

ST. JEROME'S CHURCH - ENGLISH COMMUNITY

BULLETIN no.1

**JANUARY
2009**

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KUNG HEI FAT CHOI

THE YEAR OF OX



January Schedule

For Our Reflexion

Migrant' Desk Corner
Take Your Rights seriously

Upcoming activities

2009: The Year of Ox

Month's Scriptures

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



JANUARY 2009 SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Activity	Place
Jan.1			
		Mary, Mother of God	
	9:30 am	New Year Mass	Church
Jan.4			
		The Epiphany of the Lord	
		Oath of Service	
	9:30 am	Altar Servers	Rm. 405
	2:00 pm	Finance Committee	Rm. 406
	9:30 am	Editorial Group	Rm. 404
	3:30 pm	Taize Prayer	Chapel
Jan.11			
		The Baptism of the Lord	
		Liturgy Commission	
	9:30 am	Ushers	Rm. 411
	9:30 am	Eucharistic Ministers	Rm. 406
	2:00 pm	Treasures' Meeting	Rm. 405
	2:00 pm	Lectors	Rm. 405
Jan.18			
		2nd Sunday of the Year B	
	9:30 am	Vocation Group	Rm. 406
	9:30 pm	Martha's Group	Rm. 405
	9:30 am	Choir Group	Rm. 406
Jan.25			
		3rd Sunday of the Year B	
	9:30 am	Migrant Desk	Rm. 406
	9:30 am	Coordinating Committee	Rm. 406
Jan.26			
		Chinese Lunar New Year	
	8:00 am	Lunar New Year Mass	Church
Jan.27			
		KAMMPI GAMES	

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FOR OUR REFLEXION

OUR CHRISTMAS



In our Christmas Mass we celebrate the weakness of God. Few creatures are more helpless than a newborn child. Unlike a lion whelp or a puppy, he has no coat to protect him against the cold. A tiny fish can seek its own food, but a human child depends totally on his mother. God – who created the oceans, the mountains and the night stars - freely chose to become so weak. God embraced our weakness for a reason. He desires to communicate to us his strength, his very life.

“On that blessed night the sweet infant Jesus, scarcely an hour old, filled the darkness of our souls with floods of light. By becoming weak and little, for love of us, He made us strong and brave.

For Therese of the Child Jesus, the Holy Child, she said, had healed her of undue sensitivity and “girded her with His weapons.” It was by reason of this vision that she became known as “*Therese of the Child Jesus.*”

What about the word “Christmas?”

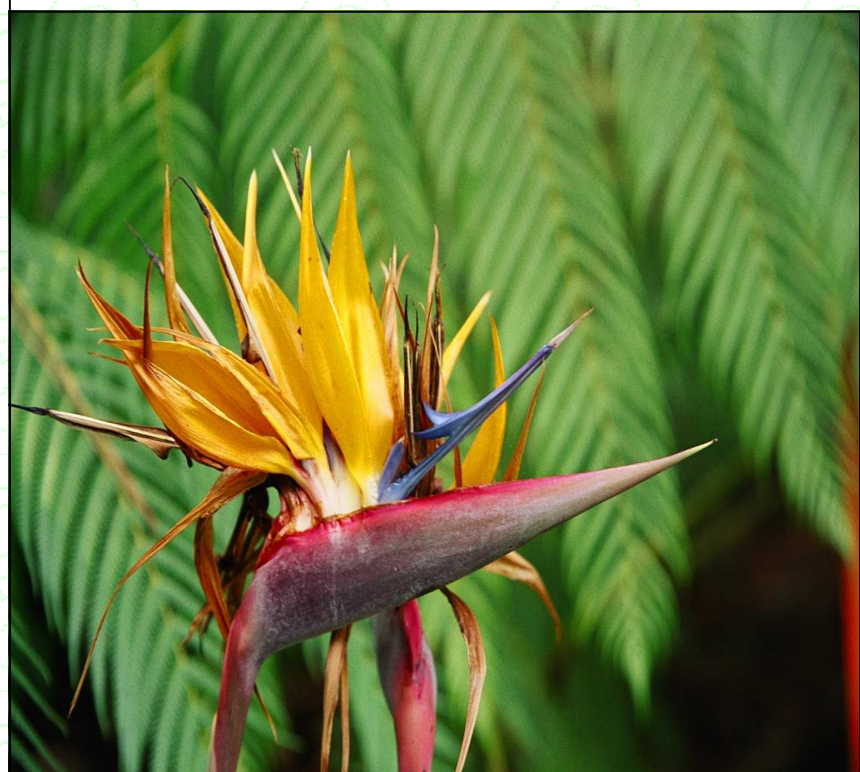
The word **Christmas** has been around for centuries. Some dictionaries say it belongs to the late Old English period; oth-

ers that it dates back to the 12th century. Old forms include *cristes* masse and *christmasse*, meaning the *festival* (mass) of Christ. Christmas actually replaced a number of significant pagan midwinter festivals when the church was trying to persuade Romans to convert to Christianity.

In the phrase **Merry Christmas**, the word merry does not refer an excess of seasonal good cheer, nor yet to drunkenness. Those meanings date from the 14th century onwards. However, the original meaning of merry was pleasing or agreeable. That meaning is also found in the phrase God rest you merry, gentlemen (NOT God rest you, merry gentlemen), where rest is used in the same sense as in rest assured.

The use of the abbreviation **Xmas** drives some people crazy, yet it is not a modern aberration, but an ancient usage. **X** was used to represent the Greek symbol *chi*, which is also the first letter in Christ. That usage has been around since Roman times.

Bringer of gifts **Santa Claus** has evolved from a Christian saint, **Saint Nicholas** Though now the two are inextricably intertwined, Father Christmas predates Santa Claus, having been around since the 15th century.



« A Child is born to us, a Son is given us » Jn. 9,5
Wishing you Peace and Blessings
Throughout this Holy Season.
Merry Christmas and
Prosperous New Year 2009.
Fr. Sylvain >

MIGRANT DESK CORNER

“Forum on the effects of Global Financial Crisis to the Migrant Workers

The present global economic crisis will not affect only financiers. Indeed, it is the ordinary working people, both globally and locally, that will bear the brunt of its devastating consequences. The economic crisis affects the Philippines in more ways that we can think of. Specifically, the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are facing fears of losing their jobs amidst in crisis.

The current situation will be used even more to erode and press down on wages and social spending, lay off workers, promote precarious employment, tear up workers rights, clamp down on workers concerted actions and intensify the exploitation of the working class.

The workers must consolidate their ranks, educating, reaching out and organizing more workers in the formal and informal sectors and even in the communities, building unity with other affected sections domestically and internationally, and waging more concerted workers' actions.

To be informed about what is going on, the English Community in coordination with the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL) – Hong Kong had conducted a “Forum on the effects of Global Financial Crisis to the Migrant Workers” on December 14, 2009. The secretary general of APL, **Josua T. Mata**, was the main speaker of the forum. More than 40 people joined the forum.



UPCOMING ACTIVITY: **KAMMPI GAMES**



The **KAMMPI GAMES** will be held during the Chinese New Year (January 27, 2009).

More details will be posted on the bulletin board. Come and enjoy.

MONTH'S SCRIPTURES



January 4: The Epiphany of the Lord

Theme: Christ manifest

Readings: ♦ Is 60:1-6
♦ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 ♦ Mt 2:1-12

On the Epiphany, we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, as the story of the three wise men that came to worship the newborn Son

of God. They are the sign, that Jesus; our Saviour came for all people. In Jesus Christ, each one of us is joined to all history and all human beings. This story of salvation is the working out of God's plan for us to be one, in and with Jesus Christ. It is the fundamental task and mission of the Church, with each Christian using their abilities and opportunities to help all creation give recognize and give glory to God.

January 18: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: God calls ... I respond

Readings: ♦ 1 Sm 3:3b-10
♦ 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 ♦ Jn 1:35-42

Because of God's great love and desire to share, He created the world and each one of us. We are made in God's image, and are called to be His reflection in the world. Jesus is the perfect image of God and he shows us how we should live. As we study and reflect on the Gospels, we come to know what it means to be a Christian. The writings of St. Paul and other early Christians also offer us guidance in living fully our call.

January 25: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: Faith in Jesus changes our lives

Readings: ♦ Jon 3:1-5,10
♦ 1 Cor 7:29-31 ♦ Mk 1:14-20

As our faith in Jesus grows and matures, it changes our lives. People of faith recognize the real need and lasting value of human activity in this world. But, they also direct their thoughts and desires to the full consummation of the Kingdom of Eternal Life. They constantly strive for conversion and renewal.

January 11: The Baptism of the Lord

Theme: Here is my chosen one

Readings: ♦ Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11
♦ Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9 ♦ Mk 1:7-11

This feast ends the Christmas season and begins the story of the unfolding mystery of Christ, each week throughout the year, in the Sunday Gospels. Jesus began his public ministry by asking for baptism from John the Baptist. He received his father's affirmation and began the task he was sent to do. Jesus' baptism helps us to recall our own baptism, when God

2009 YEAR THE OX



HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR



Chinese new year 2009 falls on 26th of January, 2009. The Chinese New Year is celebrated as the symbol of spring's celebration. In fact in China the Chinese New Year is still called the Spring festival. It is celebrated after the fall harvest and before the spring planting season. The date of the Chinese New Year is always changing and is based on the Chinese calendar. Emperor Huangdi in the year 2637 B.C.E invented the Chinese calendar.

2009: year of the earth Ox also called 2009 year of the Bull or Buffalo is around the corner. It looks like we've got honest, candid and open natured year ahead.

The Ox is the sign of prosperity through fortitude and hard work. As one might guess, such people are dependable, calm and modest. Like his animal namesake, the Ox is unswervingly patient, tireless in his work, and capable of enduring any amount of hardship without complaint.

The ox person needs peace and quiet to work through his/her ideas, and when he/she has set his/her mind on something it is hard for him/her to be convinced otherwise. The ox person has a very logical mind and is extremely systematic in whatever he/she does, in spite of a total lack of imagination. He/she can be very stubborn, and difficult to dissuade once he/she decides on something. These people speak little, but are intelligent, and when necessary, they are both articulate and eloquent. (1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021 ...)

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