

St. Joseph's Church

HOME
AWAY FROM
HOME

Dec, 2025



Christmas Greetings

Dear brothers and sisters,

Fr. Paul Chen



As we begin a new liturgical year and enter the sacred season of Advent, our hearts are drawn once more toward that beautiful promise: Christ, our hope, comes.

This sacred time marks not only the beginning of a new liturgical year, but also provides a moment to pause and give thanks for the year that has passed.

It is a year of blessings for our parish. We offer heartfelt thanksgiving to God for the many graces we have received as a parish family. We give thanks for: the celebration of the sacraments—baptisms, first communions, confirmations, weddings, and the Masses that nourish our souls, the service and generosity of so many parishioners who shared their time, gifts, and prayers, and the sense of community and unity that continues to strengthen our parish. To all who have contributed in visible and hidden ways—thank you. Your faith, love, and dedication have been a true witness of the presence of Christ among us.

Advent is not merely a countdown to Christmas, it is a season of preparation, of quiet waiting and joyful expectation for the One who is already among us and yet always coming anew.

In a world that often feels shrouded in darkness—troubled by conflict, anxiety, and uncertainty, the proclamation of Advent is a radical act of faith. It also is a declaration that our hope is not a vague wish, but a person. Our hope is not a distant dream but a living presence. Our Lord comes to meet us personally—in prayer, in the sacraments, in one another, and especially in the poor, the lonely, and the forgotten. He comes not only to dwell in Bethlehem but in every heart that makes room for Him.

The world prepares for Christmas with bustling sales and festive lights, and while there is joy in these traditions, we are yet called to a different, deeper kind of preparation. Advent invites us to quiet our hearts and make a spiritual journey to the manger, to cultivate a holy stillness, and to clear away the inner clutter so that we may truly welcome the Prince of Peace. Inwardly, we are called to repentance, to prayer, and to silence—to open our hearts to God's mercy and peace. Outwardly, we are called to acts of love and joy—to let our hope shine in kindness, generosity, and forgiveness.

May this new liturgical year be a time to deepen our faith, strengthen our unity, and become visible witnesses of God's hope. I would like to take this opportunity, together with Fr. Joseph and Fr. Jerry, to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May peace, joy, love and happiness be with you as well as during the New Year.



of renewal for our parish. May it and inspire us to become ever more present in the world. Let us welcome Christmas dawn, our hearts Lord with joy.

opportunity, together with Fr. Joseph and Fr. Jerry, to wish you all a Merry Christmas. May God bless you abundantly with peace and joy during this Christmas Season. Merry Christmas!

HAIL MARY



H – Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
A – Admirable you are, pleasing and lovely.
I – Inspire us always as we pray the Holy Rosary.
L – Loyal and devoted to our God almighty.

M – Magnificent mother, a faithful servant and holy.
A – Amazing mother who assent to the will of God with glory.
R – Radiance smile on your face that is fascinating and calmly.
Y – Yearning that we may follow your passion faithfully.

Written by: Irmalyn Alvarez Ecol (Filipino Catholic Group)

Parade at Our Lady of Fatima, Cheung Chau Island



St. Joseph's Church Family at Our Lady of Fatima Church with Fr. Jojo Garcia



ROSARY GATHERING 2025



First Mystery: The Sowers Charismatic Community



Second Mystery: Apostleship of Prayer



Third Mystery: Filipino Catholic Group



Fourth Mystery: Black Nazarene Group



Fifth Mystery: Filipino Prayer Group



Host: Legion of Mary



Legion of Mary Choir

November 2025 Birthday Bash

- ★
"Every event or celebration it is an opportunity for us to be grateful and offer thanksgiving."
Rev. Fr. Paul Chen

St. Joseph's Church Assistant Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Paul Chen once again celebrated his birthday with the Saturday Communities: LOM-Door of Heaven Presidium, Divine Mercy Choir, and St. Joseph the Worker's Community, which hosted the event. They enjoyed a simple luncheon gathering featuring a sumptuous variety of food, messages from three community coordinators and representatives, joyful group presentations, and creative gifts for Fr. Paul and the other celebrants.

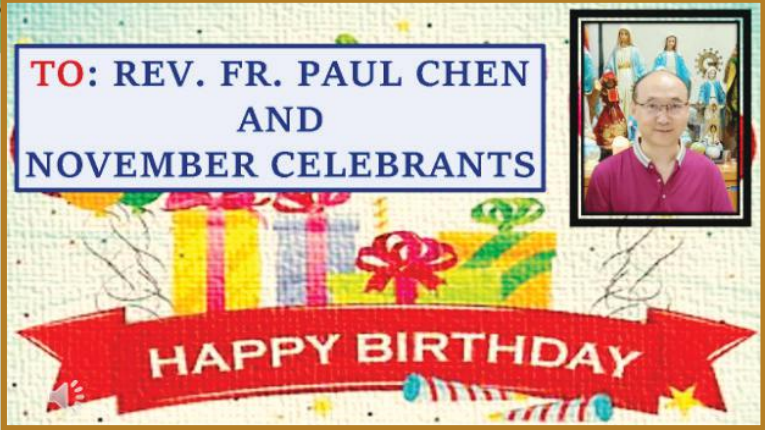
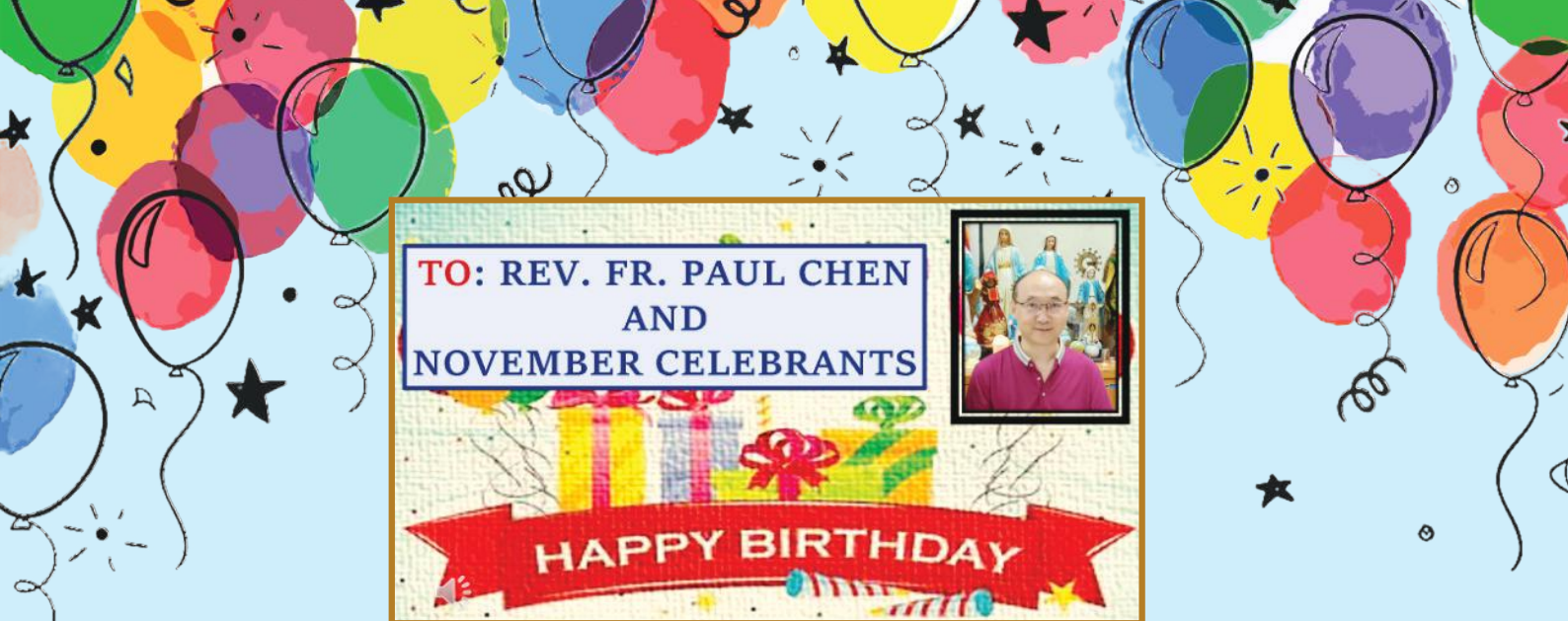
Fr. Paul, we wish you good health and abundant blessings always. We thank God for giving us in you a steadfast guide in our service. Thank you for teaching us to appreciate life and remain grateful. Happy, Happy Birthday, Fr. Paul! Happy Birthday to all November celebrants!

Article by: Brenda G. Galfo (St. Joseph The Worker's Community)

Acknowledging the presence of Sr. Vera, Sr. Weronika, and Sister Anastella a missionary aspirant from Tanzania, Bro. Alvin FPG Coordinator. Thank you for your support always.



With members of Saturday's 3 Communities: LOM-Door of Heaven Px, Divine Mercy Choir and St. Joseph the Worker's Community.



Fr. Paul Chen's Birthday



Christ - Our Hope - Comes!

Hope is an odd concept in our culture today. In a season when modern culture celebrates a man in a red suit with a white beard, we as Christians must remember that our hope rests not in presents, physical health, political peace, or social justice, but in God's hands. Our hope comes with the birth of Jesus Christ and through the resurrection of our Savior. That is where we find our hope. That is why we sing, why we worship, and why we can smile. Christ, our Hope, comes not just to the greatest among us, but to ALL THE PEOPLE! He comes to the outcasts, those who do not feel they fit in, those who are not as educated, and those outside the usual circle. The poor and the rich, ALL people can celebrate hope this season because the Newborn Child is our King who still reigns from His throne in heaven.

The Church teaches us that "the one who has hope lives differently." Christ's promise of salvation does not mean that we will be spared from suffering. Rather, the promise of salvation ensures that even in the darkest moments of our lives, we will be given the strength to persevere. By virtue of Christian hope, we can face any challenge or trial. When the seas of life swell and we are battered by the waves, hope allows us to remain anchored in the heart of God. May we hold fast to Christ, our hope, from the beginning of life to its very end.

Godly hope is not passive optimism but an active belief that, in partnership with God, the world can be made better. Know that the Lord God is with us in all our needs. Do not lose faith, for He is listening. Hope serves as the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19).

The angel said, "Good news that will cause great joy for all people." (Luke 2:10-14)

In other words: Hope.

Prepared by: Myrna G. Vallanta (Filipino Prayer Group)



Finding Hope this Advent Season



For 14 years, Saint Joseph's Church has been my refuge, a place where I have navigated challenges that shaped my faith and resilience. I came seeking comfort but discovered a community that encouraged growth in unexpected ways.

Throughout this journey, I faced trials that sometimes left me feeling disheartened and alone. Yet, amidst the uncertainty, a flicker of hope remained alive. I held onto the promise of our Savior's birth, reminding myself that light can shine through even the darkest times.

In my search for connection, I found the Filipino Prayer Group Community. This group transformed my sense of isolation into a shared journey of faith and hope. Their warmth enveloped me, allowing me to express my struggles and joys among those who utterly understood my path. Together, we created an atmosphere of support and prayer that uplifted my spirit and strengthened our collective faith.

The message of hope resonates deeply in Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing." This verse has become a source of strength, reminding me that hope is a steady anchor, even amid turbulent times.

As we enter this Advent season and prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, I am reminded of the importance of supporting one another. Our shared stories and experiences unite us, creating a mosaic of resilience and hope. In today's chaotic world, love, peace, and renewal empower us to shine brightly, not just for ourselves but also for those seeking illumination on their paths.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our newsletter contributors. Your dedication enriches our community and spreads joy to our readers. As we approach the end of the year, I wish each of you a season filled with peace and happiness, and a year ahead brimming with hope.

My journey at Saint Joseph's Church has taught me that challenges shape us, but it is our faith that sustains us. As we await the joy of His birth, let us embrace the hope He brings and share it within our communities. Together, we can affirm that Christ's love guides us, filling our hearts with joy and lighting the way for all who seek it.

Article by: Arlene Loable Phoda (Parish Newsletter Chief Editor)



**Grateful Reflection from Our
Congregation at the
St. Joseph's Church**



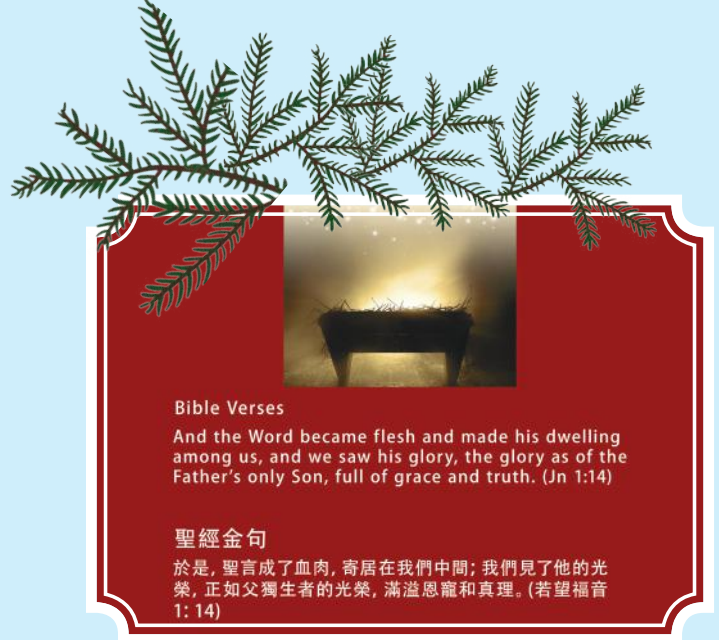
**THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER
WARM AND LOVING YEAR.**

Your dedication to our faith and efforts in bringing our community together have fostered friendships and created memorable events that we truly cherish.

The blessings we've experienced in our gatherings, prayers and shared moments of worship have strengthened our spiritual bonds.

The memories we've made will stay with us and we look forward to sharing our "Home away from Home" with our family in the Philippines, reminding them of the faith and love that unite us.

We are incredibly grateful for the parish priests, nuns and staffs, esp. FR. Joseph Tan for all the support and guidance!!



Bible Verses

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (Jn 1:14)

聖經金句

於是，聖言成了血肉，寄居在我們中間；我們見了他的光榮，正如父獨生者的光榮，滿溢恩寵和真理。(若望福音 1: 14)

歡迎堂區教友投稿

- 1) 1月主題：在起初已有聖言
- 2) 字數：不超過800字
- 3) 格式：Word file
- 4) 相片：若文章附相片，必須是屬於作者的相片 (JPG), 上限3.5MB
- 5) 截止日期：13/12/2025
- 6) 郵寄地址：請把文章註明「1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

Parishioners are welcome to submit article for church newsletter.

- 1) Theme of Jan: **In the Beginning was the Word**
- 2) Word limit: Not more than 800 words
- 3) Form: Word file
- 4) Photo: A maximum of 3.5MB
- 5) Deadline: 13/12/2025
- 6) Email: Please submit the article with subject as "Article for **Jan, 2026**" to stjosephs.hk@gmail.com
- 7) All right reserved to the church including selection of articles, photos and any adjustments.

原創福傳舞劇 主 慈 頌

見證花開花落，
歷經四季輪轉；
感念人間天使，
恆盼天主慈愛。

主辦：樂舞坊

藝術總監 / 編舞：顏麗娜
宗教顧問：陳志明神父
神師：談雷濤神父
藝術顧問：蔡國波
音樂總監 / 作曲：鄭汝森博士
製作經理：陳嘉儀
舞台監督：范文恩
燈光設計：曾梓俊
佈景設計：林海蓀

表演嘉賓團體：

寶血兒童村 · 九龍華仁書院 · 沐恩聖詠團
天年一族 · 聖十字架堂耶穌之友聖詠團

演出期間部分時間可能有香氣效果。建議購票前可因應個人情況自行評估決定。
適合3歲或以上觀眾欣賞。

地點：西灣河文娛中心劇院 日期：2025年12月25-27日 晚上7:30 票價\$350

門票由2025年11月25日起在城市售票網發售

網上購票：www.urbtix.hk 電話購票：3166 1288

流動購票應用程式：URBTIX (Android, HarmonyOS及iPhone/iPad版)，
票務查詢及客戶服務：3166 1100 (每日上午10時至晚上8時) 節目查詢：9080 4004



支持機構：



SL media

The Lord's Mercy

Christmas Presentation of the Evangelization Dance Drama
"The Lord's Mercy"

Father Joseph Tan Serves as the Spiritual Director

Submitted by Danny Anthony Shiu



The Nor Chinese Dance Studio will present its original evangelization dance drama, *The Lord's Mercy*, on December 25, 26, and 27 at the Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre. Rooted in Catholic spirituality, the performance follows the cycle of the seasons and the stages of life—birth, aging, illness, and death—using dance to express the truths of life and faith. Ms. Lai-Nor Ngan is the artistic director and choreographer. Dr. Anthony Cheng is the music director and composer. Father Dominic Chan, parish priest of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, is the religious advisor. Father Joseph Tan, our parish priest and the production's spiritual director, warmly invites all

parishioners to attend and support the performances.

Ms. Ngan, Dr. Cheng, and Father Joseph worked together in 2018 on the musical drama *St. Joseph Freinademetz: The First Saint to Ever Serve in Hong Kong*. That production won several awards at international film festivals and received the Capax Dei Foundation Award for Evangelization at the 2019 *Mirabile Dictu International Catholic Film Festival* in Rome. It was the first time this honor was given to a work from the Chinese-speaking world.

Father Joseph describes the dance drama as both an artistic work and a spiritual journey. He says the production aims to bring parish life into the wider community as a form of evangelization. The creative team has invited people from many walks of life in Hong Kong to participate, especially those who are disadvantaged and marginalized, so that they can join in and support the Church's mission of evangelization. Through the changing seasons we see life's fragility and challenges, and we also experience how God's mercy is with us at every moment. As the spiritual director, Father Joseph seeks to keep faith at the heart of the work so audiences not only enjoy the dance but also encounter God. He hopes viewers will discover God's loving presence through the Father's gifts, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the teaching of Jesus Christ, and that this will lead them to live with gratitude, peace, joy, and good health.

The production team hopes the piece will help the Catholic Church in Hong Kong to share its spiritual witness beyond parish walls and into society, reaching people across different social groups. The timing coincides with the Diocese's celebrations of 185 years since the founding of the Catholic Mission in Hong Kong and the 80th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong. The team hopes the play can make a small contribution to evangelization in Hong Kong. Many volunteers from the charity group Blessing and Love Society have given strong support to the production.

Father Joseph also shares a personal reflection on the piece. In short, the drama uses dance to show the four seasons and the stages of every person's life—birth, aging, illness, and death—and highlights the challenges of each stage. At the same time, each stage of life, whether clear or hidden, holds the great goodness, deep peace, and true joy that God gives. Most importantly, many people overlook or fail to notice that God's mercy is with us at every stage and every moment of life. It is a deep sorrow when we miss that truth.

One of the dancers, Ms. Flora Lam, who also serves in our parish's Bereavement Ministry, says her service with the deceased has helped her understand that death is not an end but a passage to eternal life. She is thankful to be able to perform at Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Christ, and she hopes the production will show that, despite life's ups and downs, the Lord's mercy never leaves us. She prays that the piece—through dance, music, and spiritual reflection—will be a blessing that brings comfort and renewal and helps audiences to rediscover God's lasting mercy in the light of Christmas.

主 慈 頌

福傳舞劇《主慈頌》聖誕上演
主任司鐸談雷濤神父擔任神師
投稿: Danny Anthony Shiu



由樂舞坊製作的原創福傳舞劇《主慈頌》將於本年12月25、26、27日晚上在西灣河文娛中心演出三場，該劇以天主教的靈修精神，循一年四季和人生的生老病死，藉舞蹈的形式，來詮釋和體悟人生和信仰的真諦。該舞劇由樂舞坊顏麗娜女士，擔任藝術總監及編舞，音樂總監鄭汝森博士負責原創配樂。而聖母無原罪主教座堂主任司鐸陳志明神父，擔任宗教顧問參與指導。而我們堂區的談雷濤神父則擔上了神師的責任。他也在此呼籲各位弟兄姊妹們，踴躍參加。

顏女士和鄭博士和談神父，曾於2018年共同合力創作音樂劇《愛福傳—香港第一位聖人聖福若瑟神父傳》。該劇當年在多個國際影展中屢獲殊榮，尤其是獲得了梵蒂岡的“傳教獎”。也是整個華人世界第一次獲得此獎項。

談神父表示，該舞劇不僅是一個藝術創作，更是一次靈性旅程。他說：「這個舞劇是以藝術形式，走出我們的堂區，走入社會中去福傳。並且在籌備和表演中，邀請了香港個階層的人仕。尤其是香港弱勢群體和低下階層的人仕。一同參與和支持今日香港的福傳工作，透過舞台呈現天主慈愛常在的信息。在四季的流轉中，我們看見生命的起伏與脆弱，但也感受到天主的慈愛如何在每一個時刻陪伴我們。作為神師，談神父亦希望能協助團隊在創作中，保持信仰的核心，讓觀眾不只是欣賞舞蹈，更能在其中遇見天主。並且在天主父懷著愛的恩賜，和天主聖神的奇妙帶領，並在天主子耶穌基督的諄諄教導下，在我們的生活中，去發現這些愛和天主臨在。好讓我們懷著感恩，去享受我們今世的平安、喜樂和健健康康的生活！」

整個劇組，亦希望通過此劇，能夠為香港天主教在香港社會，尤其是在此領域中，以天主教的靈修精神，“走出堂區，走入香港社會，面向香港各階層的人仕福傳”。適逢，香港教區慶祝開放185年，以及成立80年之喜。希望通過這個舞台劇，能夠為香港的福傳工作，作出些微貢獻。我們“福愛會”的眾多義工，也為此劇提供了全部的支持。

談神父也對此劇進行了個人的反省。可以總結為：此劇通過舞蹈，以一年四季的流轉，和我們每個人的人生不同階段：比如生老病死等，每個階段都有著起伏與強弱。但同時每個生命階段都或者明顯的，或者隱藏著天主放在那裡的大美好、大平安和大喜悅。更重要的是，很多人卻忽略了，或者沒有發現：天主的慈愛，在人生每一個階段和每一個時刻，都在陪伴著我們。可謂：人生憾事！

參演舞者之一林明月女士亦是本堂聖福若瑟善別小組的成員，她說：「我在聖若瑟堂為亡者服務時讓我體會到死亡並不是生命的終結，而是邁進永生的必經之路。這次我有幸在聖誕節這個天主降生的時刻演出《主慈頌》，希望能傳達無論生命如何起伏，主的慈愛從未離開的訊息。願這部舞劇透過舞蹈、音樂與靈性反思成為一份祝福，讓人心靈得著安慰與更新，讓觀眾在聖誕的光中重新體會主的慈愛常在。」



聖誕祝福

基督，我們的希望，即將來臨

陳中學神父

親愛的兄弟姐妹們：

當我們開始新的禮儀年，進入將臨期這神聖的季節時，我們的心再次聚焦於：基督，我們的希望，來臨了。

這神聖的時期不僅標誌著新禮儀年的開始，也是一個停下腳步、感恩過去一年恩典的時刻。對我們堂區而言，這是一個充滿祝福的一年。我們衷心感謝天主賜給我們堂區的種種恩寵。我們感謝：聖事的慶祝——洗禮、初領聖體、堅振、婚配，以及滋養我們靈魂的每一台感恩祭；感謝以服務、慷慨和祈禱奉獻出的時間與才華眾多教友；感謝那持續增長的團結和共融精神，使我們堂區更加健全和壯大。感謝對所有在明顯與默默奉獻的人。我謝謝你們。你們的信德、愛心與奉獻精神，真實地見證了基督在我們中間的臨在。

將臨期不僅僅是聖誕節的倒數計時，更是一個準備的時期，一個安靜等待與喜樂期盼的時期，盼望為那位已在我們中間、卻又永遠煥然一新的主的時期。

在這個時常籠罩於黑暗之中——飽受衝突、焦慮與不確定所困擾的世界，將臨期的宣告是一種激進的信德行為。這宣告同時表達出：我們的希望並非空想，而是一個活生生的人。我們的希望並非遙不可及的夢想，而是一個鮮活的臨在。我們的主親自來與我們相遇——在祈禱中、在聖事中、在彼此之間，尤其在貧困者、孤獨者與被遺忘的人身上。祂來臨，不僅是為了住在白冷，而是為了住在每一顆為祂騰出空間的心中。

世界以熙熙攘攘的促銷與璀璨的節日燈飾準備聖誕，雖然這些傳統充滿喜樂，但我們被召叫進入另一種、不同且更加深層的準備。將臨期邀請我們寧靜內心，進行一場前往馬槽靈性的朝聖。這是一段培養神聖安寧的時刻，一段清理內在雜念、真誠歡迎和平之主的時刻。內心深處，我們蒙召悔改、祈禱與靜默——開放心靈，迎接天主的仁慈與平安。外在方面，我們要實踐愛與喜樂之舉——讓我們的希望在善良、慷慨與寬恕中閃耀光芒。

願這新的禮儀年成為我們堂區革新的時刻，深化我們信德的時刻，鞏固我們的團結合一的時刻；并願它使我們成為天主在世間希望與臨在的更明顯的見證人。讓我們彼此祈禱，願聖誕來臨之際，我們的心都能喜樂地迎接主。

我謹藉此機會，與談神父、Fr. Jerry, 一同祝福大家聖誕快樂，新年蒙福！願天主在這個聖誕節和新的一年裡，豐富地賜予你們平安、喜樂、愛與幸福。

聖誕快樂，新年蒙福！

