





**ST. JEROME'S ENGLISH COMMUNITY**  
**BULLETIN**  
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February  
 2008  
 No. 02

**FEBRUARY SCHEDULE**



Date	Time	Activity	Place
February 3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year A	9:30 am	Finance Committee	Rm. 411
	9:30 am	Liturgy Group	Rm. 405
	2:30 pm	Taize Prayer	Church
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	<b>Lunar New Year Mass</b>	Church
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	10am- 5pm	Lenten Retreat	Rosary HSK
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	9 am- 5pm	KAMPI Games	Ma On Shan
February 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Lunar New Year	9:30 am	Ushers' & Lectors' Group	Tuck Shop
	9:30 am	Altar Servers	Tuck Shop
	12:30 pm	Lunar New Year Gathering	Tuck Shop
	5:00 pm	<b>Lenten Ash Liturgy</b>	<b>Church</b>
February 17 <sup>th</sup> : 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year A)	9:30 am	Vocation Group	Rm. 405
	1:00 pm	Martha's Group	Tuck Shop
	9:30 am	Editorial Group	Rm 404
	9:30 am	Migrant Desk	Tuck Shop
	3:30 pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
February 24 <sup>th</sup> : 3 <sup>rd</sup> Su. of Lent	2:00 pm	Coordinating Committee	Rm. 405
	2 - 5 pm	Lenten Penitence Service	Church



**Each Sunday  
 Mass 8:00 am - Adoration 5:00pm**

**AS WE PREPARE FOR LENT**

**Lent : forty-day period before Easter.**  
 It begins on Ash Wednesday and officially ends at sundown on the Holy Thursday, with the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. In most churches, the decorations are purple. **Purple** is the color for the seasons of Advent and Lent, which celebrate the coming of the King. Since as Christians we prepare for our King through reflection and repentance, purple has also become a penitential color.

**Lent: a time for turning.....  
 and for loving.**

Life is full of turnings. Of changes. Many we do not choose; such as, the growing and the ageing, which are in God's plans, as the changing of the seasons and skies. All these are in God's loving hands alone. But sometimes we need to choose; to consent, to embrace. Some turnings are those yearnings towards God that stir deeply within our souls and bring soft tears to our eyes, we know not why. LENT is such a time. See it not as deprivation! It is a self-emptying so that God can fill us with Himself, and with that love He holds for us and for all His creation. Let us see it not as a giving up, but as a gaining, a turning towards Him. Which means a turning away from all that is not Him or of Him.

Let us lacerate our heart for our lack of love - then let the balm of His grace and mercy soothe and heal - and let His love for all His creation saturate and permeate our whole being and lives and actions, and spread and widen to cover and fill the whole world and all in it. Then we shall be the salt, the yeast, the light, the love that Jesus bids us be - with His help and our willingness to turn and to be

turned. We can align with that love; that is a choice we can make with our wills; then let God act in and through us, not just for the Forty Days, but for life. New ways, new habits.

**MIGRANT DESK CORNER  
 "TAKE YOUR RIGHTS SERIOUSLY"**

*If my contract has been terminated, is there anything that I can do to help my situation or to get money that is owed to me by my former employer?*

Hong Kong is a place that favors the rich over the poor and it favors employers over employees in terms of legal actions. This is the way that things are done. And certainly the views of migrant workers are not taken into account. It is important to mention this, in order that it be understood that workers in Hong Kong do not enjoy the same rights as against their employers that they do in most Western European or North American legal systems.

However there are some limited means by which employees can try and obtain justice regarding claims as against their employers. The dispute resolution body that is initially available to domestic workers is the Labour Tribunal. The Labour Tribunal is empowered to settle disputes of up to any money amount. In the event where a worker's employment contract has been terminated and that worker has a claim for unpaid wages, any holidays or rest days that were withheld, long term contract pay that has been denied, or some kind of abuse, a claim can be filed with the Labor Tribunal. In such a case, it would probably be a good idea to seek assistance from one of the help agencies.

**"Take your Rights seriously" (Jim Rice)**

**HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR!  
KUNG HEI FAT CHOI!  
HAPPY YEAR OF THE RAT**

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This animal begins the 12-year cycle. The story goes that Buddha invited all the animals to come before him, and according to their arrival, a Year was named after them. The rat was one of the smallest, and slowest, but he asked an ox if he could ride on his back. When they arrived, the little rat got so excited; he jumped off and ran ahead, thus becoming the first in the cycle.

The Rat year is a year of plenty, bringing opportunity and good prospects. It will be marked by speculation and fluctuations in the prices of commodities and the stock market; the world economy in general will boom. Business will be on the upswing, fortunes can be made and it will be an easy time to accumulate wealth. However, this is also the time to make long-term investment plans as the bonanza the year of the Rat brings will serve to see us through the bleak years that may follow. All ventures begun at this time will be successful if one prepares well. But do not take chances or unnecessary risks: the year of the Rat is still ruled by the cold of winter and the darkness of night. Those who speculate indiscriminately and overextend themselves will come to a sad reckoning.

Rats have been given a bad rap in Western Culture, judging from pejorative terms like "He's a Rat Fink!", or "I don't give a Rat's Ass what you think!". The rat is a respected intuitive creature, synonymous with courage and an enterprising character. Rats know how to come up with solutions, take care of themselves and others without problems. Besides being curious and intelligent with a vivid

imagination, rats are very lively and need oodles of attention (mental and physical stimulation). To sum it up, the positive side of the rat personality includes being easy-going, smart, magnetic, quick witted and well-liked!

### CORRECTION

In our January 2008 edition of the monthly bulletin, we listed the new installed Coordinating Committee members for the year 2008 but there was a mistake, the leader of the Dance troupe is Ms. **Remy Tagle**.

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

⇒ **Kampi games** on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. Our community will compete in three categories: Volleyball and badminton games and cheering squad competition. Check the bulletin board for details.

⇒ There will be a **Retreat at Rosary Chapel** on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. St. Matthew will join us. We hope that you will take this opportunity to prepare for the Lenten season.

⇒ We hope you will come and participate in the forthcoming inter **community sports fest** starting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January. The competition will be volleyball and the games will be held every Sunday at PSS.

⇒ **Lunar New Year Gathering**: The English community will celebrate the Lunar New Year on February 10<sup>th</sup>. For more details check the bulletin board posted on the lobby.



## MONTH'S SCRIPTURES



**FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> : 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A**

**Theme: Happiness**

- Readings : ♦Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13 ♦1Co 1:26-31  
♦Mt 5:1-12

Jesus shows us the way to true happiness. Through the beatitudes, He teaches us values to be cherished and qualities to be cultivated by those who follow Him... If we strive by the grace of Christ, to live according to these values, we begin to possess the promised fulfillment in some measure. As God's reign takes root within us, we become "gentle and humble of heart" like Jesus in his ministry and caring for others, and thus, a kingdom of justice, love and peace is furthered in our world.

**FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> : LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY**

**Theme: New Life, New Creation**

- Readings : ♦Gen 1:27-31 ♦Jn 1:1-12 ♦

Today we gather in a spirit of joy and thanksgiving for the abundant blessings and graces God has given us. It is a celebration of new life and new beginnings. On this special occasion, we ask God to fill us with faith and hope for the coming year, to bring us together in the spirit of unity, and to share our gifts and talents with one another. Bless our families, friends and community with health and happiness, and especially bless all those who are celebrating this special day with peace, prosperity, freedom and joy.

**FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> : 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER NEW YEAR**

**Theme: You are blessed**

- Readings : ♦Nb 6:22-27 ♦Phil 4:6-9 ♦Lk 12:22-32

Blessing and Peace spring from harmonious relations between God and his People, and then among the people themselves. In the book of Numbers the blessing is a symbol of God's attention, protection and providence. It brings with it a peace signifying wholeness, completeness, and deep sense of God's presence. Saint Paul is full of energy, and enthusiasm. He instructs the community to put aside their preoccupations and turn to the Lord in prayer. Then that gift of God which is his

peace will be theirs. Jesus promises his disciples the support and care of the providential God and urges them to put their anxieties aside.

**FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> : 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)**

**Theme: Beginning Again**

- Readings : ♦Gen 2:7-9 - 9:3:1-7 ♦Rm 5:12-19  
♦Mt 4:1-11

During Lent, we prepare to renew our commitment to reject sin and live as children of God. Sin is the greatest obstacle we face in our efforts to love God and our brothers and sisters and to work out our salvation... The choice of sin occurs in our hearts but is expressed in our personal choices and actions. However, it also has social consequences which sometimes are expressed in the abuse of rights of others and illegal structures of society. Today's readings are two powerful stories about the nature of sin and temptation.

**FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> : 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)**

**Theme: Living Water**

- Readings : ♦Ex 17:3-7 ♦Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 ♦Jn 4:5-42

Just as our relationships with friends are a process of growth, so too our relationship with God grows and matures throughout our lives. The story of Jesus and the Samaritan women at the well shows these stages of development. First we begin to know the person, and we learn from our experiences. Gradually as trust develops, we begin to share our thoughts and feelings. We move from **knowing about** Jesus to **knowing and loving** him as a friend and our lives are changed. Our faith grows and we moved to share this good news with others. But, we need to constantly nourish this relationship through the sacraments, prayer, study and serving others.

KUNG HEI FAT CHOI