

聖母訪親堂區 Visitation Parish Newsletter 02

September 2016

由構思將長者關愛組跳區老人院,, 帶他們去朝聖及晚宴,, 讓老友記多些機會到其他聖堂與主共聚, 靈命上得到主的安撫, 參觀主的聖殿, 增廣見聞。

終於, 我得到聖神的帶領, 在夏神父的頂力支持及各組員的通力合作下, 7月17 號長者朝聖之旅於下午1時開航了。雖然天氣炎熱, 但不減長者盼望與主共聚的氣氛。

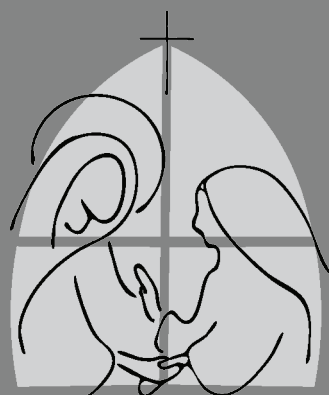
第一站將軍澳聖安德肋堂, 一座比較新的聖堂, 美麗優雅, 步入大堂令人平安喜樂, 周邊好像圍著天使歡迎我們的長者, 講解員黃小姐講得非常清楚動聽, 令每個朝聖者都讚美天主!

第二站馬鞍山聖方濟堂, 各人也很安靜聽講解員, 然後唸玫瑰經, 五時我們便離開聖堂, 到酒樓吃晚飯。

首先為年滿60以上的長者夏神父送上惠康禮卷一張。跟住為7月份生日的朋友送上精美的蛋糕及祝賀儀式。全體48人為他們祝壽、歌聲響遍酒樓 (這也是他們意外的驚喜) 精美禮品人人有份, 皆大歡喜, 歡笑聲此起彼落 (很多人問, 下次係幾時?)

六時開始豐富晚餐, 席間彷彿一個大家庭。有些不大熟悉的也變成很有話題的朋友。天主在我們中間, 祂用愛將我們緊緊綑綁在一起。回程東涌送別時, 很多老友記都對我說「今天我非常開心, 多謝晒」, 當時我感到聖神在每位長者身上播下喜樂的種子, 天主! 我感謝你, 感恩祢揀選我們作你的工具, 好使更多人因此認識你, 愛你, 跟隨你! 願天主永受讚美。

各位組員, 你們是最棒的, 你們使這個活動活出天主的喜樂與愛。繼續努力! 將這喜樂與愛延續下去。亞孟!



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Trinity Chapel Feast

Feast day events commenced on 22 May 2016 at 10.30 am at the Discovery Bay International School with Holy Mass, celebrated by the most Rev. Joseph Ha Chi-Sing, OFM Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong. During Mass eight children received their First Holy Communion and fifteen children the Sacrament of Confirmation. After Mass, approximately two hundred parishioners went for buffet lunch at Club Sienna. Diners were entertained by volunteers in various performances on stage and lucky draws, with some surprising prizes. Some of the most amazing performances were given by the youth. Overall, a very fulfilling and enjoyable event.



Let your will be done

We all want to make the right decisions for the best outcomes, but achieving this may be stressful and not straightforward. There are principles we can adopt to make better decisions, based on what we learn from the life of Jesus, especially from the way He made decisions in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before His Crucifixion.

Firstly, we should seek God's perspective on the matters to be decided. "And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21) "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11). Jesus prayed at Gethsemane "He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." (Mathew 26:39). After turning to his loving Father in that great hour He decided to sacrifice himself for each one of us.

Secondly, we should seek advice in decision making when we are emotionally unstable. At such times we can make mistakes, so we can rely on God to speak to us through our wise friends and near and dear ones. Talk to somebody who has made a similar decision and friends who know your weaknesses. "Also it is not good for a person to be without knowledge, and he who makes haste with his feet errs." (Proverbs 19:2). Jesus was emotional in the Garden and sorrowful. He was not in a state of taking decisions by Himself, so He offered himself and let His Father take the decision, which He accepted with humility.

Thirdly, think about the possible consequences and make a decision that leads to common good. Thinking through what will happen is prudent. "A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, the naïve proceed and pay the penalty." (Proverbs 27:12). Then, of the options available choose the best with a pure motive. "All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives." (Proverbs 16:2). Jesus at Gethsemane could see our salvation in His death on the cross. He reached his decision based not on selfishness, but for the common good of all humanity.

Lastly, prepare for problems associated with the decision. Solomon said in Proverbs 22:3, "A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences". Although in faith, we expect the best and expect God to work in our lives, we should also prepare for the inevitable problems that are part of every decision. Jesus was fully accepted the consequences of his decision at Gethsemane.

Fr. Mano M Chacko SVD

'Let the children come to me'

Children's Liturgy at Tung Chung Catholic Church

Every Sunday at the 9am mass, children are invited to participate in their own 'liturgy of the word' in Room 403 at Tung Chung Catholic School. Our parish started providing a children's liturgy service in Advent 2015. We interview our parish priest, Fr Henry, and Mariella Gatt, leader of Children's Liturgy, about this service.

How did Children's Liturgy come about?

Mariella: I am a mother of 3 children, aged 6, 4 and 1. My older children started objecting to coming to church; the service was difficult for them to follow. Every Sunday I would load up with toys, books and snacks to keep the children going through mass. However, I want my children to learn the Gospel and become committed followers of Jesus. And I want them to find joy and beauty in our Catholic tradition of the mass. Having seen many parishes in the UK organize Children's Liturgy, I decided to give it a go. With Fr. Henry's support and guidance, our Children's Liturgy in Tung Chung was born.

What happens during Children's Liturgy?

Mariella: The core activity of the Children's Liturgy is the exploration of that Sunday's Gospel. We read the Gospel story, discuss it and then we have some craft or game to bring the story to life. We also discuss how the Gospel applies to our life. In addition, we also try to create a sense of community for the children. They may share their personal joys and challenges, and we are there to listen to them, encourage them and pray with them.

Do the children miss out on mass by going to the Children's Liturgy?

Mariella: There are two parts of the mass – liturgy of the word and the Eucharistic liturgy. We always make sure that the children are back in church for the Eucharistic liturgy as this is the climax of the mass. We want to foster a love of the Gospel so that our children will gladly contribute to mass when they are older.

We already have Catechism, why do we also offer children's liturgy?

Fr. Henry: The two services are complementary, and we are happy that there are volunteers in our community for both services. The Children's Liturgy focuses on the Gospel of the day while in Catechism, we prepare our children to receive the Sacraments. Through these services, we hope that our families will feel welcome and supported in their quest to raise children in our beautiful faith.

堂區主保瞻禮隨想

2016年的堂區主保瞻禮日, 我想起了艾殷卡陵(Ain Karim)。

艾殷卡陵, 好一個陌生的名字, 我們常讀的福音書中好像沒有怎樣刻意提及這地方。

聖徒路加在其記述的福音第一章中, 簡單記載匝加利亞家的奇事, 此事發生的地點就是在艾殷卡陵(耶路撒冷西面7公里的小城)。

福音的第一章記載了聖母領報和聖母訪親兩件事情, 將它們連繫在一起可以使我們讀福音時更易明白上主救恩計劃的預備工作, 其歷史背景和意義。

願意接受天主邀請為天主母親的瑪利亞 “就在那幾日起身, 急速往山區去到猶大的一座城, 她進了匝加利亞的家, 就向依撒伯爾請安。” 2千年前交通不方便, 以現在方式計算由納匝肋到艾殷卡陵, 大概是150公里左右。我們行車用兩個多小時, 瑪利亞就要花上四天才可去到表親匝加利亞的家。

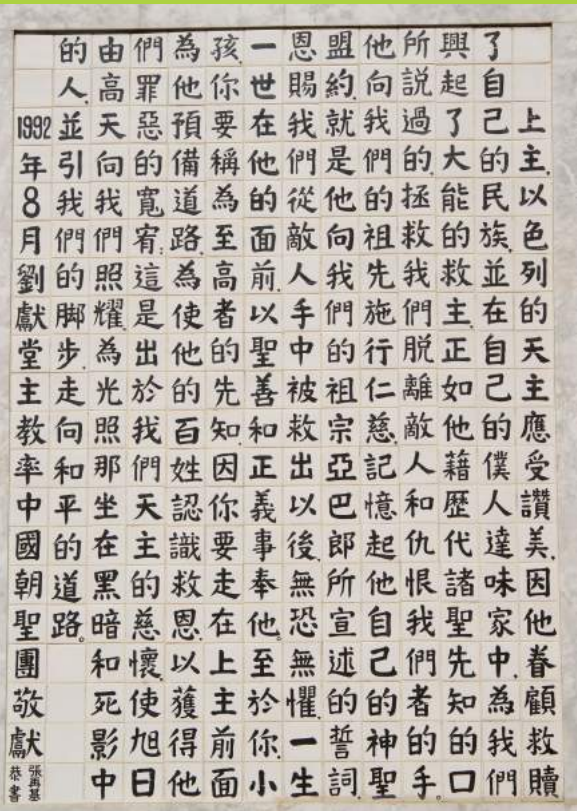
後人對此章多猜想訪親用意或聖母的動機, 而大家都同意的說法是“願意祝賀那位年老表姐”和“對表親的關懷情切, 急不及待去照顧有需要的人”, 亦另有說法就認為是“聖母想引證嘉俾厄爾天使的說話”。大家怎樣了解訪親的意義?

我卻較喜歡楊輔理主教的解說: 聖母是滿被聖寵者, 上主的慈悲亦臨在於她內, 她不辭勞苦從遙遠的家 -- 納匝肋探訪年邁的表姐, 聖母是慈悲之母, 除了關懷還有什麼?

在慈悲禧年讀聖母訪親的福音, 饒有意義也容易使人聯想起天主的慈悲面容。

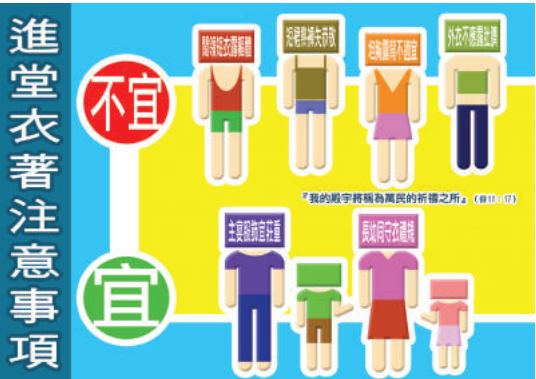
倘你決定接受上主的邀請到聖地朝聖, 體現感受主耶穌的苦難與足跡。勿忘記也要到艾殷卡陵走一趟, 一個記錄上主救恩計劃的起點, 在這起點你會看見上主恩寵與慈悲。

曾日昌
天主聖三小堂



Dedication to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The dedication was celebrated by over 300 people at the Multi-Purpose Hall on Sunday 5th June 2016, from 2.30 - 4pm. The event started with the Rosary, to thank Mother Mary for interceding on our behalf with her son Jesus Christ. Following the reading of the consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Father Mano was the celebrant at the Mass. At the end of mass those who had completed the 33 days consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the first time received a medal and those who renewed their consecration this year received a pin. The deep love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus was very evident, as everyone was happy and congratulated each other.



The Annual Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion

The Annual Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) Gathering was organised for Sunday, 29 May 2016, by the Catholic Diocesan Liturgy Commission of Hong Kong. Over 1000 EMHCs attended the gathering held in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (10 Wan Tau Street, Taipo), which is also one of the seven pilgrimage sites in Hong Kong for the Jubilee of Mercy. Very elegantly, men wore yellow ties and women wore yellow scarves, to make the occasion a respectful and solemn event. EMHCs are dedicated to serving God and His people.

The gathering was addressed by Bishop Ha Chi Sing, who gave a talk, followed by Benediction. After that, certificates in recognition of the services rendered were handed out to those who had served 10, 15 and 20 years as EMHCs. In our church, Celina Wong received a 20 year certificate of recognition. Dominica has served 18 years as an EMHC and Grace-mary is the new EMHC entrant this year. Keep up the good work and dedication, all EMHCs of Discovery Bay!



堂區主保瞻禮

每年5月31日是「聖母訪親」慶日，如當日不是主日，主保瞻禮慶典會於前後擇日舉行。堂區自去年11月開始名為「聖母訪親堂區」，今次是堂區成立後的第一次主保瞻禮。由於聚餐場地問題，慶典延至6月26日舉行。

萬分感謝湯漢樞機接受堂區邀請，主持當天的感恩聖祭，並為20位青少年施放堅振聖事。剛巧6月25日晚湯樞機要出席「明愛暖萬心」籌款活動，相信很晚才可休息，幸好26日早上得到伍執事駕車接送，一切都感謝天主的照顧。

主保瞻禮感恩聖祭是早上10時以雙語舉行，但很早便有教友在禮堂等候，大約9時30分已見坐無虛席。感恩聖祭完結時，剛領了堅振的10多位外籍小朋友高歌一曲，並配以動作，喜樂的歌聲像被聖神所充滿。

參加聚餐的教友比往年多，未知是否今年的餐券價錢較吸引，又或是神父的大力邀請，在此特別多謝主顯堂區神父和兄弟姊妹的參與，及東涌天主教中、小學校監、校長們的支持。今年也邀請了參加表演的主日學小朋友一起聚餐，好讓他們感受堂區活動的氣氛。最後夏神父為大家唱的一首廣東歌，更令大家驚喜。

今年訂餐預計與出席人數有距離，以致食物供不應求，但見各位都十分包容，在此向各位兄弟姊妹致歉，明年定會設法改善。