2018年 聖誕節

天主教聖多默宗徒堂

堂區特刊

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牧者的話

「聖言成血肉，寄居在我們中間。」若1:14

"The Word became flesh and dwell among us" (Jn, 1:14)

白德蘭修女撰
左陳翠玉譯

聖誕節：慶祝與主相遇

聖誕節確是一個邀請大家與主相遇的日子。

有一位無神論者曾經這樣說過：「對我來說，我的信德是出自我與耶穌基督的相遇。這個人性層面的接觸，居然觸動了我的心靈，使我的生命產生意義和給予我新的方向。」

我們可以怎樣活出聖誕的真正意義呢？如何避免將這慶日淪為一個為交換聖誕禮物而瘋狂購物，和停不了派對的日子呢？聖誕節的真正目的，是讓我們親身經驗主耶穌基督，和平之子的實實在在臨於我們中間。這個慶日是讓天主親自啟示給我們每一個人，及祂所創造之物的無條件和無限的愛。

教宗方濟各在他的〈福音的喜樂〉宗座勸諭中，曾這樣描述這個令人轉化的相遇；他說〈福音的喜樂〉源於耶穌，凡與祂相知相遇的人，其心靈和生命必充滿這喜樂。他們會讓自己被祂的愛帶動，進而能擴大自己經驗的領域，及獲得一個堅定的希望。"

在聖誕節，我們慶祝天主降生成人，耶穌取了我們的人性，分享我們的生命，而成為厄瑪奴耳，即天主與我們同在。我們再不是孤單地面對生命旅途中的各項挑戰、困難和惶恐。耶穌那燃點著亮光和隱藏著愛的臨在，將陪伴我們，並給我們勇氣和力量。

每一天都是聖誕，這表示天主無時無刻都想接觸我們，無論我們在哪裏，天主都想在我們日常工作中，和每天的活動內，與我們建立關係。「我同你們天天在一起，直到今世的終結。」(瑪28:20)

在這個聖誕節日，天主的來臨，不單是為告訴大家，祂多麼的愛我們。同時，祂更想用祂很個人性及實在的方法，去擁抱我們每一個人。

天主是來觸碰我們、陪伴我們和與我們在一起。

親愛的弟兄姊妹，當我們在馬槽前跪下，朝拜嬰孩小耶穌時，讓我們向天主打開心扉，祂就會將祂的平安、喜樂和愛放在我們的心坎內。

讓我們都與他人分享這個與主相遇的澎湃經驗，特別是當我們親身感受到天主透過主耶穌基督的誕生，而啟示給我們祂獨特的愛。

在歡欣中，我祝願大家有一個充滿恩寵的聖誕。

Christmas: celebration of an encounter

Christmas is for real an invitation to an encounter.

A self-professed Italian atheist writes: "For me, faith was born of an encounter with Jesus. It was a personal encounter that touched my heart and gave new direction and meaning to my life."

So how can our Christmas become more than a season of competitive gift-giving, shopping, partying and become what it is truly intended to be: a life changing encounter with Jesus , the Prince of peace, the Saviour who came among us, to reveal to us the unconditional and infinite love of God for each of us, for all his creation.

Pope Francis in his apostolic exhortation: "The joy of the Gospel" describes this transforming encounter with Jesus in these words: "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Encountering Christ, letting yourself be guided by his love, enlarges the horizons of experience, gives you a firm hope that will not disappoint"

At Christmas we celebrate God who came among us; in Jesus he has taken our humanity; has shared our journey; has become "Immanuel", God with us. We are not left alone to face the many challenges, difficulties, anxieties that we meet in the everyday life journey; Jesus' loving, luminous presence accompany us, giving us courage and strength.

Christmas is happening everyday. This means that God is always coming to reach out to us, no matter where we are, to establish a relationship with us in our daily work, in all the events we meet on our way. "I am with you every day, till the end of time" (Mt. 28:20).

At Christmas God comes not only to tell us that he loves us but really to embrace us in a more personal and real way.

He comes to touch us, to enjoy our company, and to be with us.

Dear brothers and sisters, as we kneel down and adore the little Babe Jesus in the manger let us open the door of our heart to God and he will enter and dwell in our heart, filling it with his peace, joy and love.

Let us share with all those we meet, particularly those in need, this overwhelming experience of God personal love for each of us revealed in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

With joy I wish each of you a blessed and merry Christmas!

以色列朝聖之旅分享

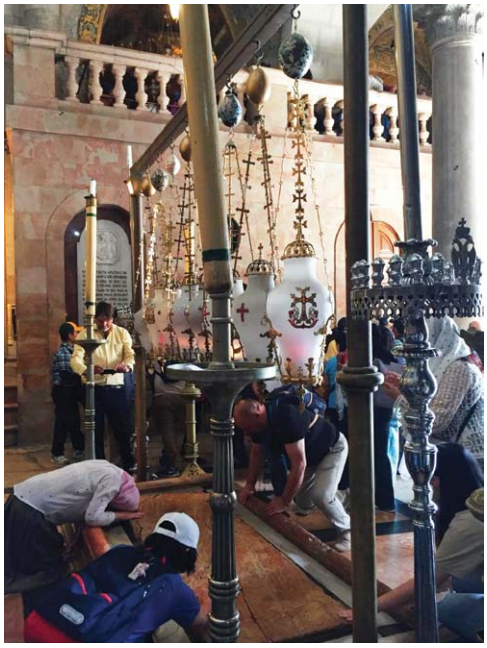
會扶祂一把嗎?

劉迪恩

幾年前已經不斷跟媽媽說一定要去耶路撒冷朝聖，要體驗耶穌走過的路。這趟朝聖來得剛剛好，好讓我辭去不喜歡的工作，享受這充滿淚水和汗水的旅程。

在十四天旅程中，我每天最期待的是在不同的聖堂參與彌撒。縱使每台彌撒只有不多不少的45分鐘，但都深深感動我，每篇經文、福音讀出的時候感受都特別深刻。還有能夠與一班友愛及娛樂性豐富的教友一起參與，都充滿是美好的回憶。雖然每個朝聖景點都很多人，很擁擠，給予我們的祈禱默想時間可能不太足夠，但這不要緊，天主知道我享受在旅途中與祂一起的每一刻!

總結這次朝聖，我自己對耶路撒冷舊城印象比較深刻，特別是苦路及聖墓大殿。當我嘗到用自己雙腳走過苦路，走過耶穌跌倒的地方，心中一問，如果自己當時在場時，會否扶祂一把嗎?



流淚的朝聖路

朱淑敏

十分感恩有機會參加這次聖言聖地朝聖之旅，踏足主耶穌的誕生、成長、傳教和受難復活的地方；每座聖堂、每個聖地都讓我回想福音中耶穌的事蹟。我曾經是一位宗教科的老師，每天都對小朋友講及耶穌的故事，為我是有特別的感受!

在十四日的朝聖旅程中，每一天都過得十分豐富精彩!當中我最深刻的是在清晨四點，天還未亮，在月光陪伴下，在耶路撒冷舊城踏足耶穌走過的苦路。每走一處，都從讀經中感受耶穌所受的苦難；當我高舉十字架時，耶穌的痛苦都一一浮現眼前，不知不覺間已淚流滿面!

這次朝聖之旅珍貴的不只讓我認識耶穌到過的地方，最感恩是讓我和一班雖陌生但親切的教友們，一同體驗這十四天的旅程。雖然有時要凌晨四、五點鐘出發，但大家都能準時集合；為了趕及朝拜耶穌聖墓，大家放棄吃早餐，又要排隊兩個多小時，也毫無怨言。十幾天的旅程中，大家互相扶持、彼此照應，都能體驗天主的愛在我們當中。

身在福中

廖彩霞

「快!快!快!我雙眼沒有了!」

「水!水!水!我要水!」

我雙眼刺痛得不能張開!只知道丈夫就在我身旁。他立即給我一樽水，讓我沖洗那死海泥。

沖!沖!沖!沖走了那「要命」的泥!

怕!怕!怕!刺痛那刻，我很驚慌無助，幸得丈夫在旁並全心照顧我所急需。

回想他下車時拿了樽水，我以為是他飲用的，沒料到他是為我而準備，怕萬一被海水入眼受傷時用的!

他也帶了泳褲來，但他最終沒有下水，並說為我看守衣物，給我影相留念。原來他是那麼的細心體貼!為照顧我，他犧牲了浮游死海的機會。他是懂游泳的，而我這個既不懂游泳，又害怕水的人，一心只想著自己下海玩水，忽略了對他的關顧呢!

今次他為了保護我，犧牲了下海的機會，令我非常感動!

天父、感謝祢、賜我一個照顧我無微體貼的伴侶。

感謝我丈夫，照顧我這膽小怕死鬼!

我倆無論環境順逆，都終生相隨!

感謝天父，引領同行!

歸主、歸真、歸家

羅翠明

感謝天主護佑我們今次的朝聖之旅！多謝超神父提供出發前的培育；盧神父作為隨團神師；林錦玲領隊作各方面的打點及團員間的互相照顧。

行程實在非常豐富，不能在此詳細分享。而最令我感動和難忘的是凌晨三點起床，約四點多到達耶路撒冷舊城區行苦路。在寂靜的街巷中，也怕打擾居住在附近的居民，我們沒有租用大十字架，每組代表只手持自己購買的小十字架，由盧神父帶領，團員隨後，在每一處苦路上，聆聽聖經、安靜默想，然後邊行邊細聲地祈禱，用脚親身體驗耶穌為我們受苦至死所走過的路。不禁想起了<<愛是不保留>>這首歌的其中一句歌詞“…看血在流反映愛是沒保留…”，是多麼的真實呢！

看過夏志誠副主教寫的<<默想第五本福音>>中說過，其實只有第十至第十四處苦路的地點（都在聖墓大殿中）是確實肯定的。我同意夏主教的意見，既然耶穌實在是被釘在十字架上，祂必然曾經背著十字架走過耶路撒冷的街道。要執著的不是每一處苦路的真確性，而是跟隨主的決心。今次朝聖之旅，肯定是我往後生命中常值得回顧的“歸主、歸真、歸家”之旅。

天主的旨意

余淑滇修女

整個朝聖之旅，為我留下較深刻的感受，是行程中在死海發生的事情。在到死海前，我們都很清楚聽到導遊和領隊的多次提示：小心不要讓死海的水進入口中或眼睛，否則後果嚴重！告誡曾有人不小心讓死海的水進入眼睛，導致雙目失明！

到達後，我們很興奮，終有機會享受浸在死海中的奇妙經歷。團員中，有些不諳水性的也站在淺水處玩樂戲水；有些在海中隨水漂浮；有些站起來，互相將黑泥塗上對方的身體，怪有趣的樣子！在死海中作樂，高興極了！

當我以為大家都緊記忠告時，盧神父在次日的彌撒講道中，分享他在死海中的親身體會；他說當時因為好奇，用少許的海水放入口中，眼也沾了一些海水，之後站在海中，雙目真的完全看不見！幸好只是短暫的失明！

我聽後慢慢體會了一些道理，我知道在這件事中，天主以愛心教導我們。若明知是不可為，卻因好奇而為之，認為事情是小事，嘗試沒有大礙，或可能得到一些快感，但後果是要自己承擔！

有團員問我：「我們看不見天主；又聽不到祂的聲音，如何知道天主的旨意？」

我回答他：「天主常藉著我們日常生活中發生的事情，告訴我們祂的旨意。所以我們要留心聆聽，而且聽後要實行祂的旨意。」

豐盛朝聖之旅

李燕嫦

感謝天主！期待已久的聖言聖地以色列朝聖終於順利出發，並且大家平安地回來。

在出發前得到超神父安排了四堂的培育課程，讓我們對聖地有一個概括的認識，加深了對聖地朝聖行程的了解。

到達後，在耶路撒冷穿梭，親身體會及親手觸摸到耶穌的足跡。但遺憾有很多聖地都被其他教派霸佔了。幸好，踏入聖墓大殿都能夠見到聖屍傅油的聖石、豎立十字架的祭台，以及耶穌的墓床等等，還可以俯伏朝拜，在那一刻深深地體會耶穌為了我們所作的犧牲。

雖然在凌晨四時去拜苦路，但我們不畏寒風，在那寧靜的環境，靜靜地唸著經文祈禱，慢行苦路的每一處，默想著耶穌當時所受的苦難。

除此之外，也讚嘆當時人的建築智慧，黑落德時期所建造的馬撒達堡是何等宏偉！以及在谷木蘭發現他們在居住上的聰明才智。同時很感恩可以在約旦河重宣領洗誓言；在加納婚宴堂重宣婚姻盟誓。

最後再次感謝超神父、盧神父、余修女及其他團友，一路關顧大家，帶給我一個既難忘又豐盛的朝聖之旅！

主佑大家！

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聖多默宗徒堂
St.Thomas the Apostle Church

天主庭院的種子

聖體會

「他們被栽植在上主的殿中，在我們天主的庭院裏繁榮。雖已年老，仍然結果，枝葉繁盛，依舊綠茂。」（聖詠集92:12-15）

聖體會是聖多默宗徒堂區內，成立較早的一個善會。與送聖體員的服務性善會不同。會員在每月第二主日八時彌撒後，會到小聖堂朝拜聖體，頌讀聖經和向天主祈禱。聖體會成立的宗旨為恭敬聖體，勤領聖體，敬主愛人，善盡本分，傳揚福音及協助堂區工作。本會現任神師為余淑湞修女，會員人數約四十人，平均年齡在六十歲以上。他們擁有豐富的人生經歷，也保持充滿年輕活力的心為主服務。

聖體會在1978年由史達生神父及霍理思神父成立。因當時堂區及其他善會還沒有成立，早期聖體會的工作較多。後來，各堂區及善會相繼成立，聖體會的工作便開始分工給各善會了。現在他們也會在彌撒中奉獻餅酒、定期朝拜聖體、神修避靜及探防已住在安老院舍的會員。

聖體會以恭敬聖體及服務堂區為主，但也會定期舉辦各項活動，如生日會、聚餐等。一雙雙友善的眼神，一顆顆謙卑的心，他們過着積極又有意義的信仰生活。如聖經所說，仍然結果，枝葉依舊繁盛綠茂！

聖體會現誠邀教友們加入他們的行列，敬主愛人，為主作見証。如有興趣的教友們，可與聖堂辦事處聯絡。

聖誕快樂?

謝有雄

每逢聖誕，大家都會說：「聖誕快樂！」。不過，對你來說，「聖誕」有甚麼令你「快樂」的地方呢？是因為有假放？是因為有聖誕禮物？或是因為有聖誕燈飾看？定是因為有聖誕大餐吃？

聽說在三毛翻譯的《娃娃看天下》漫畫裏，有這樣的一則故事：幾個小朋友在看報紙，看見世界各地的戰亂和飢荒，還有各式各樣的剝削和不義，便深深地慨嘆蒼生的悲痛。接著，有個小朋友站起來說：「呀！不如我們去吃雪糕吧！」孩子們便應聲而起，歡天喜地去吃雪糕了，剛才的甚麼憐憫和感慨，立時忘記得一乾二淨！

天主不用看報紙，也知道因犯罪而跌入痛苦深淵的人類，怎樣在罪苦中哀號、悲歎、打滾，而且沒有出路！幸好天主不像那幾個小朋友「看完便算」，否則，人便沒希望。天主怎樣做呢？祂派遣自己的聖子降生成人，捨棄了天上的寶座和光榮，與身陷苦罪的人打成一片，最後並以痛苦的死亡，為生活在痛苦黑暗中的人類開闢了通向永生的途徑，給喪亡的人帶來救恩、光明、希望與喜樂，正如子夜彌撒的讀經一所說的：「在黑暗中生活的人民，看見了一道皓光；住在死亡陰影下的人，已有光輝照耀他們。你增加了他們的喜悅，使歡樂洋溢…..」。的確，「有一個嬰兒為我們誕生了，有一個兒子賜給了我們！」這個為我們而誕生的嬰孩---耶穌，不是普通的一個孩子，「祂肩責著王權，祂要被稱為奇妙的謀士、大能的天主、永恒之父、和平之王。」

主，你的「聖誕」本身就是一份「禮物」；你的「聖誕」使人「快樂」，我感謝你！主，你降生成人，取了我們的人性，使人得以分享你的天主性，這實在是神聖而美妙的「交換」，我讚美你！

初上風災蹂躪後的神樂院

羅智康

2018年10月1日，對我來說是個不一樣的國慶假期，因為是我皈依主的第一個國慶，也是我第一次去參觀大嶼山的神樂院。而我對神樂院的了解並沒有很深入，只知道這裡是一所隱修院，不是所有地方都能開放參觀。而這處也是香港十字牌牛奶的發源地。

這一天，我懷著興奮的心情到達青衣碼頭，跟白修女和其他教友們一起浩浩蕩蕩的往大嶼山進發。但當到達神樂院的碼頭後，突然覺得有一點點的緊張，因為眼前的路看來有點不好走呀！雖然碼頭已是現代化的建築物，但經過超級颱風<山竹>吹襲香港後，碼頭的欄杆、燈柱全被風吹到東歪西倒，本來有些應該在水下的大石也被吹到路上來，更不用說往後的路面。上神樂院的路雖然都是瀝青地，但到處都是被強風吹倒的各種大樹和枝葉所掩蓋，增加了登山的難度。而在路上兩旁掛了十四處苦路的圖片，也讓我在短短十多分鐘的路途上感覺更深刻。

到達神樂院後，給我的第一感覺就是上主保佑，因為這所建在樹林中的隱修院，在超級颱風吹襲後依然是絲毫無損。大家稍作休息後，我們便參加了感恩祭。在這裡感覺特別寧靜和舒服，但又跟其他的避靜場所有不一樣的平安感。感恩祭後，神父跟我們說了一些神樂院的歷史，也分享了他們的隱修生活。他們每天有七次的唱經，由早上的三點半就開始了，直到晚上就寢。來參觀以前，我以為修士的性格都是比較孤癖的，但原來並不是，他們在這裡是要讓自己過刻苦的生活，保持一個讓我們靜修的環境。最後，神父在分享之餘，也為我們帶來了精彩萬分的魔術表演。

在這次參觀中為我帶來新的衝擊、新的看法，對我的信仰生活加添了一些色彩和感受，唯一美中不足的就是買不到他們出產的曲奇餅哦！

2019堂區活動預告

堂區幹事會供稿

「願你們平安！」（若20：21）

為慶祝建堂20週年，堂區除了慣常舉行的主保瞻禮和聚餐外，堂區幹事會更成立了堂慶籌備小組，並以「願你們平安！」為主題，構思了多項活動來凝聚教友並一同參與；例如有繪畫及設計比賽、堂區開放日、朝聖活動等。亦會製作堂慶福傳特刊，向尚未有信仰的朋友送上平安的祝福。

2019年，堂區會為青衣區內小學生及初中生開展一項新服務——「週末功課輔導班」。而過往深受區內家長歡迎的「夏日學堂」亦會於暑期重辦，有關詳情，請密切留意日後的堂區報告及宣傳壁報。如有興趣成為義務導師的，請向堂區幹事或辦事處職員查詢。

聖多默宗徒堂這地標在青衣社區已邁向第二十個年頭了！感恩我們堂區內的弟兄姊妹有幸先接受了基督信仰，得着喜樂和平安。就讓我們藉着20週年堂慶的契機同心合意聚集一起，把我們所領受的這份復活主基督的平安喜樂，送給身邊的每一個人，特別是我們青衣社區內的每位居民！

願你們平安！

聖事與活動回顧

7月1日 石膏聖像工作坊

7月15日 薪火相傳

9月2日 善會介紹聚會

8月12日
泰澤.香港
國際青年
聚會歡送會

9月23日 基層飯局

9月23日 嬰兒領洗

9月25日
堂區大旅行

10月28日 從敬禮聖母-
到-聖母顯現

10月07日 傳教嘉年華

11月18日 善別組承諾禮

11月18日 明愛賣物會

堂區接待泰澤青年活動

堂區幹事會

為響應本年8月8－12日法國泰澤團體在香港舉行「泰澤國際青年聚會 — 信心及修和之旅」，本堂成為其中一個接待堂區，為新界區參加者提供早禱場地，以及協調本堂教友成為接待家庭，為一百多位海外及內地青年旅客提供住宿。在泰澤會期的最後一天，本堂邀請了新界區內所有的參加者和接待家庭一同參與12:30的感恩祭，之後於禮堂舉行歡送聚餐，約有120人出席，氣氛熱鬧融洽。聚餐期間，參加者即席上台載歌載舞，也分享是次被接待的感受，感激本堂神父和教友們的熱情款待，使他們感受到大家庭的温暖。

在泰澤會期結束後，堂區亦於8月13日晚上，與留港數天的柬埔寨青年舉行了「文化交流夜」，約有70人出席。當天活動豐富而具創意，兩地青年先在小聖堂參與以英語及高棉語進行的雙語感恩祭，之後在禮堂享用晚餐。本堂所有青年善會（包括輔祭會、青少年慕道班、Youth Group、職青團體）的成員各顯所長，分別充當司儀，帶領遊戲、小組文化交流討論、文化表演等。在場兩地青年打成一片，大家更在活動完結前交換已寫上祝福字句的明信片，並領受神父降福，讓是次泰澤活動所經驗到在主內合一的平安喜樂，一直延續在我們青年往後各自的生活中。

「當我們相聚在基督前，當我們盡可能經常共處於一個屋簷下，他已經使我們同繫一起了。」（泰澤艾樂思修士11/8晚禱默想）

成為接待家庭後感

飛兒

撰寫這篇分享時，剛巧是聖母蒙召升天節，福音中提到瑪利亞探訪依撒伯爾（路1:39-56）；瑪利亞和依撒伯爾會面時，大家歡欣喜悅的心情，就連依撒伯爾腹胎中的兒子也歡躍起來。瑪利亞在依撒伯爾的家住了三個月後，便回家去了。

福音讓我回想成為接待家庭的心情，和青年們幾天相處的感覺。

想起由準備接待的歡欣期待，到遇見時的愉快興奮，在家裡說不完的話題，我們彼此祝福，一起祈禱。當青年們完了泰澤聚會後，聖神就帶著大家平安回家去了。

默想中，想起耶穌和門徒原來也有被接待的經歷，感覺很有趣，原來很久很久以前，我們已經喜歡彼此接待，在家中一起祈禱、一起分享、一起用膳的聚會，感覺很親密。

感謝天主在巧妙的安排下，我家能夠成為接待家庭之一。祂送給我們意想不到的尊貴禮物---讓我們建立友誼，更開闊我的心。我會繼續為你們祈禱，為中國教會祈禱。

Sharing of our youth on HOPE, FAITH, JOY and LOVE on this ADVENT season. They are members of Lectors, Ushers, and Altar Server and they too are helping in Sunday School as Teaching Assistants.

HOPE - The HOPE of Christmas by Seth Damulo

When I was younger, I wondered why the typical Filipino news stations would always start their Christmas Countdown in September. I always thought it was bizarre and funny to see our country get so excited for something that seemed so far away. However, as I got older, I come to realize that Christmas gives the people hope. It gives them excitement, it gives them joy. To us Catholics, the birth of Jesus is the epitome of hope. Hearing all these life changing stories, incredible miracles and sacrifices that he has done, we must come to reflect on where it all first began.

Growing up, I slowly began to understand the beauty of Christmas. I finally understood how Christmas has touched people's hearts and how such season has connected individuals into one loving community. It simply reminds us that we are never alone. We all have our own stories to tell and have different struggles and ultimately we all are children of God with hopes of reuniting with Him in His kingdom. Serving the Lord has given me opportunities to love Him more and more. It gives me meaning to find God and learn more about Him, to learn about his teachings while trying to live a holy and chaste life. And of course, it gives me hope, that one day I'll be able to unite with him and sing for Him forever.

The Hope of Christmas can be found anywhere. Be it singing the Gloria in Mass in unison with the church, or kneeling before the exposed blessed sacrament, or even the light in your eyes when you start counting down from September. It all comes down to one thing and one thing only: the birth of our saviour, where it all first started.

FAITH – The MIRACLE of Christmas by Ethan Yap

My faith is simply a loving relationship with God and Jesus.

Throughout the year you will often find yourself straying away from your family and friends, because of an important school project, stressful exams or just simply surfing the internet. You may be aware of that you aren't maximizing your time with your loved ones and feel guilty as a result of this but it's important to remember that no one is totally independent, even Jesus Christ, Son of Man himself. It is important to remember Jesus Christ was also a human being just like us. The Saviour of this world was once a small, defenseless baby, who required support from his family and friends and once turned man, still remained vulnerable and liable to different weaknesses just like you and me. Jesus's dependence on others reflects His experience as a human being and presents as a invaluable reminder that no one is ever absolutely independent, not even the Son of God.

So, this upcoming Christmas season, reflect on what others do for you. Whether it's simple favour like holding the door open for you or a more intricate favour such as helping out with your schoolwork, they are all displaying God's love and care for you. God is loving you every day, week and month, He is with us all year round, even through the holidays. So as Christmas approaches us, return a favour to God by bestowing your love and care onto others, spend more time with them and most importantly, have a merry Christmas!

JOY – The Grace of Christmas by Mayelle Bernal

With Christmas just around the corner, a season of joy, it's time that we delve deeper into the true essence of Christmas. When I was a little kid, the thought of Christmas would instantly bring a smile to my face. Attending mass on Christmas Eve, having a big feast with the whole family and waking up to a pile of gifts the next day were some of the things I'd always look forward to. However, as I got older I began to really understand it's true meaning.

Christmas is the time to celebrate and appreciate the birth of Christ, it is not all about the merry making. It showcases God's love and grace for us. From the verse John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." we are reminded about God's love for us and how fortunate we are that he was here to save us from our sins. In this we are encouraged to share the joy of giving and loving to others. In celebrating Christmas we are acknowledging God's greatest gift and sharing our joy with other people. The joy of spending time with family, friends and our whole community.

LOVE – The Surety of Christmas by Daryl Enerlan

"The surety of Christmas", this title makes you wonder what it really means, doesn't it? But with the deeper thought, you start to realize what this may mean.

Christmas is a time for celebration, especially for us Catholics. Amid all the fancy decorations and gifts all around us during this season, the true purpose of Christmas is to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

With this knowledge in mind, people often regard Christmas as a time for them to be with their families, a time for them to catch up on lost time spent with their parents or children— in other words, a time meant to be enjoyed with their loved ones. However, it is also the time to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, hence the name Christmas, which derives from Christ-mass. To express our love for Jesus just as mother Mary and Saint Joseph had done so, we rejoice in the coming of the son of God, the one who saves us from our sins purely out of love for us through prayer.

On the other hand, we should not only pray to express our care and gratitude during this season but also show our love and care to those around us, especially our loved ones.

TESTIMONY OF Victoria SAN PEDRO

Sharing of **Victoria San Pedro**, her advent story from Usher/Collector's Ministry. She is known to be beautiful, caring and the oldest among the members of the English Community. Whenever she knows you have suffered from body ache she would always offer a free massage to ease the pain. Thank you ate Vicky. Here's her story.

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVED IN HIM, SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT SHOULD HAVE ETERNAL LIFE." JOHN 3:16

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS VERSE TO ME?

IN THE YEAR 1992, I decided to leave my husband and my three children, who then were still in secondary school. It was a heartbreaking decision on my part since it was the first time I would be separated from them. But the thought of making more money to give them a better life/ future is what drove me to work here in Hong Kong as a domestic helper. Working here is really tough especially when you end up having an unfair and unreasonable employer. For years I would suffer from stress, since I would be asked to work beyond the required number of hours with more than three bosses. During winter, I would have to wear a thick jacket so I could sleep in a very cold garage with dogs as my room mates. I would cry for so many nights because they would spit on my face and on my hand and I needed to clean the floor as required by my master who was a bully. My food was not provided for breakfast and lunch. Because I didn't want to reduce the money I would send to my family, I would sometimes sleep with an empty stomach. All this I endured all of this because I loved my family. In my misery, I would just pray to God and do my best to attend the Sunday church services. Although my husband was a nice man and he promised to become a responsible father to his children, he got addicted to gambling. Our children have their own families now and I have twelve grandchildren and I have to support them.

Would all of this happen if I didn't leave the country? What have I done wrong?

I have been living away from my family and endured all the heartaches, hardships and sacrifices, just so I could give them a better and comfortable life. But what God has done, he sacrificed His only son Jesus who died for all our sins even though he didn't deserve it, so that we will have salvation and eternal life, this is unfathomable. Only until 2008, when I was able to join and became an active member of the collector ministry of STEC, did I fully understand all that has happened in my life and now, I have a deeper relationship with Jesus. Time has passed by so quickly. I have now lived 21 years in Hong Kong. I maybe the oldest among the STEC members and the only one around still working even harder. But I thank God for He is the constant source of my strength. I will still give my full respect and full service to my employers. I will also continue to love and help my family and all those people who surround me. This is what the advent wants us to do. Let us not dwell on our problems and trials, but get ourselves ready for His coming by praying, fasting, and repenting, followed by anticipation and joy and hope that by His grace, all that we did not achieve on earth, we'll enjoy for eternity in heaven. God bless us all.

Merry Christmas!

2000 Hail Mary Devotion last July

2000 Hail Mary Devotion last October

Lectors and Commentators Commissioning

Lectors and Commentators Formation Teaching with Sr Victoria Victorino

Leadership Seminar with Fr Lino Nicasio

Pistahan sa Nayon

The On-Going Live Christ Share Christ LCSC Seminar Series

October Rosary Gathering

BIrthday Party and Parish Feast Celebration

Financial Education Seminar with Jon Siu

Formation Teaching with Sr Cora Demetillo

The New English Community Officers

The English Community during last Parish Outing

為亡者祈禱

請為本堂善別組（1/6/2018 至 15/11/2018）曾服務的亡者靈魂祈禱：我們謙誠地求祢，以祢的憐憫收納以下弟兄姊妹，使他們安息在祢的懷中，並得享天國的福樂！

周麗珍　徐錦銓　陳金英　張景堂　吳倩頤
鄺永銓　賴誦賢　唐守忠　陳潤泉　高月明
潘澤強　陳志瑋　源　庸　陳文斌　黎官娣
楊若翰　杜華仔　伍達成　陳伯傑　鄭如蘭

2018 聖誕節堂區活動

12月24日（星期一）下午五時至六時三十分，舉行聖誕報佳音福傳活動，以巡遊形式在鄰近屋苑進行。

2018 聖誕節禮儀時間表

彌撒	日期	時間
聖誕節守夜彌撒（中文） 彌撒前祈禱 聖誕節子夜彌撒（中文） Christmas Vigil Mass (English)	12月24日（星期一） December 24 (Monday)	晚上七時正 晚上十一時十五分 子夜十二時正 9:00pm
聖誕節彌撒 Christmas Masses	12月25日（星期二） December 25 (Tuesday)	按照主日各台彌撒時間 According to the Sunday Masses
聖家節彌撒 The Holy Family Masses	12月30日（主日） December 30 (Sunday)	按照主日各台彌撒時間 According to the Sunday Masses
天主之母節暨除夕謝主彌撒（中文） New Year Eve Mass (English)	12月31日（星期一） December 31 (Monday)	晚上七時正 9:00pm

2019 新年禮儀時間表

禮儀	日　期	時 間
天主之母節暨新年彌撒 New Year Mass (English)	2019年1月1日（星期二） January 1, 2019 (Tuesday)	上午十一時正 9:30am