayaan kepada Roh Kudus yang diberikan oleh Tuhan untuk menyertai dan memimpin kami, kongregasi kami menguatkan semangat dan keberanian untuk menyahut dengan komitmen yang lebih tinggi kepada panggilan Tuhan bagi kami untuk "memulihkan Gereja-Nya" pada hari ini, tidak kira apa pun cabaran yang mungkin melibatkan tugas ini.

Dengan mengambil kira perkara itu, kami seterusnya memilih Ketua Pemimpin, Timbalannya dan Majlis, untuk memimpin kami dalam penggal seterusnya selama enam tahun. Kami memilih semula Sr Rose Wong sebagai Ketua Pemimpin, Sr Irmina Peter sebagai Timbalan Ketua Pemimpin, Sr Agatha Ling sebagai Ahli Pertama Majlis, Sr Natasia Tay sebagai Ahli Kedua Majlis, dan Sr Catherine Uming Ahli Ketiga Majlis.

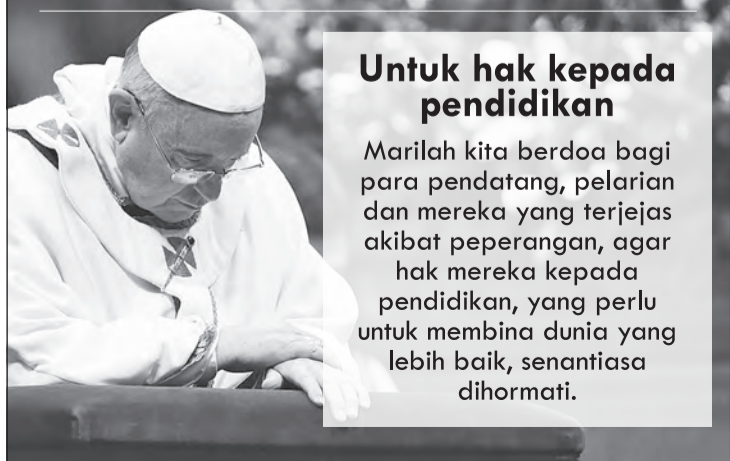
Didorong oleh kepercayaan dan pemulihan pemuridan Yesus kepada Simon Petrus, setiap daripada rohaniwati yang dipilih ini dengan rendah hati dan sepenuh hati menerima pemilihan mereka untuk menjaga kongregasi dan menggalakkan kami untuk menjaga orang lain dalam kasih seperti Kristus.

Dipenuhi dengan jaminan tentang bimbingan Roh Kudus, kami dengan yakin meluluskan Cadangan dan Ketetapan seperti yang dipersetujui.

Kongregasi SSFS kini menyerahkan Cadangan dan Ketetapan kami kepada doa perantaraan Bonda Perawan Maria sementara kami mula melaksanakannya dalam semangat FIAT bonda kepada Tuhan, dan kepada Bapa Serafik kami, Santo Francis, dan Santa Clara.

SSFS (Terjemahan)

## Niat doa Pope Francis bagi Januari



### Untuk hak kepada pendidikan

Marilah kita berdoa bagi para pendatang, pelarian dan mereka yang terjejas akibat peperangan, agar hak mereka kepada pendidikan, yang perlu untuk membina dunia yang lebih baik, senantiasa dihormati.

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19 Januari 2025 - Hari Minggu Biasa Kedua Tahun C  
(Yesaya 62:1-5; 1 Korintus 12:4-11; Yohanes 2:1-11)

**Verbum  
Domini**   
Oleh Fr Francis  
Lim, SJ

Demi kemuliaan Allah yang lebih agung

## Tanda Kelimpahan Tuhan



Pada akhir Injil Yohanes, beliau menulis, “Maka Yesus melakukan banyak lagi tanda-tanda lain di hadapan murid-murid, yang tidak tertulis dalam kitab ini; tetapi semua ini telah ditulis supaya kamu percaya bahawa Yesus adalah Kristus, Anak Allah, dan supaya dengan percaya, kamu beroleh kehidupan dalam nama-Nya.” (Yohanes 20:30-31)

Secara keseluruhannya, Yohanes mempersembahkan kepada kita tujuh tanda supaya kita, para pembaca Injilnya, boleh percaya bahawa Yesus adalah Kristus, dan beriman kepada-Nya, beroleh kehidupan, dan kehidupan ini adalah sepenuhnya.

Dalam bahasa Yunani asal, perkataan bagi tanda yang digunakan di sini ialah *sêmeion*, yang boleh diterjemahkan sebagai tanda ajaib. Ia bukan hanya mukjizat rawak, tetapi ia adalah mukjizat dengan makna yang mendalam.

Mereka menunjuk kepada sesuatu, iaitu, tanda-tanda ini menunjuk kepada Yesus sebagai Dia yang sangat ditunggu-tunggu dan dihantar oleh Bapa.

Perkataan Yunani yang biasanya digunakan untuk mukjizat ialah *dunamis*, yang merupakan tindakan berkuasa. Oleh itu, kita dapat melihat perbezaan yang digunakan di sini oleh Yohanes antara *sêmeion* dengan *dunamis*.

Pada penghujung petikan Injil hari ini, Yohanes menyatakan, “Ini adalah tanda pertama yang diberikan oleh Yesus: ia diberikan di Kana di Galilea. Ia memperlihatkan kemuliaan-Nya, dan murid-murid-Nya percaya kepada-Nya.” (Yohanes 2:11)

Apakah maksud yang Yohanes cuba beritahu kepada kita dengan tanda perubahan air menjadi wain? Adakah beliau ingin menyampaikan maksud bahawa mukjizat pertama Yesus dalam menghasilkan wain baik yang lebih daripada mencukupi adalah

untuk membuat orang ramai mabuk? Banyak kali, saya telah mendengar orang Katolik menggunakan cerita ini sebagai justifikasi untuk kita menikmati lebih banyak alkohol di acara sosial!

Nah, satu perkara adalah pasti; Yesus sangat manusiawi dan Dia ingin mengambil bahagian dalam perayaan manusia, terutamanya perkahwinan. Dia dijemput bersama-sama dengan murid-murid-Nya ke perayaan kasih yang bahagia antara seorang lelaki dengan seorang wanita serta keluarga mereka, dan ibu-Nya juga ada di sana.

Dia mengambil berat tentang rasa malu tuan rumah apabila mereka kehabisan wain. Pesta perkahwinan itu mungkin telah bertambah ramai dengan kehadiran Yesus dan murid-murid-Nya kerana reputasi-Nya. Oleh itu, Yesus akan rasa bertanggungjawab bagi mereka sebagai tetamu mereka, yang mengakibatkan kekurangan bekalan bagi parti itu.

Walaupun pada mulanya Yesus mungkin menjawab ibu-Nya dengan agak kosong, Dia mendengar permintaan ibu-Nya, “Mereka tidak ada wain”. Maria juga memberitahu para pelayan untuk “melakukan apa sahaja yang Dia suruh kamu”. Dari satu segi, Maria menolak Yesus ke dalam tanda pertama. Maria berdoa untuk kita di hadapan putera-Nya.

Enam tempayan batu air penyucian adalah bagi tujuan penyucian yang merupakan peraturan keagamaan. Dengan menggunakannya, Yesus menukar alat untuk memenuhi kewajipan di bawah undang-undang kesucian menjadi hadiah berkat Tuhan dan alasan bagi mengadakan perayaan.

Setiap tempayan boleh mengandungi antara 20 hingga 30 gelen air. Jadi jumlah keseluruhan adalah bersamaan dengan kira-kira 600 botol wain pada hari ini, yang merupakan jumlah yang besar bagi majlis perkahwinan! Ini adalah pengertian tentang kelimpahan rahmat Allah. Tuhan adalah Tuhan kelimpahan, yang memberi dengan melimpah ruah.

Mengubah air menjadi wain bukan sekadar helah untuk menunjukkan kebolehan Yesus yang ajaib. Wain adalah simbol keberkatan. Berpuluh-puluh kali dalam Perjanjian Lama, para nabi menggunakan metafora perkahwinan untuk menggambarkan hubungan antara Tuhan dengan manusia. Kehabisan wain bermakna bahawa hubungan itu telah kehabisan berkat.

Secara keseluruhan, tanda pertama Yesus menunjukkan banyak aspek yang melibatkan penyertaan aktif Tuhan dalam kehidupan manusia, dan bahawa Tuhan murah hati dan memberkati semua orang dengan kelimpahan. Tanda itu menunjukkan Yesus sebagai Mesias yang dinanti-nantikan. Pada masa yang sama, Bonda Maria juga terlibat sebagai pendoa syafaat yang berkuasa.

(Terjemahan)



Ketika Musim Adven berlangsung, saya mendapati diri saya terhanyut dalam misteri penantian yang mendalam. Pada tahun ini, dalam terang Jubli Harapan, saya merenungkan apa yang benar-benar dimaksudkan oleh kedatangan Mesias, bukan hanya untuk dunia tetapi juga untuk perjalanan hidup saya sebagai seorang Saudara Fransiskan. Kisah Krismas bukan sekadar tradisi; ia adalah jemputan hidup untuk menemukan kasih Tuhan yang tiada batas.

Kisah kelahiran Yesus

sangat berkaitan dengan panggilan Fransiskan saya. Yesus, yang lahir di dalam kandang yang sederhana dan diletakkan di palungan, memilih kesederhanaan dan kemiskinan untuk menunjukkan kedalaman kasih Tuhan kepada manusia. St Fransiskus dari Assisi, yang tergerak oleh kebenaran ini, mencipta adegan pertama kelahiran Kristus bukan hanya sebagai gambaran tetapi sebagai momen pertemuan dengan kerentanan penjelmaan.

Sebagai seorang Saudara, kerendahan hati yang sama ini memanggil saya untuk melayani

dalam kalangan mereka yang terpinggir, untuk hidup di tengah kekacauan hidup, dan mencerminkan kasih Kristus di tempat-tempat yang sering diabaikan. Krismas mengingatkan saya bahawa harapan yang dibawa oleh Mesias adalah untuk semua orang, terutamanya mereka yang patah hati dan terlupakan.

Nubuat Yesaya bahawa “bangsa yang berjalan di dalam kegelapan telah melihat cahaya yang besar” (Yesaya 9:2) berbicara kepada saya dengan kuasa yang diperbaharui pada musim ini. Yesus bukan sekadar janji harapan—Dia adalah harapan yang menjelma. Dalam dunia yang terbeban oleh keputusan, ketidakadilan dan krisis ekologi, cahaya Mesias memanggil saya untuk menjadi alat perdamaian dan pembaharuan. Misi untuk membawa harapan ini adalah inti panggilan Fransiskan saya.

Setiap Krismas adalah pertemuan peribadi dengan kuasa transformasi Mesias. Ia adalah masa untuk memperbaharui

komitmen saya untuk mengikuti Kristus dengan kepercayaan seperti kanak-kanak, dan menyerahkan rancangan saya untuk menerima kehendak Tuhan.

Ekaristi, di mana Mesias merendahkan diri-Nya untuk menjadi santapan rohani, adalah sumber kekuatan dan inspirasi yang mendalam. Pertemuan ini menguatkan pelayanan saya, sama ada dalam menjaga ciptaan, memberikan bimbingan pastoral, atau sekadar hadir untuk mereka yang terbeban oleh cabaran hidup.

Bagi St Fransiskus, harapan tidak dapat dipisahkan daripada kegembiraan. Walaupun dalam ujian, kita dipanggil untuk menjadi penyampai gembira Khabar Baik. Krismas mencabar saya untuk menghidupkan kegembiraan ini, untuk menyatakan bahawa Imanuel—Tuhan berserta kita—bukan idea abstrak tetapi realiti hidup. Kelahiran Mesias meyakinkan saya bahawa kita tidak pernah sendiri, bahawa kita dikasihi tanpa batas, dan Tuhan telah

memilih untuk turut serta dalam kemanusiaan kita.

Krismas Harapan ini memperbaharui rasa misi saya. Ia mengingatkan saya bahawa kelahiran Mesias bukan hanya saat untuk diraikan tetapi panggilan untuk bertindak. Saya diundang untuk membawa cahaya Kristus ke sudut-sudut tergelap dunia, untuk melihat ‘palungan’ pada zaman kita—tempat-tempat kemiskinan, pengasingan dan kesakitan—di mana Tuhan terus lahir dengan cara yang mengejutkan. Dalam pertemuan ini, saya menemukan semula kuasa transformasi kasih dan harapan.

Semoga musim ini menginspirasi kita semua untuk membuka hati kepada kasih Mesias, dan berkongsi kasih itu dengan murah hati kepada orang lain, seperti yang diingatkan oleh St Fransiskus dengan indah, “kerana dalam memberi, kita menerima”.

## Dari meja pengarang

## Masa untuk bersyukur

Sekarang sudah tahun 2025. Bagaimanakah tahun 2024 bagi anda? Bagi saya, saya rasa seperti terperangkap dalam angin puyu. Namun demikian, ia tetap tahun yang diberkati.

Dalam penerbitan pertama bagi tahun 2025, kami membawakan anda sorotan 2024 dalam kolaj foto di Halaman 26. Semoga anda mengimbau kembali peristiwa pada tahun lepas dengan kenangan indah.

Pembukaan terhad bangunan ikonik Gereja St Peter di Padung menjadi kenyataan pada Malam Ambang Krismas, 24 Disember lepas. Misa Ambang Krismas pada jam 12.00 tengah malam telah menarik penganut Kristian dari semua denominasi dan semua agama, bukan sahaja Katolik.

Media sosial dihebohkan dengan gambar dan klip video seni bina gotik dan tingkap kaca berwarna gereja yang direka dengan indah beberapa bulan sebelum ia siap.

Sebagai solidariti dengan seruan Paus Francis kepada Gereja Sejagat untuk melancarkan Tahun Jubli Harapan 2025

pada 29 Disember, Uskup Agung Simon Poh melancarkan Jubli 2025 pada Misa 7.00 pagi bagi Keuskupan Agung Kuching.

Lima pusat ziarah ditetapkan bagi Keuskupan Agung Kuching, termasuk Gereja St Peter yang baharu dibuka. Senarai penuh tapak ziarah boleh didapati di Halaman Lapan.

Bagi kita yang merayakan Tahun Baharu Cina pada tahun ini, iaitu Tahun Ular, terdapat artikel utama tentang ular yang ditulis oleh Fr Stephen Chin.

Marilah kita bersyukur di atas semua doa yang dijawab, keberkatan, penyembuhan dan pengurapan yang telah kita terima pada tahun 2024.

Semoga Tuhan terus memberkati kita dan keluarga kita dengan melimpah-ruah pada tahun 2025. Selamat Tahun Baharu!

(Terjemahan)

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# PERUTUSAN

## Daripada Uskup Agung Simon Poh

## Saudara-saudari dalam Kristus,

Salam dan berkat bagi Tahun Baharu 2025. Paus Francis telah mengisytiharkan 2025 sebagai Tahun Jubli Harapan. Semua kita dijemput untuk menjadi Penziarah Harapan.

Walaupun kita baru sahaja melepasi ambang tahun baharu 2025, kita dapat mengimbau dengan jelas peristiwa-peristiwa mencabar pada 2024. Konflik di Ukraine, Timur Tengah dan Myanmar masih menghantui kita. Banyak nyawa terkorban, dan luka-luka peperangan serta penderitaan masih dialami dengan konflik berterusan. Kanak-kanak dan wanita, terutamanya yang miskin, adalah golongan yang paling menderita.

Dalam perutusan tahun baharunya pada 1 Januari 2025, pada Hari Keamanan Sedunia ke-58, Paus Francis telah memilih untuk memberi tumpuan pada tema, 'Ampunilah kesalahan kami: berikanlah kami kedamaian-Mu'. Kita dijemput untuk memasuki Tahun Jubli 2025 sebagai Penziarah Harapan.

Paus Francis berucap kepada semua ketua negara dan kerajaan, ketua pertubuhan antarabangsa, pemimpin pelbagai agama, setiap insan yang berniat baik, dan kepada semua kita. Paus Francis mengesyorkan tiga tindakan sebagai laluan kedamaian:

- pengampunan hutang antarabangsa;
- pemansuhan hukuman mati;
- penubuhan Tabung Dunia yang akan menghapuskan kelaparan buat selamanya.

Peristiwa Krismas adalah peristiwa kasih dan harapan. Ketika Yesus dilahirkan, tidak ada bilik yang kosong di rumah penginapan pada malam itu, dan semuanya

kelihatan seperti satu bencana. Yosef dan Maria hanya mempercayai Tuhan, dan pada malam yang gelap dan dingin, mereka menyambut Yesus dengan tangan terbuka dan hati yang hangat.

Pada hari ini, kita mungkin rasa tidak berdaya untuk mengubah seluruh dunia, tetapi kita sentiasa boleh melakukan sesuatu dengan betul di mana kita berada.

Apabila setiap daripada kita, setiap Katolik melakukan kebaikan dan memberi harapan di mana kita berada, kita sama-sama membuat perubahan di dunia. Yesus datang kepada kita sebagai 'Immanuel'—nama yang bermaksud bahawa Tuhan-bersama-kita.

Tahun Jubli dengan Pembukaan Pintu Suci

melambangkan bahawa Tuhan datang untuk melawat kita melalui pintu terbuka, supaya kita dengan yakin dapat melangkah dan memasuki ambang hadirat Tuhan, untuk mengalami belas kasihan, pengampunan, kedamaian Tuhan, dan dihidupkan semula dalam iman kita, harapan kita dan kasih kita untuk melayan satu sama lain.

**Pada hari ini, kita mungkin rasa tidak berdaya untuk mengubah seluruh dunia, tetapi kita sentiasa boleh melakukan sesuatu dengan betul di mana kita berada.**

✠ Uskup Agung Simon Poh (Terjemahan)

## Buka Rumah Hari Natal Uskup Agung di ACCPC



Pengunjung ke Buka Rumah Hari Natal Uskup Agung yang diadakan di "Grand Hall", ACCPC, 25 Disember 2024. (Semua gambar: Danison Manium)



## 358 muda-mudi sertai Program Hari Belia Miri di Gereja Holy Family Lapok



**HATI MUDA...** Para peserta bersama Uskup Richard Ng dan para paderi selepas Misa Pembukaan.

**MIRI** — Paroki Holy Family di Lapok menjadi tuan rumah dan penganjur Hari Belia Miri (MYD) 2024 yang berlangsung pada 22–24 November lepas.

Acara dengan tema 'Rejoice In Hope Isaiah 40:31' (Sukacita Dalam Harapan Yesaya 40:31) ini dihadiri seramai 358 belia dari 14 paroki di bawah naungan Gereja Katolik Keuskupan Miri.

Dalam homilinya bagi Misa Pembukaan, Uskup Miri, Bapa Uskup Richard Ng, menyuarakan kegembiraannya melihat begitu ramai belia mengambil bahagian dalam acara pada kali ini.

Beliau berkata, semua orang muda harus mencari Yesus dalam hidup masing-masing dan tidak segan menyahut seruan Tuhan untuk menjadi paderi atau religius.

Misa pada hari kedua dirayakan oleh Fr Sylvester Ngau, yang menyeru dalam homilinya agar para belia menjadi cahaya dalam kegelapan dan berpegang teguh pada keadilan.

MYD pada kali ini turut dihadiri oleh Rektor Paroki Holy Family Lapok merangkap Pengerusi Penganjur Program MYD 2024, Fr Selvan, dan beberapa paderi dari paroki lain, iaitu Fr Philip Empalah, Fr Michael Sia dan Fr Damian Lalo.

Turut mengimarahkan acara ini adalah Sister Lea, Katekis Anthony Tudak, Katekis Paulus Penying, Katekis Stewart, Katekis Dennis Jagan, Katekis Sandra Lahai dan Pelatih Katekis Josephine Mujan.

Ia disokong oleh Pengerusi Majlis Paroki Gereja Holy Family Lapok, John Aton,

Timbalan Pengerusi Majlis Paroki, Juliana Dau, dan semua ahli majlis serta jawatankuasa penganjur MYD.

Antara aktiviti yang dijalankan pada program selama tiga hari ini adalah Misa Kudus, Malam Kebudayaan, Sukaneka, Sesi Katekesis, Jalan Salib, dan Pesta Puji dan Sembah yang disertakan dengan Adorasi Sakramen Maha Kudus.

Dalam Sesi Katekesis, Katekis Anthony memberitahu peserta bahawa Tuhan bertanya dan meminta sesuatu daripada mereka. "Apakah yang dapat kita beri kepada Tuhan?"

Beliau membawa para peserta merenungkan panggilan Tuhan dan bagaimana mereka dengan sukacita dapat menyahut-Nya dan membantu orang di sekeliling mereka yang memerlukan pertolongan.

Dalam ucapan penangguhan MYD 2024, Fr Selvan menzahirkan rasa gembira dan berterima kasih kepada semua yang telah terlibat secara langsung dan tidak langsung dalam menjayakan program ini.

Beliau seterusnya menggalakkan orang muda untuk menyedari kehadiran Yesus, yang kekal dan bukannya sementara dalam diri mereka.

Menurutnya, Tuhan Yesus mahu hidup dalam golongan muda selama-lamanya, dan memanggil mereka untuk hidup bahagia sebagai mahkota tidak ternilai dalam kerajaan Tuhan.

Yesus, Raja kita, hidup dalam semua orang yang mengasihi dan melayani-Nya dan sesama.

Fr Selvan mengumumkan bahawa tuan rumah bagi (MYD) Tahun 2026 adalah Paroki St Dominic and The Rosary di Taman Tunku di sini.

**Rufina Jerawit Kumbang**

## 174 kanak-kanak, 82 guru Sekolah Minggu sertai 'Kids Camp' Paroki Holy Spirit

**LUNDU** — 'Kids Camp' Paroki Holy Spirit telah diadakan di Gereja St Felix Biawak di sini pada 30 November 2024.

Ia menarik penyertaan seramai 174 kanak-kanak dan 82 guru Sekolah Minggu dari sekitar kawasan paroki.

Program ini bertujuan untuk memupuk nilai keagamaan, perpaduan dan kerjasama dalam kalangan kanak-kanak serta memperkukuh hubungan antara guru-guru.

Acara dimulakan dengan Misa Kudus yang dirayakan oleh Fr Adrian Kho, yang memberikan inspirasi rohani kepada semua peserta.

Dalam homilinya, beliau menekankan kepentingan pendidikan iman sejak usia muda, dan memuji usaha penganjur yang menyediakan pelbagai persiapan untuk kem pada kali ini.

Pelbagai aktiviti menarik telah dijalankan sepanjang program ini, termasuk menyusun gambar mengikut cerita dalam Al-Kitab, mencari harta karun, dan sukaneka kanak-kanak.

Setiap aktiviti dirancang untuk menggalakkan kerjasama, kreativiti dan pemahaman tentang nilai-nilai Kristian.

Aktiviti sukaneka bagi guru-guru turut diadakan untuk memberi peluang kepada mereka bersantai dan mengeratkan hubungan dengan



satu sama lain.

'Kids Camp' pada kali ini turut dibantu oleh Ministri Belia Katolik daripada Zon Biawak.

Sebagai tuan rumah, jemaat Gereja St Felix Biawak memastikan semua peserta merasa selesa dan dijamu dengan layanan mesra.

Kanak-kanak kelihatan ceria dan bersemangat sepanjang program, terutamanya semasa acara mencari harta karun yang menjadi tumpuan utama kem.

Program diakhiri dengan doa penutupan oleh Katekis Pearson Ayung serta acara penyampaian hadiah kepada para pemenang aktiviti.

'Goodies' atau cenderahati turut diberikan kepada semua kanak-kanak Sekolah Minggu.

Senyuman terpancar pada wajah setiap peserta, tanda kejayaan program ini dalam memberikan pengalaman bermakna kepada mereka.

'Kids Camp' ini bukan sahaja memberikan kenangan indah kepada kanak-kanak yang menyertainya tetapi juga menguatkan semangat komuniti dalam kalangan umat Paroki Holy Spirit.

Pihak pendidikan keagamaan paroki berharap agar program seperti ini dapat diteruskan pada masa hadapan untuk membimbing generasi muda dengan nilai-nilai murni dan kecintaan terhadap iman mereka.

**Catherina Ra Flora**

## Perkahwinan 17 pasangan disahkan Gereja dengan Sakramen Perkahwinan



**SAH...** Para pasangan yang menerima Konvalidasi Perkahwinan bersama kaum keluarga mereka selepas perkahwinan mereka diberkati dan disahkan oleh Gereja dalam Misa yang dirayakan oleh Fr Paul Herry. (Gambar: Anthony Abong Narok)

**BAU** — Gereja Blessed Sacrament di Kampung Bijuray Mongag-Kampung Pedau Bawah, Krokong, di sini menyaksikan seramai 17 pasangan menerima Sakramen Perkahwinan pada 30 November 2024.

Pemberkatan dan Konvalidasi Perkahwinan para pasangan tersebut disaksikan oleh kaum keluarga dan sahabat handai.

Ia disempurnakan dalam Misa Kudus oleh Fr Paul Herry dari Gereja St Stephen di sini.

Pasangan yang terlibat dalam program ini terdiri daripada empat kampung dalam kawasan Krokong, iaitu Kampung Bijuray Mongag, Kampung Pedau Bawah, Kampung Tringgus, dan Kampung Batu Sepit.

Konvalidasi Perkahwinan ini dirancang dan para penerima dibimbing oleh Katekis Francis Lehir dari Gereja St Stephen sejak Julai 2024.

Konvalidasi perkahwinan (*marriage convalidation*) adalah

pengakuan dan pemberkatan perkahwinan sudah ada oleh Gereja Katolik.

Ia adalah proses pengesahan perkahwinan umat Katolik yang belum disahkan oleh Gereja Katolik.

Tujuannya agar pasangan yang menikah dapat mengambil bahagian dalam memberikan kesaksian kepada dunia tentang ikatan cinta kasih Kristus dengan Gereja.

Perkahwinan yang belum atau tidak disahkan oleh Gereja dapat menyebabkan orang Katolik berkenaan kehilangan beberapa hak sebagai anggota Gereja, seperti tidak dibenarkan menyambut Komuni Kudus, dan tidak boleh menerima sakramen lain.

Acara berakhir dengan sesi pemotongan kek di gereja dan majlis makan beramai-ramai bersama kaum keluarga dan semua umat yang hadir.

**Anthony Abong Narok**



**URAPAN...** Bersiap-sedia bagi acara Puji dan Sembah.

# SELAMAT TINGGAL 2024

## SOROTAN SEPANJANG TAHUN



Sarawak Regional Pastoral Assembly  
18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024



## Majlis Krismas Kanak-Kanak 2024



Aktiviti permainan 'Guess The Bible Characters' telah dijalankan oleh para pelayan Ministri Liturgi Kanak-kanak.

**KOTA PADAWAN** — Hari Natal bukan sekadar perayaan biasa. Di sebalik kemeriahan bertukar hadiah dan keceriaan menghias rumah, terselit makna yang lebih mendalam, iaitu kelahiran Tuhan Yesus Kristus sebagai penyelamat umat manusia.

Pada 14 Disember 2024, Gereja Katolik Santa Anna menerusi Liturgi Kanak-kanak telah mengadakan program 'Children Christmas Party' bertemakan 'Bible Characters' di Dewan St Anthony.

Ia dihadiri oleh seramai 196 kanak-kanak berumur antara empat hingga 12 tahun.

Tujuannya untuk mendidik kanak-kanak tentang erti sebenar Hari Natal agar mereka dapat memahami bahawa perayaan ini bukan sahaja tentang keseronokan,

tetapi juga tentang kasih, harapan dan keimanan kepada Tuhan.

Pelbagai aktiviti menarik telah dijalankan, antaranya permainan 'Guess the Bible Characters' yang memberi peluang kepada kanak-kanak untuk mengenali tokoh seperti santo dan santa dalam Al-Kitab, sekaligus menjadikan mereka sebagai inspirasi dalam kehidupan masing-masing.

Program ini turut diserikan dengan pertandingan pakaian bertemakan 'Bible Characters'. Kanak-kanak tampil dengan pakaian yang melambangkan watak-watak dari Al-Kitab, sambil menunjukkan kreativiti dan kesungguhan untuk memahami mesej yang disampaikan dalam tema tersebut.

Selain itu, kanak-kanak turut menyanyikan lagu-lagu Krismas

yang diketuai oleh pelayan Ministri Liturgi Kanak-kanak. Nyanyian ini membentuk suasana meriah dan memberi peluang kepada kanak-kanak untuk memuji Tuhan dengan penuh kegembiraan.

Kanak-kanak bukan sahaja seronok, tetapi mereka juga mempelajari nilai-nilai penting seperti bekerjasama dalam kumpulan, menjalin persahabatan baharu, dan memahami makna keimanan sejak kecil.

Seperti kata pepatah, "melentur buluh biarlah dari rebungunya", program seperti ini dapat membentuk sahsiah kanak-kanak dari usia muda.

Kesimpulannya, program ini berfungsi sebagai wadah untuk menarik minat kanak-kanak serta meluaskan pemahaman mereka tentang erti Hari Natal yang sebenar.

Selain itu, program ini juga dapat mengeratkan lagi hubungan silaturahim antara pelayan ministri yang terlibat dalam program tersebut.

Secara tuntasnya, para pelayan Ministri Liturgi Kanak-kanak Santa Anna ingin mengucapkan Selamat Hari Natal 2024 dan Selamat Tahun Baharu 2025 kepada semua umat Katolik di seluruh dunia.

**Ministri Liturgi Kanak-kanak Gereja St Ann**

## Seminar Keluarga: 'Iman Keluarga dalam Adven'



Gambar peserta bersama Romo Eko Wahyu, OSC (duduk tengah, jubah hitam putih) setelah selesai Misa Kudus.

**KOTA SENTOSA** — Pada 7 Disember 2024, Dewan Sam Hap Hin menjadi saksi kepada kehangatan dan kesatuan 650 peserta daripada pelbagai paroki di Keuskupan Agung Kuching, selain daripada paroki luar kawasan.

Mereka menghadiri Seminar Keluarga bertemakan 'Iman Keluarga dalam Adven'.

Program ini dianjurkan oleh Paroki Sacred Heart di sini, dan menampilkan Romo Eko Wahyu OSC dari Indonesia sebagai penceramah utama.

Ia dimulakan dengan nyanyian puji-pujian yang penuh semangat dan dipimpin oleh Komuniti Karismatik Katolik (CCR) Sacred Heart.

Rektor Gereja Sacred Heart, Fr Felix Au, memberikan kata-kata alu-aluan yang menyentuh hati, dengan menekankan pentingnya keluarga sebagai tempat iman bertumbuh, terutama dalam suasana Adven.

Beliau memimpin doa pembukaan sambil mengajak semua peserta menyerahkan hari itu kepada Tuhan.

Seminar ini merangkumi empat sesi untuk memperkayakan iman dan hubungan keluarga.

Topik sesi pertama adalah 'Keluarga: Anugerah Terindah'.

Dalam sesi ini, Romo Eko mengingatkan peserta bahawa keluarga adalah anugerah terbesar daripada Tuhan.

Beliau menekankan bahawa setiap ahli keluarga dipanggil untuk saling menghargai dan mendukung.

Seterusnya, dalam sesi kedua, 'Bertahan Dalam Hidup Perkahwinan', beliau membahaskan cabaran dan konflik dalam kehidupan berumah tangga.

Romo Eko berkongsi panduan rohani dan praktikal untuk membina ketahanan serta kesetiaan dalam perkahwinan.

Dalam sesi ketiga bertemakan 'Grow In Love' (Bertumbuh Dalam Kasih), peserta diajak untuk menghidupkan kembali cinta kasih dalam keluarga, dengan fokus pada komunikasi, doa bersama, dan pengampunan.

Seminar diakhiri dengan Misa Kudus yang dirayakan oleh Romo Eko bersama Fr Felix dan Romo Eno, yang turut menyertai rombongan.

Dalam Misa ini, tema 'Berani Mencintai, Berani Mengampuni', menjadikan inti pati homili.

Romo Eko juga memanjatkan doa pemberkatan khas bagi pasangan suami isteri yang hadir, untuk memohon agar kasih Tuhan terus memperteguh hubungan mereka.

Semasa doa ini, setiap pasangan yang hadir diminta untuk berdiri sambil berpegang tangan.

Seminar ini memberikan peluang kepada keluarga untuk merenungkan peranan mereka dalam membangun iman dan kasih dalam rumah tangga, terutama pada masa Adven yang penuh harapan, dan ketika membuat persiapan menyambut kelahiran Kristus.

Program penuh inspirasi ini diharapkan dapat meninggalkan kesan mendalam, memperkuat ikatan kekeluargaan, dan memupuk iman mereka dalam perjalanan menuju Natal.

**SHC Multimedia**



TERIMA KASIH... Pemberian cenderahati kepada Romo Eko Wahyu, OSC (tengah) daripada peserta dan Paroki Sacred Heart yang diwakili oleh Paderi Paroki, Fr Felix Au (kiri).

## Rekoleksi Adven Girumpung Dayung Katolik Paroki St Jude Bunan-Tebedu



RENUNGAN... Program rekoleksi diakhiri dengan Misa Kudus yang dirayakan oleh Fr Pratap Baskey, CMF (jubah ungu).

**BUNAN-TEBEDU** — Pada 14 Disember 2024, Girumpung Dayung Katolik (GDK) Paroki St Jude Bunan-Tebedu telah mengadakan Rekoleksi Adven di Gereja St Peter, Gahat Mawang.

Hampir 700 peserta melibatkan diri dengan program rekoleksi itu sempena musim Adven 2024 untuk menyiapkan dan memperbaharui kehidupan rohani mereka serta merapatkan lagi hubungan sesama sendiri sebagai GDK Paroki.

Program Rekoleksi Adven ini dimulakan dengan nyanyian bersama, diikuti dengan sesi Pujian dan Penyembahan.

Sebelum renungan

disampaikan, peserta diajak untuk sama-sama berdoa rosari.

Sesi renungan berfokus kepada Hari Minggu Adven ke-3 (Minggu Gaudete), iaitu kegembiraan atau sukacita dan pengharapan, yang disampaikan oleh Penasihat GDK, Sr Catherine Uming, SSFS.

Menurutnya, kita bersukacita kerana waktunya sudah hampir dekat, dan mendesak kita untuk berusaha dengan sehabis baik sebagai pengikut Yesus.

Kita semua dijemput untuk bersiap sedia bagi menyambut kedatangan Juruselamat kita, dan memiliki sifat yang lebih terbuka untuk menyambut kelahiran Yesus. Kedatangan-Nya harus disambut dengan sukacita.

Oleh itu, kita semua

dijemput untuk bertaubat dan mendengar seruan Yohanes Pembaptis agar iman kita diperbaharui dan kita dapat menemukan kebahagiaan sejati dalam janji keselamatan Tuhan.

Selepas sesi renungan, program diteruskan dengan sesi pengakuan dosa, diikuti oleh Misa Kudus yang dirayakan oleh Fr Pratap Baskey, CMF.

Selepas Misa Kudus, semua jemputan dan peserta makan tengah hari bersama umat Kampung Gahat Mawang.

Program tamat dan semua bersurai pada jam 2.30 petang dengan rasa syukur dan terima kasih kepada Tuhan di atas kejayaan program Adven 2024.

**Sr Catherine Uming, SSFS**

## BSM lancar tiga Alkitab tempatan



(Kiri) Rev Mathew Punnoose, Setiausaha Agung dan (kanan) Rt Rev Datuk Ng Moon Hing, Presiden BSM menunjukkan tiga Alkitab yang dilancarkan. (Gambar: Richard Chia)

**PETALING JAYA** — Persatuan Alkitab Malaysia (BSM) baru-baru ini melancarkan Alkitab Kudus Malaysia (BM Formal), Alkitab Berita Baik (Edisi Studi) dan Iban Study Bible (Edisi Percubaan), semasa sambutan ulang tahun ke-40 yang diadakan di PJ Evangelical Free Church. Majlis itu diserikan oleh ramai orang kenamaan dari pelbagai Gereja di Malaysia, termasuk wakil dari Lembaga Alkitab Indonesia.

BSM memulakan terjemahan

Alkitab Kudus Malaysia pada tahun 2011, untuk memenuhi permintaan dari Gereja-gereja berbahasa Melayu. Alkitab Kudus Malaysia adalah terjemahan rasmi Bible, lebih dekat dengan teks asal, dan akan digunakan untuk tujuan penyelidikan ilmiah, pembelajaran dan penginjilan.

Alkitab Berita Baik Edisi Stud mengambil masa hampir 20 tahun untuk disiapkan. Alkitab ini adalah hasil daripada permintaan daripada Gereja-gereja berbahasa Melayu untuk



Rev Mathew Punnoose, Setiausaha Agung BSM, menyampaikan ucapan beliau tentang sejarah, perjalanan dan cabaran yang dihadapi oleh BSM sejak Oktober 1984.

pembelajaran Alkitab di Malaysia. Edisi percubaan Iban Study Bible juga sedang dalam perancangan sejak tahun 2015, untuk memenuhi keperluan masyarakat Iban di Sarawak.

Pada pelancaran itu, Tan Hwee Yong, salah seorang penterjemah, membacakan

beberapa petikan berlainan Alkitab Kudus Malaysia.

Tanda penghargaan turut diberikan kepada Rev Dr Anwar Tjen dan Rev Dr Daniel See, yang merupakan penasihat terjemahan untuk Alkitab Kudus Malaysia dan Alkitab Berita Baik (Edisi Studi).

Rev Mathew Punnoose, Setiausaha Agung BSM, menyampaikan sejarah ringkas dan pencapaian BSM, bermula dari tahun penubuhan Persatuan Bible di Wales, United Kingdom pada tahun 1804 sehingga 1984. Beliau memberikan senarai Alkitab tempatan yang telah diterjemahkan dan diterbitkan di Malaysia dalam tempoh 30 tahun yang lalu serta projek bahasa baharu yang sedang dijalankan.

Salah satu cabaran yang dihadapi dalam projek itu ialah kekurangan ruang yang memperlantikan pengurusan inventori dan logistik. Sempena ulang tahunnya yang ke-40, juga melancarkan dana demi mendapatkan gedung yang lebih besar.

Richard Chia/Herald Malaysia  
(Terjemahan)

## Lima paroki ziarah di Keuskupan Kota Kinabalu sepanjang 2025



**KOTA KINABALU** — Keuskupan Agung Kota Kinabalu (KK) telah memulakan Tahun Jubli Harapan 2025 pada Disember 29, 2024, dengan perayaan Ekaristi di Katedral Sacred Heart, pukul 5.00 petang.

Dalam makluman rasmi yang disampaikan pada Disember 4, 2024, Keuskupan Agung KK telah menetapkan lima paroki sebagai tapak ziarah iaitu Gereja St Michael Penampang; Gereja Holy Rosary, Limbahau; Gereja St Peter Kudat, Gereja St Peter Claver, Ranau dan Katedral Sacred Heart.

Di antara lima paroki ziarah itu, Katedral Sacred Heart ditetapkan untuk membuka 'Pintu Harapan' iaitu pintu masuk katedral tersebut.

Setiap paroki ziarah diberi warna mengikut warna yang ditunjukkan dalam logo rasmi Jubli Harapan 2025.

Untuk Gereja Holy Rosary, warna yang ditetapkan adalah merah, biru untuk St Michael, Penampang, kuning untuk St Peter Claver Ranau, hijau untuk St Peter, Kudat dan warna perak untuk Katedral Sacred Heart.

Setiap paroki ziarah juga akan menyampaikan salah satu dari aspek Perhimpunan Pastoral Malaysia 2026 iaitu Ekologi, Sosial, Keluarga dan Gereja.

Sebagai kandungan katekesis untuk

penziarah, pusat ziarah Holy Rosary Limbahau akan menyampaikan topik "Ekologi", St Michael memberi tumpuan kepada "Sosial", St Peter Claver, Ranau berbicara tentang "Keluarga" dan Gereja St Peter, Kudat memberi tumpuan kepada isu "Gereja".

Bagi penziarah pula, mereka akan diberikan "pas ziarah" di mana mereka mendapat cop daripada setiap paroki ziarah yang dilawati.

Bagi merayakan tahun Jubli Harapan, Keuskupan Agung KK memaklumkan akan ada rantai kunci dan pelekat kereta disediakan untuk penziarah.

Berikut merupakan program di paroki ziarah: berjalan kaki, para-liturgi (pentakhtaan Alkitab), sejarah ringkas paroki, katekesis berdasarkan empat isu utama: Ekologi, Gereja, Keluarga, Sosial, Perbualan Rohani berdasarkan katekesis dikuti dengan Misa. Walau bagaimanapun, setiap paroki ziarah bebas untuk menambah aktiviti lain yang sesuai.

Untuk maklumat lanjut dan pengaturan untuk lawatan ziarah ke Gereja yang ditetapkan, umat Katolik dinasihatkan untuk menghubungi paderi paroki masing-masing.

Catholic Sabah

## Jubli Harapan: Upacara 'Recognitio' di Basilika Sto Petrus



Kardinal Gambetti memimpin upacara recognitio di Basilika Sto Petrus iaitu upacara mengeluarkan kotak logam yang berisi kunci Pintu Jubli. (Gambar: Vatican News)

**KOTA VATICAN** — Pada Disember 2 lalu, kedengaran bunyi tukul dan pahat di Basilika Sto Petrus untuk memecahkan dinding bagi mengambil kotak yang mengandungi kunci yang membolehkan Sri Paus Fransiskus membuka Pintu Suci dan merasmikan Jubli pada malam Disember 24.

Upacara yang dinamakan recognitio, meningkatkan rasa teruja menantikan pembukaan Jubli pada malam Natal.

Recognitio atau Pengiktirafan merupakan istilah Latin untuk mengesahkan bahawa Pintu Suci, yang ditutup pada penghujung Jubli terakhir, sedia untuk dibuka semula untuk Tahun Suci 2025.

Kardinal Mauro Gambetti, Paderi Agung Basilika Vatikan, memulakan upacara itu dengan doa.

Selepas berdoa, beberapa orang "sampietrini" (pekerja penyelenggaraan di Sto Petrus) membongkar dinding yang menutup Pintu Suci dari dalam

Basilika dan mengeluarkan kotak logam yang disimpan di situ sejak November 20, 2016, semasa Tahun Jubli Belas Kasihan berakhir.

Di dalam kotak logam itu terdapat kunci Pintu Suci, pemegang kunci, cebisan dokumen Rogito, empat bata emas dan beberapa pingat kepausan Fransiskus, Benediktus XVI dan Yohanes Paulus II.

Upacara itu juga dihadiri oleh Uskup Agung Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefek Dikasteri untuk Penginjilan dan Uskup Agung Diego Ravelli, Ketua Perayaan Liturgi Kepausan.

Mereka menerima dokumen dan item daripada upacara recognitio dan kemudian menyerahkannya kepada Sri Paus Fransiskus.

Upacara recognitio telah dilakukan di Basilika St John Lateran pada Disember 3, St Paul di Luar Tembok pada Disember 5 dan St Mary Major pada Disember 6.

Vatican News/Herald Malaysia  
(Terjemahan)