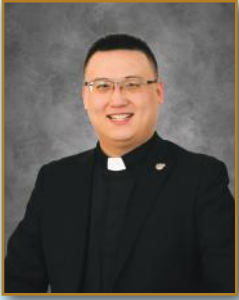




A Journey of Hope and Renewal, this Ash Wednesday St. Joseph's Church

FR. ANDREW WANG, SVD



February is a time full of blessings and grace. As we continue to celebrate the Lunar New Year, we are still filled with hope and anticipation for the new year of 2025, praying and giving thanks for health and peace, and may we find joy and grace in the love of the Lord.

In 2025, as our church celebrates a jubilee year, each one of us is invited to become a “pilgrim of hope,” for “hope does not put us to shame.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1817, tells us: “Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness; placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.” In the face of a world filled with war and a time of ongoing pandemics, hope is a virtue that every Christian should treasure—it is necessary for our journey toward the eternal kingdom and the hope for success. Saint Paul writes in his Letter to the Romans, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13). The hope of Christians is built upon our faith, and our hope is rooted in our love. Without faith, hope becomes a Utopian fantasy, and such a life of faith brings us to shame; a life rich in hope is built upon our acts of love—helping and respecting those around us, and caring for and loving all of creation—this is what fills our lives with hope.

Our life is a journey, and in the face of the transient and fleeting reality, we must always maintain sufficient patience and calmness, continually rooting our lives in Jesus Christ, and allowing the direction of our lives to be fixed in our eternal kingdom. This will enable us to endure the suffering and tribulations of this world, so that the joy of eternal happiness can become our present joy. As Pope Francis has stated, “Those who are patient are the good weavers, for they always yearn for peace.” Becoming a sign of peace is a perfect embodiment of our hopeful virtue and a mark of our unwavering commitment to fulfilling our Christian mission. We will pray for peace in times of war, for stability and unity in the world, for the release of the hatred in our hearts, and for those who are unfree and persecuted for their faith. This will be our mission on the journey of hope.

As our church prepares to enter the season of Lent, it is also a journey filled with hope, a wonderful opportunity for everyone to align themselves with the jubilee celebrated by our church. Through fasting, prayer, pilgrimage, and the sacrament of reconciliation, we prepare ourselves with renewed hearts to welcome the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Ash Wednesday liturgy is our Christian declaration to the world that the value of our lives and our journey of faith are rooted in Jesus Christ. The hope and faith we carry are manifested in our loving actions, and the imposition of ashes serves to remind us that our unashamed hope comes from Christ. By engaging in fasting and prayer, we ready ourselves to face the challenges of life, firmly believing that our God is with us. Approaching our brothers and sisters in need with a spirit of whole service, and extending sincere hands to acceptance and support the smallest among us is the true essence of Lent.

In our St. Joseph Church, every one of us who comes from around the world is a joyful pilgrim, carrying hope and love with us, whether we have traveled far or are nearby. We enjoy the presence and witness of faith between individuals, families, and communities, sharing each other’s happiness and joy, while also bearing one another’s pain and struggles, because we are a family of love. The pastoral team of St. Joseph Parish and the leaders of various groups are committed to building a spiritual parish family, allowing everyone to experience a sense of spiritual home and belonging. This is also the pastoral principle upheld by our parish priest, Father Joseph Tan Leitao, SVD. While the pastoral team focus on constructing and renewing the parish environment and buildings, they also enrich the spiritual life of the parish, helping each community to become increasingly rooted in Jesus Christ in both spirituality and faith, thus serving our neighborhood and our family well, because each of us is a beloved child of God. Let us join hands and shoulders together in faith, carrying hope towards love, for only in Him is the root of charity.

New Year's Blast! Birthday Bash!

As the New Year commences, the Saturday Community celebrated with a simple Thanksgiving lunch and birthday wishes for Sr. Vera Wen Yuan, SSpS, and for the Sisters of the community, joined by our ever-supportive Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Joseph Tan SVD. Highlighting this message from Sr. Vera:



“Thank you for remembering my family in your wishes. Being here at St. Joseph, this place is now my home, and YOU are now my family.”

We thank God for gifting us Sr. Vera, a bubbly, dedicated, and great communicator. May God continue to shower His blessings upon her mission in her congregation and in the parish. This Jubilee Year encourages us to journey with great hope; let us pilgrim together as one family, trusting and anchored in Christ's love for us.

Article by: Brenda Galfo (Saturday Commuty)



A RAY OF HOPE



Hope in God is a hope that will never disappoint. As we welcome the year 2025, His Holiness Pope Francis has declared it a Jubilee Year centered on the theme “PILGRIMS OF HOPE.” As he beautifully expressed, “We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and far-sighted vision.”

In light of this message of hope, the most important thing right now is to focus on getting better, because when we choose hope, everything is possible. True hope comes from God; He is the Creator of all things, including hope. Hope teaches us humility and perseverance. This Holy Year is a great year of forgiveness, healing, reconciliation, and conversion. As the prophet Isaiah says, “They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength (Is 40:31).”

As we journey into the season of Lent, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this penitential season—a time of fasting and prayer. “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Let us reflect on this season, which is considered a time of penance, reflection, and fasting. It is a solemn Christian observance in the liturgical calendar, commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan. During Lent, let us contemplate, practice, and apply in our daily lives prayer, fasting, almsgiving, reconciliation, and personal renewal that enrich our lives and – through God’s grace and our cooperation with it – empower us for self-change.

By praying, meditating, reading Scripture or other inspirational materials, attending Holy Mass, other sacraments and worship services, and, by conscious acts of forgiveness, we can deepen our faith. Ephesians 4:22-24 says, “Put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God’s way in righteousness and holiness of truth.”

Let us pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens us in our faith, helping us recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives and transforming us.

By: Ma. Fe Cabangal (Apostleship of Prayer)

Lent: A Journey of Hope and Renewal

Lent: A Journey of Hope and Renewal



Praise be to the Lord! As we approach the sacred season of Lent, marked by Ash Wednesday on March 5, 2025, we are called to embark on a profound journey of faith and self-reflection. This solemn period offers us a precious opportunity to unite ourselves with Christ as He walks the path to His ultimate sacrifice, leading us toward the joyous celebration of His resurrection at Easter.

Lent is not merely a time of solemnity and repentance but also a season of transformation and renewal. It beckons us to contemplate our own shortcomings and seek forgiveness for our sins, while also inspiring us to aspire toward greater holiness and virtue. Through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, we are invited to

deepen our connection with our lives. Lent serves as a spiritual compass, guiding us toward a more intimate relationship with Christ.

“Dear God, Heavenly Father, look upon us and hear our prayers during this Holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help us to discipline our bodies and to be renewed in spirit. Without You, we can do nothing. By Your Spirit, help us to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your Will.”

God bless us, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prepared by: Myrna G. Vallanta (FPG)

SOWERS CHARISMATIC COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 33 YEARS OF FAITH AND LOVE



The Sowers Charismatic Community marked its 33rd anniversary in a heartwarming celebration at Harborview. Themed “Rooted in Faith, Growing in Love: A Journey Guided by the Holy Spirit,” the event reflected the community’s enduring commitment to spiritual growth and unity.

The celebration began with a Thanksgiving Mass, setting the tone for a day filled with gratitude and fellowship. Members gathered in prayer, giving thanks for three decades of blessings and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their journey as a faith community. As the hosts and guests arrived at the venue, the atmosphere buzzed with joy and anticipation. Smiles, laughter, and warm greetings filled the room as attendees reunited, sharing stories and reflecting on the community’s journey. A welcoming address by Coordinator Daisy Pardilla officially opened the event. In her message, she expressed gratitude to the members, leaders, and spiritual advisers who have played a pivotal role in nurturing the community.

Assistant Coordinator Mary Ann Marasigan followed with a presentation on the history of the Sowers Charismatic Community. Her heartfelt recounting of the group’s humble beginnings and its growth over the years resonated deeply with attendees. From small gatherings to becoming a vibrant spiritual family, the story of the Sowers is a testament to their faith and collective effort.

Rev. Father Joseph Tan, the community’s spiritual adviser, then led the opening prayer and blessing of the food. His words of inspiration reminded everyone of the significance of their shared journey, emphasizing the need to remain rooted in faith and guided by the Holy Spirit.

The celebration continued with a sumptuous lunch, where members shared not just meals but also fellowship. It was a time for reflection and strengthening bonds, as members recounted their experiences and expressed gratitude for the community that has become their second family.

After lunch, the ministerial groups of the Sowers took the stage for their presentations. These creative and heartfelt performances showcased the diversity of talents within the community, bringing joy and inspiration to all in attendance. Whether through song, dance, or spoken word, each presentation reflected the shared love and faith that bind the Sowers together.

Another highlight of the program was the presentation of plaques of appreciation and certificates to recognize the dedication and service of members who have contributed to the community’s mission. These awards underscored the values of humility and selflessness that the Sowers have always upheld.

The day concluded with a community picture-taking session, capturing the joy and unity of the Sowers. Sister Jomelie Basa closed the program with a heartfelt prayer, offering thanks for the day’s success and asking for continued blessings on the community’s journey.

The 33rd-anniversary celebration was a testament to the enduring strength of the Sowers Charismatic Community. Rooted in faith and growing in love, their journey guided by the Holy Spirit continues to inspire and uplift all who are part of it.

Article written by: Cris Siniguan (SOWERS)



Celebrating the Yuletide Season

The Yuletide season, also known as the Christmas season, celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. It begins during Advent Season, leading us to the joyful celebration of Christmas Day, in preparation for an imminent Second Coming of Christ. Jesus is the reason for this season. As we face the new year with gratitude in our hearts, may our hopes and dreams, aligning with God's will, turn into reality, and may all our efforts and hard work lead to great achievements, trusting in God.

Here in our home away from home, St. Joseph's Church, the spirit of the Yuletide season is present in every corner of the church. Here are some of the highlights:

Christmas Carolling: All communities participated every Sunday in December, following their respective schedules:

Morning: Apostleship of Prayer

Afternoon:

1. 1st Sunday: Filipino Catholic Group
2. 2nd Sunday: Sons and Daughters of the Black Nazarene
3. 3rd Sunday: Sowers Charismatic Community
4. 4th Sunday: Legion of Mary
5. 5th Sunday: Filipino Prayer Group

Advent Recollection was in that aims to keep God's word in our heart.

Tallest Christmas Tree: Our parish installed the tallest Christmas tree taller than the usual Christmas Tree inside the church where everyone loved to take photos. Thanks, Fr. Joseph!

Simbang Gabi 2024: From December 15-23 at 9 P.M. a hot meal was served afterward. Thank you so much to everyone for your continued support and efforts, especially Bukas Loob sa Diyos with the Chinese Community and SJCC with the Filipino Communities.

Christmas party: A festive gathering was held every Sunday have celebration in different communities.

Christmas Midnight Masses: On December 24, extra Masses were held in the carpark, in addition to the regular Sunday Mass schedules during Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Christmas Prayer Concert: Themed 'Pilgrims of Hope,' this event took place on December 26. It was the first-ever concert held by the communities, combined with prayers. Thank you to everyone and to all those who made this event possible.

Thanksgiving Mass/New Year Countdown: on December 31 at 10:45 PM.

Article written by: Irmalyn Alvarez Ecol (Filipino Catholic Group)



FCG on Advent Recollection with Fr. Jerry Perocho

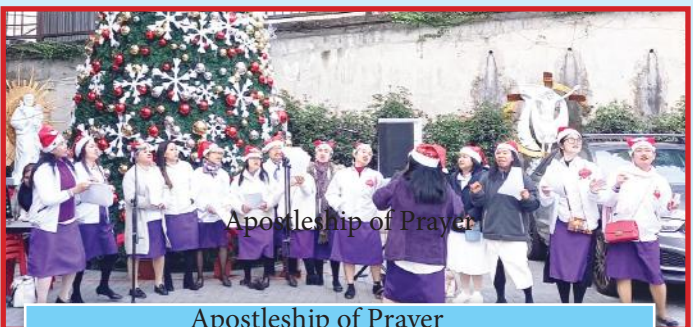


1st night of Simbang Gabi with Fr. Joseph Tan



FCG on Christmas Day with Sr. Vera and Fr. Jim

Christmas Carolling 2024



Apostleship of Prayer



Thanksgiving Mass / Lunar New Year



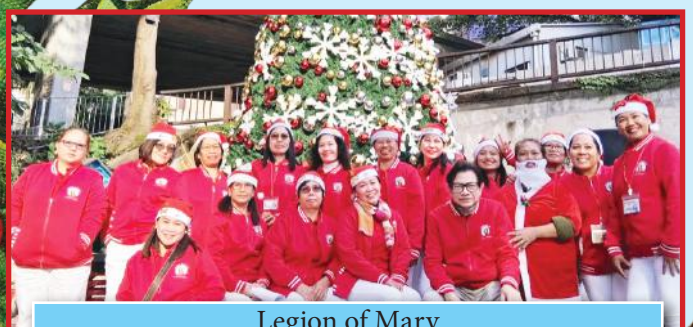
Filipino Catholic Group



Sons and Daughters of Black Nazarene



Sowers Charismatic Community



Legion of Mary



Filipino Prayer Group



Christmas Prayer Concert



Audiences/Volunteers



Saint Joseph's Community Choir



Chinese Community Choir



Apostleship of Prayer



Filipino Catholic Group



Filipino Prayer Group



Legion of Mary



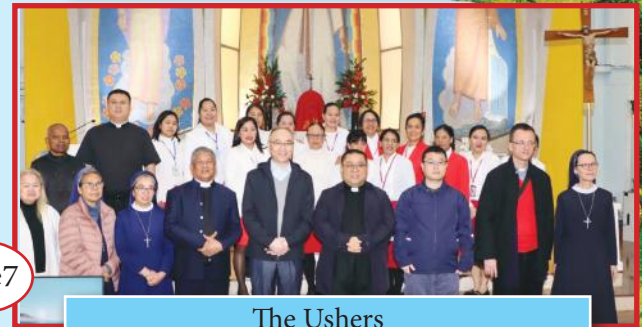
Saturday Community



Sons and Daughters of Black Nazarene



Sowers Charismatic Community



The Ushers

Prayer for Hope and Renewal

Heavenly Father,

As we gather this Ash Wednesday, we thank You for the gift of this jubilee year, a time of grace and renewal. We come before You with humble hearts, seeking Your guidance and strength on our journey of faith.

Lord, instill in us a spirit of hope as we reflect on our lives and acknowledge our shortcomings. Help us to embrace this season of Lent with a commitment to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. May we be renewed in spirit, drawing closer to You and to one another as a community of believers.

In this special year, may we experience Your abundant mercy and forgiveness. Let our hearts be transformed as we recognize the Risen Christ in our midst, inspiring us to share this hope with others. May our actions reflect Your love, fostering unity and compassion within our parish and beyond.

Guide us, O Lord, as we walk this path of renewal, trusting in Your promises and the strength that comes from You. With each step, may we grow in faith, hope, and love, and forever be pilgrims of hope in our journey together.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer entry by: Arlene Loable Phoda (Filipino Prayer Group)

Praise be to the Lord! As we approach the sacred season of Lent, marked by Ash Wednesday, we are called to embark on a profound journey of faith and self-reflection. This solemn period offers us a precious opportunity to unite ourselves with Christ as He walks the path to His ultimate sacrifice, leading us toward the joyous celebration of His resurrection at Easter.

Lent is not merely a time of solemnity and repentance but also a season of transformation and renewal. It beckons us to contemplate our own shortcomings and seek forgiveness for our sins, while also inspiring us to aspire toward greater holiness and virtue. Through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, we are invited to deepen our connection with our lives. Lent serves as a spiritual compass, guiding us toward a more intimate relationship with Christ.

“Dear God, Heavenly Father, look upon us and hear our prayers during this Holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help us to discipline our bodies and to be renewed in spirit. Without You, we can do nothing. By Your Spirit, help us to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your Will.”

God bless us, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prepared by: Myrna G. Vallanta (FPG)

Lent



我尊敬的姐夫

前言—本堂是香港其中一間能舉行出殯儀式的聖堂，本通訊會陸續邀請亡者家人跟讀者分享他們對已故家人的思念和對永恆生命的感受。本期的內容來自郭嘉祥醫生的家人，郭醫生的出殯祈禱於去年12月10日上午在本堂舉行。

郭嘉祥醫生是我姐夫。中學時我讀書很差，他會主動幫我輔導，那個年代一般人是沒有補習這回事，但他很用心慢慢教我，真是很感激他。後來到我中學畢業，他建議我去當護士。我完全沒信心，但他很用心鼓勵我，還親手幫我拿養和醫院的申請信。之後他帶我去大嶼山的診所，跟著他學習。一大早有很多病人，他還沒吃早餐就開始工作，中間叫外賣，只能站著吃。病人會拿些雞蛋或其他東西來看醫生，我還見過姐夫經常看完病還會給病人一些錢帶回去，之後要去不同地方看病，最後又回自己診所工作。下班回到家，遇到病人打電話來又要急急忙忙出診，我特別記得他那兩個袋子重得不得了，他叫我背一個，差點都走不動。病人通常住在偏僻、車也進不去的地方，要走一段路才能到病人家。這些病人大多是行動不方便的老人家，曾經半夜打電話來請姐夫出診，還叫我一塊去，黑暗中都不知道在哪裡，只見到病人躺在床上流著血，真有點嚇人。姐夫叫我拿著手電筒，他一針一針地縫合傷口，動作乾淨俐落。病人及家人感激不已，姐夫還跟他們聊天，關心他們發生了什麼事，問要不要幫忙。另外，他出診時每逢遇到獨居長者，他都會詢問長者有沒有還未交的繳費單，如果有就會幫他們交。他提過如果我們有能力的話，都要盡量將歡樂帶給人。姐夫在大嶼山行醫四十多年，情願不賺大錢，而選擇默默地留在大嶼山工作。

經歷了一年艱苦的磨練，結果我真的成為了護士。我還記得在姐夫最後的日子我去照顧他，他感謝我，其實我更感謝他當年叫我去當護士，我才有今天照顧他、報答他的機會。姐夫，你已經盡力及非常精彩地走過你的人生旅途，希望你為我們代禱，我們將來在天國重聚。





January 11
Salazar Camille Elise Higgins

January 17
Chan Emilia Ling-Wun Doreen

January 26
Amy Riterva Apilado



January 11
Salazar Camille Elise Higgins



January 17
Chan Emilia Ling-Wun Doreen



IT'S OUT NOW!!!

We, the SOWERS COMMUNITY MUSIC MINISTRY are happy and excited to announce that our very own recorded songs are now available and out on Spotify for everyone to listen.

Please open this link and share:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/4JH8PK6NLB1m-jBFKRyRyDA?si=JvWuyg2rQz-Mcil2cqeuWA>

To God the highest honor. 🙏🙏🙏
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BIBLE VERSES

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:15)

聖經金句

谷1:15 「時期已滿，天主的國臨近了，你們悔改，信從福音罷！」

歡迎堂區教友投稿

- 1) 3月主題：在主恩中尋找希望
- 2) 字數：不超 650字
- 3) 格式：Word file
- 4) 相片：若文章附相片，上限3張，必須屬於作者的相片(JPG), 上限 3.5MB。
- 5) 截止日期：2/09/2025
- 6) 郵寄地址：請把文章註明「3月投稿」郵寄到 stjosephs.hk@gmail.com
- 7) 通訊組保留任何修改及刊登權利

Writers
Wanted

**Parishioners are welcome to submit articles for the church newsletter.
Please take note of the following guidelines:**

- 1) Theme for March: **Finding Hope in God's Grace**
- 2) Word limit: Not more than 650 words
- 3) Form: Word file
- 4) Photo: 1-3 pictures only, with a maximum size of 3.5MB
- 5) Deadline **Feb, 09, 2025**
- 6) Email: Please submit the article to stjosephs.hk@gmail.com with the subject line 'Article for March 2025.'
- 7) All rights are reserved by the church, including the selection of articles, photos, and any necessary adjustments.

In Loving Memory

Funeral / Memorial Mass:

January 11 Li Kwok Choi

January 13 King Lily

January 14 Vincent, Pamela Hanifa

January 18 Yuen Wai Kin William

January 20 Cheng Wing Kwong

January 21 Hwang Johnny

January 23 Hong Joe Tak

January 25 Chan Kin Sang Kenson

January 28 Florence Joy Lang



希望的旅程和聖灰禮儀 的更新聖若瑟堂

文/王守照 神父

二月是充滿祝福和恩典的時刻，在我們繼續慶祝農曆新春佳節的時候，我們依然滿懷著對2025新年的希望和期盼，祈禱和感恩，願新的一年裡健康和平安，在主的愛內喜樂和充滿恩典。

2025作為我們教會的禧年，我們每一個人都被邀請成為“希望的朝聖者”，因為《望德不叫人蒙羞》。天主教教理第1817條告訴我們：“望德是超性的德行，藉著望德我們期盼天國和永生，視之為我們的幸福；我們所信靠的是基督的許諾，所依賴的不是我們自己的力量，而是聖神恩寵的助佑。”面對當下充滿戰爭的世界、疫情不斷的時代，望德是我們每個基督徒懷有的德行，在我們走向永生天國的路上，所必要的美德和成功的希望。聖保祿在羅馬人書中寫到，“願賜望德的天主，因著你們的信心，使你們充滿各種喜樂和平安，使你們因著聖神的德能，富於望德。”（羅 15:13）基督徒的希望是建立在我們的信德之上，而我們的望德也根植於我們的愛德。因為沒有信德的希望是一種烏托邦的幻想，這樣的信仰生活讓我們蒙羞；而那富於望德的生活是建立在我們愛的行為上，對周遭他人的幫助和尊重，對世界萬物的關注和愛護，才能讓我們的生活充滿希望。

我們的人生便是一場旅行，面對現實的短暫和即逝，我們依然要時刻保持著足夠的耐心和冷靜，時刻將自己的生命扎根於耶穌基督，也讓我們的生命方向定格在我們的永生國度裡，才能夠忍受著世間的濟苦和不安，好讓永生的福樂成為我們當下的喜樂。正如教宗方濟各所宣稱的，“那些有耐心的人是美善的編織者，因為他們始終渴望和平。”成為和平的标记是我们怀有望德的完美体现，也是我们坚定不移的履行我们基督徒使命的记号。为战争的和平祈祷，为世间的安定团结祈祷，为放下你我心中的仇恨祈祷，为那不自由、受迫害的信仰团体祈祷，將會是我們希望旅途上的使命。

在我們教會即將開始的四旬期，也是一個充滿希望的旅程，更是很好的幫助每一個人與我們教會所慶祝的禧年相契合，藉著我們的齋戒、祈禱、朝聖，和告解聖事來讓我們以一顆更新的心靈去迎接耶穌基督的復活。聖灰禮儀日是我們基督徒向世界宣告我們的生命價值和信仰旅程根植於我們的耶穌基督，我們所懷有的希望和信德在我們有愛的行為中展現出來，以擦聖灰來提醒我們不蒙羞的望德源於基督，靠著我們的齋戒和祈禱來迎接我們生活中的挑戰，並始終堅信我們的天主於我們同在。以全然服務的精神去面對那些需要我們幫助的弟兄姊妹們，以誠摯接納的雙手去扶持身邊最小的弟兄姊妹們，這便是四旬期的真諦。

在我們聖若瑟教堂，來至於世界各地的我們每一位都是喜樂的朝聖者，無論是遠道而來的還是近在咫尺的都懷揣著希望與愛，在人與人之間，家庭與家庭之間，團體與團體之間，享受著彼此的臨在和信仰的見證，分享著彼此的幸福和快樂，也分擔著彼此的苦痛和遭遇，因為我們是愛的大家庭。聖若瑟堂區的牧靈團隊和不同團體的領導人都在致力於建設一個屬靈的堂區家庭，讓每一個人都能夠感受到心靈的家園和精神的歸所，這也是堂區本堂司鐸若瑟談雷濤神父所堅持的牧靈原則。在建設和更新堂區的環境和建築之余，也豐富著堂區的靈性生活，幫助每一個團體在靈修上和信仰上不斷根植於耶穌基督，從而更好的服務於社區和家庭，因為我們每一個人都是天主所愛的子女。讓我們攜手並肩一起在信德中，懷著希望向愛朝聖，因為只有祂才是愛德的根源。

