



ST. JEROME'S ENGLISH COMMUNITY
BULLETIN
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APRIL
2008
No. 04

APRIL SCHEDULE

| Time | Activity | Place |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| April 4 Ching Ming Festival: Holiday | | |
| April 6 3rd Sunday of Easter (A) | | |
| 9:30 am | Finance Committee | Rm. 411 |
| 9:30 am | "Your health" Talk | 4 th Floor |
| 4:00 pm | Taize Prayer | Church |
| April 13 4th Sunday of Easter (A): Vocation Sunday | | |
| 9:30 am | Vocation Group | Rm. 405 |
| 9:30 am | Lectors | Roof |
| 9:30 am | Altar Servers | Roof |
| 9:30 am | Ushers | 4 th Floor |
| April 20 5th Sunday of Easter (A) | | |
| 9:30 am | Coordinating Meeting | Rm. 405 |
| April 27 6th Sunday of Easter (A) | | |
| 9:30 am | General Meeting | 4 th Floor |



Each Sunday
 Mass 8:00 am - Bible sharing 3:30 pm - Adoration 5:00 pm

CHRIST IS RISEN, MEANS...



To the world it means that the perfect plan of salvation has been provided...

"I declare to you the gospel... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures." *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*. But God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" *Romans 5:8*.

To God it means that He is satisfied with the work of His Son...

"Christ died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the spirit." *1 Peter 3:18*.

To the believer it is the promise of everlasting life ...

Jesus promises, "Because I live, you shall live also." *John 14:19*. Those who hear My word, and believe in the One who sent Me, have everlasting life. They will not be judged, but have already passed from death to life." *John 5:24*.

To You it is a challenge to believe . . .

Jesus claims, "I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in Me, even though he die, shall live." *John 11:25*. "You are saved if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and in your heart you believe that God has raised Him

from the dead." *Romans 10:9*. You can know the true meaning of Easter in your life today by taking these steps:

Recognize that without Christ you are separated from God. In honest repentance admit your need to be saved: "Because all have sinned and all fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).

Realize that God loves you, and believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His Son, that whoever believes in Him may not perish, but have everlasting life" (*John 3:16*).

Receive the risen Christ into your life by faith, and trust Him as your Savior: "But all who have received Him, He empowers to become children of God, for they believe in His name" (*John 1:12*).

MIGRANT DESK CORNER

"TAKE YOUR RIGHTS SERIOUSLY"

If I am making a claim against my former employer, can or should I have a lawyer there with me?



Under the rules for Labor Tribunal hearings, neither you nor your former employer, are allowed representation by a lawyer. You are both there to give your own side of the story. The judge (called a Labor Adjudicator) is there to listen to both sides, to weigh the evidence and make a decision in the dispute. This means that you have to act as your own lawyer in a claim before the

Labor Tribunal. However, you are not totally on your own. A non government organization assist you in the preparation of your case. They can do this by writing out your story in the form of a letter that will be addressed to the Tribunal. It should now become clear as to why it is so important for the worker to prepare in advance for this possibility. For example, if you were alleging that your employer has denied your rest days and statutory holidays, it would really help your case if you had previously written to the Immigration Department complaining about that.

Those letters would be there on file and would be powerful evidence in your favor. And likewise, this is why you should always keep an employment diary. Such a document that has been kept on a daily basis would be admissible as evidence in court. And this is also why you must never sign things that you don't understand or agree with. *Your signature on a letter admitting that you have been fully paid for your entire contract would be powerful evidence against your case.*

How long will this claim before the Labor Tribunal take before the dispute is finally decided?

That would be hard to say. It may be a matter of several weeks or months, depending on the complexity of the case with the former employer and the workload of the Tribunal. But the immediate and most serious problem confronting the worker seeking the claim is that following her termination until the ultimate decision by the Labor Tribunal, she may not legally work in Hong Kong. There are four exceptions to this "no work" rule however. *The first* exception is if the employer has emigrated from Hong Kong. *The second* exception is if the employer

was forced to terminate the contract due to financial reasons, such as the loss of his or her job. *The third* reason was if there is strong evidence to show that there was either abuse or exploitation on the part of the employer. *The fourth* exception is if employer has died and there is a claim as against the employer's estate. Finally, it is possible for an employee to reprocess her papers in Hong Kong (and then take up work) while a claim against her previous employer is under way if her contract and a claim against him or her has been made.

Take Your Rights seriously (Jim Rice)



CANDLE

The candles we see in our churches are symbols of Jesus, the Light of the World, the Light that is not overcome by darkness. During the

Mass one candle must be lit on either side of the altar. These two represent the two natures of Christ, one divine and one human. The Easter candles, which is prepared at the Easter Vigil also symbolizes Jesus. It bears the Alpha (A) and the Omega (Ω) to symbolize that Jesus is our beginning and our end. The five grains of incense inserted into the candle symbolize the five wounds of the crucified Jesus.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

☺ There'll be a **General Meeting** for all members on April 27, 2008. Details will be discussed at the **Coordinators' meeting** on the 20th of April.

MONTH'S SCRIPTURES



APRIL 6: 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: Jesus among us

Readings: ♦ Acts 2: 14, 22 – 33
♦ 1 Pet 1: 1:17 – 21 ♦ Lk 24: 13 - 35

Initiated into the Christian mystery by Baptism and Confirmation, Christians are joined to the Body of Christ in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the center and heart of Christian life for both the universal and local Church as well as for each Christian. All that belongs to Christian life leads to and flows from the Eucharistic celebration. The Eucharist increases charity within the community and at the Eucharist, we gather as God's people to celebrate our oneness in Christ. By this celebration, we come to recognize Jesus presence in our midst.

APRIL 13: 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: The Good Shepherd

Readings: ♦ Acts 2:14, 36 – 41
♦ 1 pet 2:20 – 25 ♦ Jn 10: 1-10

The image of Jesus the Good Shepherd shows that he leads us with tender loving care, ready to sacrifice himself to protect us and eager to search for those who are lost. This story of salvation is set in human history, forming us into the whole Christ, the people of God. On this Sunday known as Good Shepherd Sunday, we pray for vocations within the Church, for men and women who are willing to sacrifice all to follow Christ and serve the Church...

APRIL 20: 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: Call to Minister

Readings: ♦ Acts 6:1-7 ♦ 1 Pet 2:4 – 9
♦ Jn 14:1 - 12

Jesus calls each one of us to further the reign of God through the use of our unique, God-given gifts and talents. The task of teaching and witnessing to the way of love is the challenge of every Christian. We are called to share in the responsibility of prayer, instruction, forgiveness and reconciliation. Leadership in the Church depends on our openness to the Spirit and willingness to participate in the mystery of redemption. The Eucharist is the source of our

strength and guidance in fulfilling this call.

APRIL 27: 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: The Church is a Teacher

Readings: ♦ Acts 8:5 – 8, 14 - 17
♦ 1 Pet 3:15 - 18 ♦ Jn 14:15 - 21

Jesus came to teach us and to lead us to the Father. But, he also promised that he would send his Spirit to be with us always, to strengthen us, guide us, and enlighten us until the end of time. The Holy Spirit helps the Church constantly to purify and renew itself and its members. The Spirit helps believers perceive the divine presence in history and interpret human experiences in the light of faith. Today, the Spirit within each one of us helps us to understand the signs of the times and to carry out our prophetic mission.

EASTER EGGS



In Medieval Europe, eggs were forbidden during Lent. Eggs laid during that time were often boiled or otherwise preserved.

Eggs were thus a mainstay of Easter meals, and a prized Easter gift for children and servants. In addition, **eggs have been viewed as symbols of new life and fertility through the ages.** It is believed that for this reason many ancient cultures, including the Ancient Egyptians, Persians, and Romans, used eggs during their Spring festivals. Many traditions and practices have formed around Easter eggs. The coloring of eggs is an established art, and eggs are often dyed, painted, and otherwise decorated. Eggs were also used in various holiday games: parents would hide eggs for children to find, and children would roll eggs down hills. These practices live on in Easter egg hunts and egg rolls.