

ST. JEROME’S CHURCH - ENGLISH COMMUNITY

BULLETIN no.12

**DECEMBER
2008**

e-mail: stjerome_englishcommunity@yahoo.com

Web.: <http://stjerome.catholic.org.hk>
TEL. 2448-8332



December Schedule

For Our Reflexion

*Fr. Paul TAM,
our new priest*

***Migrant’ Desk Corner**
Take Your Rights seriously*

Birthday Party

Month’s Scriptures

Eucharistic Ministers

Upcoming activities

***Whoever does what is right
is righteous,
just as Christ is righteous.
1John 3, 7***



DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Activity	Place
Dec. 7		2nd Sunday of Advent	
	9:30 am	Finance Committee	Rm. 406
	9:30 am	Editorial Group	Rm. 404
	2:30 pm	Liturgy commission	Rm. 405
Dec. 14		3rd Sunday of Advent	
		PLEDGE SUNDAY	
	9:30 am	MIGRANT TALK	Hall
	2:00 pm	Treasurers' Meeting	Rm. 405
Dec. 21		4th Sunday of Advent	
	9:30 am	Vocation Group	Rm. 405
	9:30 am	Migrant Desk	Rm. 406
	9:30 am	Lectors	4th Fl.
	9:30 am	Altar Servers	Rm. 404
	2:00 pm	Coordinating Committee	Rm. 405
		CHRISTMAS DECORATION	
Dec. 24	Midnight	Christmas Eve Mass	
Dec. 25	11:00 am	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS	
	12:30 pm	Christmas party	Hall
Dec. 28		Holy Family	
	9:30 am	Choir Group	Rm. 411
	9:30 am	Ushers	Rm. 406
	9:30 am	Martha's Group	Rm. 405
Dec. 31	11:00 pm	New Year Eve Mass	

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

FOR OUR REFLEXION

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent, (arrival) is really the first and last word in the year's liturgy, as well as one of the most essential "theme" of the liturgy itself. When we gather together for worship we celebrate the one who comes daily...The Coming of the Lord. This is the foundation of salvation and the liturgy. Because God has come, this great saving reality in which we live, exists in the Church; and because God is ever renewing his coming in ritual, there exists the saving liturgy of the Church from which her life, and our life is nourished and grows....

Arrival, whether it is the coming of a friend or an enemy, is always full of expectancy. It challenges us to face the unknown, the coming, bringing us out of ourselves to a higher level of being, nearer to the fulfillment of our human essence...when God appears. This event molds our future life, when we have experienced God's presence. It places demands on us not for a short period of time, but forever, not in a narrow part of our lives, but in our whole being! This is what makes **advent** both terrifying and a source of infinite happiness. God's coming is what we most fear and most seek. It is the death of our self and the entrance to new life in God.

This is what took place when God first came, in the flesh of Christ, to those living at that time. And, it is what takes place today as we share in the sacramental memorial of this coming in the liturgy. To reject this love lessens not only our personal fulfillment, but also the fulfillment of creation: frustrating the return and full union of all creatures to God their Father...

The **season of advent** is a new coming, a new call from the One who is always present. For the one called, the Church and everyone who belongs to her body, it is a new answer, a new commitment to respond and act. Let us empty ourselves of self and worldly distractions to receive the power and love God brings.

"Christ is close: Come let us adore him!"

(Paraphrased Magnificat Magazine)

COME JESUS CHRIST

O Wisdom,

Holy Word of God

You rule all creation with power and true concern.

- Come teach us the way of salvation.

O Sacred Lord

and leader of ancient Israel

You communicated with Moses at the burning bush

and gave him the law on Mount Sinai

- Come to set us free by Your mighty arm.

O Root of Jesse

raised up as a sign of all peoples

in Your presence kings become mute

and the nations worship before You

- Come to deliver us and do not delay.

O Key of David

and Royal Power of Israel,

You open what no man can shut,

and You shut what no man can open.

- Come and deliver Your people imprisoned by darkness and the shadow of death.

NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Five members of our English Community were commissioned as New Eucharistic Ministers during the 8:00 am Mass at our Parish on Nov. 9, 2008.

We had the great joy of witnessing the commissioning of our New Eucharistic Ministers after months of training and seminars with Fr. Sylvere Mbuela. Arline Paras, Mila De Gusman, Juliana Sudania, Roseky Semolava, Minda Riola and Leah Paguntan were commissioned and introduced to the Parish and Fr. Sylvere blessed them during the ceremony. They were called to share the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ with our parishioners at Mass. After the commissioning they assisted the priest in giving the Holy Communion.

We would like to welcome our new Eucharistic Ministers and keep them in our prayers that the Holy Spirit will guide them to be good servants of our Lord.



♦ MIGRANT TALK

The Church has invited people from The Alliance of Progressive Labor for a talk on December 14, after mass. They will explain the effects of Global Finance Crisis to the Migrant Workers. The talk will be a kind of awareness to keep up with the laws and regulations for Overseas Workers. Come and know your rights and how to stand up for them.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

♦ CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party will be held on the 25th of December (Thu.) in the 4/F Church Hall. There will be a program with dancing, singing and games. There will also be exchanging of gifts as a symbol of true spirit of Christmas to each other. We're inviting everyone to join us in celebrating this yuletide



MIGRANT DESK CORNER

Take Your Rights seriously

Do the police or immigration officials always need a search warrant?

No. According to the law, police or immigration officials do matter what you do. But if that should happen you should ask have the power to enter and search houses where they have a them why they want to come in. But if the police do not say that good reason to suspect that an immigration offense there. Gen- they want to enter because they believe that some immigration offences have been committed and they don't have a warrant authorities from a member of the public. However, this does not then you do not have to let them in. If you invite them in, they mean that law enforcement officers may make random house to will say that they had permission to enter your house. The point house searches based on that suspicion and they must have a is that in these situations you can't keep the authorities out of genuine reason to believe that an offence has been committed. your home as though it were a fortress.

If the immigration officers can enter and search houses based on their suspicion won't this lead to a similar abuse of the Immigration Department's power?

There are many people who feel this way, and that's why it's a good idea for everyone to carefully observe what they are doing in the community and report any abuses that we encounter on the part of the authorities.

So are you saying then that I should let them in immediately?

No. If they are going to tell on their special powers to enter your house because of a "good reason to believe" that immigration offences have been committed there, then they will enter no

What if the police or immigration officers behave badly after they enter my house?

No police or immigration officer is allowed to use unnecessary force on people that they are dealing with. That means if you don't resist them, they shouldn't grab, hit or restrain you and they are not permitted to use abusive language. If they do, you will help others, if you make a formal complain about their behavior. Tell them to leave. Unless the police or immigration officer have brought a search warrant, they must leave your home with reasonable speed if you tell them to go. If they do not leave, or satisfy you that they do not need a warrant, then they are breaking the law and you should complain about that too.

Take Your Rights seriously (Jim Rice)

Fr. Paul TAM, our new Priest

The ordination of Fr. Paul Tam, our new Priest took place on Nov. 15, 2008 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It was a time of great joy and celebration on the part of Fr. Paul, with his family and friends, especially all of us in the parish and those who have supported and encouraged him along the journey of his vocation. The celebration continued with a reception following the Mass of Ordination. The following day, Fr. Paul celebrated his first Mass in St. Jerome giving thanks to God and those who helped him along the way.

Our Parish especially our community, experienced many graces and blessings with our new Priest. Fr. Paul's first Mass was a very joyous but solemn celebration. The Mass was concelebrated by **Fr. Martin Yip Po Lam**, Deacon **Karl Tsang**, and **Fr. Sylvere Mbuela**. To Fr. Paul, our sincerest congratulations for we are so blessed for having you in our Parish. God Bless You Always.



MONTH'S SCRIPTURES



December 7: 2nd Sunday of Advent (B) December 21: 4th Sunday of Advent (B)

Theme: Prepare the way of the Lord

Readings: ♦ Is 40:1-5,9-11

♦ 2 Pt 3:8-14 ♦ Mk 1:1-8

Advent is a time to prepare the way for the coming of Christ, especially to take the time to prepare ourselves. As disciples of Jesus, who accepted him as the

Way, and desiring to love God and others

as we have been loved, we must first acknowledge our sinfulness and undergo conversion, “a profound change of our whole person by which we begin to consider, judge and arrange our lives according to the holiness and Love of God.” God keeps crying out in the wilderness of our lives: straighten the pathways, remove the obstacles, wait in peace and welcome Jesus, our Saviour

December 14: 3rd Sunday of Advent (B)

Theme: The Precursor

Readings: ♦ Is 61:1-2a, 10-11

♦ 1Thes 5:16-24 ♦ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

The Church, a community of loving believers in the risen Lord, is called to be a sign of the kingdom in our midst, as we serve those in need, and advance the reign of God among the peoples of the World. Like John the Baptist, God has given us the task of announcing the Good News that the reign of God is already at work in our midst. It is seen when we strive to promote Justice in the world, and cooperate with people of good will who esteem human values, and seek to right wrongs, promote freedom and the development of all people.

Theme: Saying Yes to God

Readings: ♦ 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

♦ Rom 16:25-27 ♦ Lk 1:26-28

On the Sunday before Christmas, our thoughts turn to that young woman, Mary who became the Mother of Jesus. When God sent his angel to Mary, she experienced many different emotions: surprise, wondering, fear, and then she said, “Yes!” Mary’s “yes” gives us the courage to accept the difficult things God may be asking of us, the challenges, the struggles, the disappointments. It is not easy to let go of our plans and desires. But when we do, and we allow God to work in and through us, then we become a blessing for all those around us. For all that has been, let us give thanks. For all that is, and is to come, like Mary, we say, “Yes!”

December 28: Feast of the Holy Family (B)

Theme: Prepare the way of the Lord

Readings: ♦ Sir 3:2-7,12-14 or Gn 15:1-6;21:1-3

♦ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 ♦ Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-30

During the Christmas season, we reflect on the many facets of the mystery of the incarnation. As we read the Bible stories, we begin to get an idea of the life and interactions of the holy family in which Jesus lived. The Church began to celebrate this feast to encourage and support families as they tried to live their faith in society. Today especially many families are facing disruption and conflicts, and look to the family as model and inspiration.

Birthday Party



Fr. Sylvere **Mbuela** our assistant Parish Priest together with **Norita Ducha** and **Helen Salvador** celebrated their birthday with the English Community last Nov. 9th. We prepared a surprised party and everybody enjoyed a good meal. Sr. **Michelle Reynolds**, Fr. **Francis**, Fr. **Paul Tam** and Brother **Dominique** joined the celebration. We also make a farewell Party for our friend **Marivic Valdez**.

Fr. Sylvere, the English community wants to thank you for all you have done for us. How grateful we are for having you as a Father, a Brother and a Friend. May the Holy Spirit always protect you in your daily life.

Our sincere thanks to the Community for their generosity and cooperation, especially for our coordinator Mrs. **Minda Riola** and her assistant Miss. **Amy Pabellano**. Happy birthday Fr. Sylvere, **Norita Ducha** and **Helen Salvador**. Goodbye Marivic.

