

# St. Joseph's Church

HOME  
AWAY FROM  
HOME

Jan, 2026



## In the Beginning Was the Word: A Call to Grace at the Dawn of 2026

Rev. Fr. Joseph Leitao Tan, SVD



Dear brothers and sisters of our parish family,

As you open this January parish bulletin, we stand together at the threshold of 2026. At the beginning of this new year, let us quiet our hearts to listen to the sacred proclamation of Saint John the Apostle:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1-2)

This is not merely the opening of Scripture; it is the key to understanding time, our humanity, and God's plan. As we turn each page of the calendar, God has already prepared an abundance of grace for us from that eternal "beginning." This year is another step on the pilgrimage lovingly arranged by our Heavenly Father.

### The Sacred Rhythm of a Year of Grace

A new year always brings the hope of a "fresh start." We make plans, set resolutions, and anticipate change. Yet, do we know this? Before we even began to plan, God had a plan for us. Before we sought our direction, the Word had already lit the path.

The year 2026 is not a mere accident of passing time. It is a chapter deliberately written into God's history of salvation. As Saint Paul reminds us: "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

### The Word Became Flesh: Daily Encounters in 2026

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14) This mystery is not distant. In each day of 2026, Jesus Christ—the Word of God—seeks to "become flesh" in our lives:

In the silent prayer of the morning dawn, He will gently call our name. In our daily work, He will accompany us as we practice charity. In the joys and trials of family life, He will sit at our table. In encounters with strangers, He will reveal Himself to us in the face of the poor, the lonely, the joyful heart.

The question is: Have we cultivated the "eyes of the heart and eyes of faith" to see Him?

### Mary's Notebook: A Little Story

Let me share with you a story, adapted from real life, about an elderly parishioner named Mary. At 82 years old, she lived alone. At the start of last year, while sorting through old things, she found a blank notebook. She meant to discard it, but a thought stirred in her heart: "Perhaps keep it, to record the moments this year where you see God."

For the first few weeks, the pages remained mostly blank.

Then, on a cold January morning, she was short five dollars while checking out at a store. A young man behind her quietly provided the amount she lacked, simply saying, "God bless you." Returning home, Mary wrote her first entry: "January 17: I saw Christ's generosity in the eyes of a young man."

From then on, she became more interested in this practice. In February, while at the hospital, she listened to the life story of an elderly stranger and noted: "In sharing, it was as if I saw Christ's wounds shining." In April, while feeding pigeons in the park, she comforted a crying child until his mother arrived: "Christ's little hand was holding mine."

In October, Mary had a fall. Feeling deeply lonely during her hospital stay, a nurse spent three evenings with her, reading from the Bible. Mary wrote: "When I could not seek Him, the Word found me in the most unexpected way."

On December 31, 2025, Mary looked through her notebook, now filled with a year's worth of "encounters with Christ." She felt a profound truth: The Word is not an abstract concept, but the concrete action of love. Of course, this requires our effort to discover and remember. In prayer on that New Year's Eve, Mary suddenly understood: "'In the beginning was the Word'—so, at the 'beginning' of each of my days, Christ is already there, waiting to meet me. My task is simply to open the eyes of my heart and let the encounter become part of my story."

This New Year's Day, Mary gave her granddaughter a blank notebook. On the cover was written "2026." Inside, on the first page, was a single sentence: "In the beginning was the Word—and at the beginning of your every day, He is already there."

### An Invitation for 2026

Dear brothers and sisters, in 2026, let us try this spiritual exercise.

Firstly, cultivate a sacred awareness: Amid daily routines, pay attention to the subtle signs of Christ's presence. Secondly, keep a record of grace's footprints: Simply note moments of thanksgiving; by year's end you will marvel at God's wonderful works. Thirdly, become a medium of the Word: Just as we meet Christ in others, we are called to be the path through which others meet Christ.

"The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world." (John 1:9) This light still shines in 2026, piercing through the gaps in our plans, the webs of our relationships, our moments of joy and pain. As we begin this year, let us also imitate the attitude of Our Lady: "But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)

May 2026 be, for each of us, a year where the Word more fully "becomes flesh," a year overflowing with grace, a year of discovering the Lord's encounter within the ordinary.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:13)

## Saint Joseph's Church Liturgical Group Meeting

On December 7, 2025, our Liturgical Group met under the guidance of Father Paul Chen at Saint Joseph's Church. With key members present, including our religious sisters: Sr. Weronika, Sr. Vera; coordinators: Ma Fe, Joel, Lanie, Alvin, Sheila, Daisy; function leaders: William, Jhonatan, Beth, Linda, myself; and special ushers: Johnny and Jinky, we focused on planning for the festive season ahead.

Our main agenda centered around preparations for the upcoming Christmas, Simbang Gabi, and New Year masses, including detailed discussions on scheduling, setup responsibilities, and community engagement. We emphasized the importance of teamwork and clear communication to ensure a smooth and meaningful worship experience for all.

As we transition into January 2026, let us recognize that our gatherings and preparations are rooted in the Word of God. Just as the Word brings forth creation, our commitment to each other and our community fosters a vibrant expression of faith. As we approach this holy time, let us remember the spirit of togetherness and gratitude that unites us. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." - Matthew 18:20 (NAB)

Let us continue to lift one another up as we prepare our hearts for the profound significance of this season.

Article by: Arlene Loable Phoda (Saint Joseph's Church-Communication Group)





# Fr. Joseph's quality time to Philippines Meet and greet with our SJC Community Retirees

## Manila



## Iloilo



## Dagupan



# Overflowing Abundance

God created everything, including us, and it is overflowing abundance according to John 1:16 – “From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.” Not all of us are lucky. Not all of us are happy. It is normal that we encounter struggles, pain, and sadness. Just like the wheel, it will pass because God will offer us not only physical but also moral and spiritual healing. Some may narrate how things have gone perfectly well in place. At first, thank God for everything He did for us—good or bad; still, count it as a blessing. Accepting everything with a kind gesture is seldom done, but worth it. Appreciate and give thanks for everyone around us, for continuously correcting our mistakes when it comes to hard and bad decisions. For letting us see the good in all of the crucial situations, thanks be to God for highlighting us whenever things are more irascible. Still enamored by God for doing everything with love and respect for others, we may never notice the overflowing abundance now, but in the right time, we will realize that it is God alone who has been there for all of us.

Just like our situation, we are migrant workers here in Hong Kong. We left our families to serve others. We sacrifice for a better future, even risking our own lives, but it will not be permanent. When the right time comes, we will eventually go back home. May God continue to guide and protect us as we entrust our life journey to Him. And may we continue to be His servants amidst hindrances. Thank you, and God bless everyone.

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



FCG- Advent Recollection with Sr. Weronika Klebba



FCG– Farewell party to Celia Enojo with Fr. Joseph Tan and Sr. Vera Wen Yuan

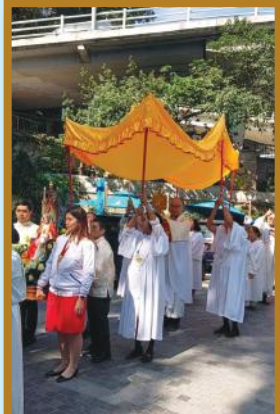


Harana sa Pasko a Charity Concert by TIEZA Chorale at Saint Joseph’s Church

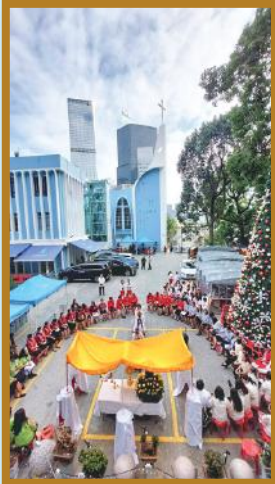


FCG - Farewell Party to Lolita Tabangan

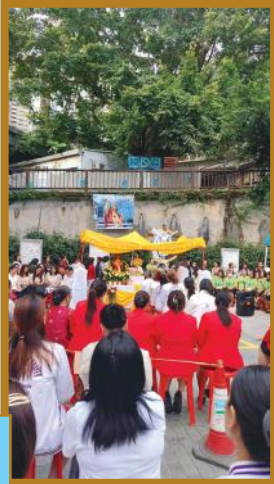
**Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**  
 Photos taken by: Helen Historillo (Apostleship of Prayer)



Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with Rev. Father Paul Chen, SVD



At 2:00 P.M., with Rev. Louland Escabusa, CICM



**Our Parish at Christmas**



# It's time for celebration!

December is one of the most celebrated month each year. Christmas parties left and right are being held and scheduled all month, Christmas carols are being heard, Christmas trees, lanterns, lights and all sorts of Christmas decorations adorn cities anywhere we go.

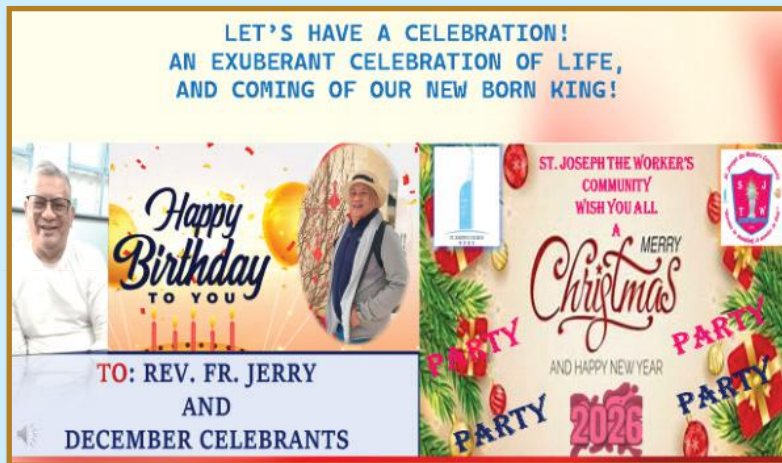
In every church the faithful are anticipating the birth and coming of Our Savior Jesus Christ, full of hope and joy. Everyone is looking forward for the New Year to come, 2026, of what luck and great fortune it can bring. Though some tough times arises, Christmas time reminds us that there's hope, love and joy to look forward to. For the coming of the Prince of Peace, it's always a time to celebrate!

Before the year end three communities that meet on Saturday had gathered in thanksgiving for the natal day and the 23rd sacerdotal anniversary of our Spiritual Director Rev. Fr. Jerry Perocho, SVD alongside with the December celebrants/members.

We are always grateful to God for the support of our beloved parish Priest Rev. Fr. Joseph Tan, SVD, who gave a message of PEACE this Christmas Season. Acknowledging as well the presence of Sr. Weronika and Sr. Vera whose support will always be appreciated by us.

To the Triune God, we give glory and honor for all the blessings poured upon us over the year and may the year 2026 will bring us a brighter and more abundant year. For 2026, it's time for celebration!

Article: Brenda Galfo (St. Joseph the Worker's Community)



Our December Celebrants with Rev. Fr. Jerry Perocho, SVD, Rev. Fr. Joseph Tan, SVD, Sr. Weronika and Sr. Vera



Year end Hurrah from St. Joseph the Worker's Community, Legion of Mary, Door of Heaven Px and Divine Mercy Choir.

Dear Fr. Joseph,  
Congratulations  
on your 25th  
Anniversary!



Thank you for being  
a true shepherd  
and leading us  
closer to Christ.  
May God bless you  
with continued  
strength and peace.

# 25th Anniversary of Religious Vows



Apostleship of Prayer



Legion of Mary



Filipino Prayer Group

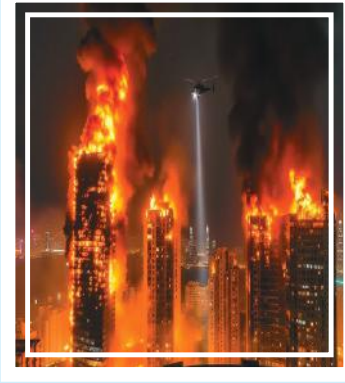
Black Nazarene Group



Filipino Catholic Group

Sowers Charismatic Community

# 悼念大埔火災受害者



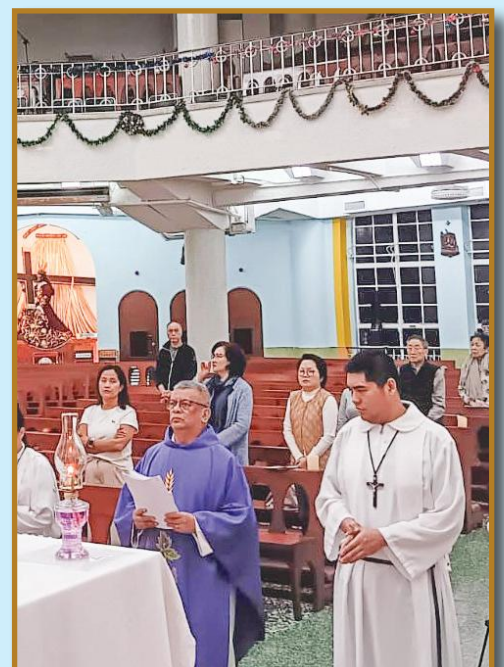
## 堂區舉行每月追思彌撒

堂區於12月2日星期二晚上舉行每月追思彌撒，由堂區助理主任司鐸J.M Perocho神父主禮，教友們和眾多市民齊聚一堂，以祈禱悼念大埔火災遇難者和其他已亡親友，並為仍在哀傷中的家屬向主祈求安慰。彌撒開始前，螢光幕播放由教區為遇難者準備的祈禱文，邀請信眾在心中默念。隨後讀經員在分享環節中宣讀教宗良十四世的悼詞，信友禱文亦特別加入為遇難者的祈求，氣氛充滿哀思。

Perocho神父在講道中說當天他去了醫院探望了兩位火災傷者。其中一位的話特別觸動神父：「謝謝你的探訪，給了我們力量。但我已沒有家可回。妻子走了，唯一的女兒也走了。我還有什麼理由活下去？家沒了，人沒了，連財物房子都燒光了。神父，你告訴我，我還有理由繼續活下去嗎？」神父當下無言，但之後對這位流淚滿面的傷者說：「你仍有家人。我剛到香港時也以為自己孤身一人，但後來遇到許多接納我、愛我的人。也許你所愛的人已離世，但我們仍要尋找生命的目的。雖然要重新拾起破碎的生命很難，出院後也不再原有來的家，但我們仍要尋求天主給我們的使命。也許祂會賜給你新的家人，不是血緣，而是願意愛你、接納你、陪伴你的人。你仍有活下去的理由。」神父在講道結尾說當我們此刻追念已亡的親人，也記得那些在火災中受苦的人。願他們有力量從殘破中重新站起，在逆境中尋到生命的意義。

英文團體的Pascale和Elba擔任當晚的領經和讀經員，她們覺得這台追思彌撒讓眾人以莊嚴的心情追念並感謝已亡的親友，緬懷他們的點滴，同時為其靈魂祈求主恩早享永福。

聖若瑟堂的每月追思彌撒已持續三年多。最初由聖福若瑟善別小組負責籌備，然而隨著參加者人數逐漸增加，加上善別工作日益繁忙，堂區的英文團體和歌詠團遂接手協助。堂區的柯文妮修女(Sister Weronika Klebba)亦積極參與彌撒的歌詠團協調工作，讓追思彌撒能持續穩定舉行。這個定期彌撒也邀請信友們寫信給亡者，堂區每月都會選出一封信由讀經員在這個彌撒裡讀出，如有意投稿的教友請聯絡堂區辦公室。





## Baptism Confirmation



8/11 Hadrien Henri C. Rondovin  
 15/11 Niles Peter Sabine  
 22/11 Tobias Tse  
 Stacie Tse  
 28/11 Stephen Ward Dennis

6/12 Jahmira Azaiah Toledo  
 6/12 Saga Lilly Nilsson  
 Alva Ellen Nilsson  
 22/12 Brendan Christopher Loman  
 Cian Shay Loman  
 Lauren Yeui S. Cheung  
 27/12 Tala Elizabeth Tan

St. Joseph's Church, 37 Garden Road.

### Marriage/Convalidation

6/12/2025 –Lars Johan M. Nilsson & Chan Grace Wing Shum  
 20/12/2025 –Ng Chun Ning & Kwok Wan Ting  
 20/12/2025 –Lai Ho Wai & Chen Yunxia  
 27/12/2025 –Lai Chi Man Edmund & Lam King Yan Charlene



Writers  
Wanted

### 歡迎堂區教友投稿

- 1) 2月主題：四旬期--共融慈悲之
- 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：11/01/2026
- 6) 郵寄地址：請把文章註明「2月投稿」郵寄到 [stjosephs.hk@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephs.hk@gmail.com)
- 7) 通訊組保留任何修改及刊登權利

**Parishioners are welcome to submit articles for the church newsletter.**

**Please take note of the following guidelines:**

- 1) Theme for Feb: Lent - A Way of Com-Passion
- 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: Jan, 11, 2026
- 6) Email: Please submit the article to [stjosephs.hk@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephs.hk@gmail.com) with the subject line 'Article for February 2026.'
- 7) All rights are reserved by the church, including the selection of articles, photos, and any necessary adjustments.

### BIBLE VERSES

Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account. (Hebrew 4:12-13)



### 聖經金句

天主的話確實是生活的，是有效力的，比各種雙刃的劍還銳利，直穿入靈魂和神魂，關節與骨髓的分離點，且可辨別心中的感覺和思念。

沒有一個受造物，在天主面前不是明顯的，萬物在他眼前都是袒露敞開的，我們必須向他交賬。(希4:12-13)

*In Loving Memory*



**Funeral / Memorial Mass:**

2025	
15/11/	Benedict Ngh
19/11/	Mary Chow
19/11	Vincent Lo
2/12	Teresa Lo Wong
13/12	Peter Tang
14/12	Fr. Efren Ojeda OFM
20/12	Peter Choi
22/12	Joseph Chow
30/12	Peter Tam



# 在起初已有聖言： 2026年恩寵之始的召喚

談雷濤神父

親愛的堂區弟兄姐妹們：

當您打開這份一月堂區通訊時，我們已踏入2026年的門檻。新年之初，讓我們靜心聆聽聖若望宗徒的神聖宣告：

「在起初已有聖言，聖言與天主同在，聖言就是天主。聖言在起初就與天主同在。」（若 1:1-2）

這不僅是聖經的開端，更是我們理解時間、人和天主計畫關係的鑰匙。當我們撕去日曆的每一頁時，天主早已在永恆的「起初」，為我們預備了豐盛的恩寵。也是天父慈愛安排的朝聖之路。

## 恩寵之年的神聖節奏

新的一年總帶給人們「重新開始」的希望。我們制定計畫、許下心願、期待改變。然而，您知道嗎？在我們開始計畫之前，天主已為我們計畫；在我們尋找方向之前，聖言已照亮道路。

2026年，絕不是偶然的時光流逝，而是天主救恩史中特意安排的一章。正如聖保祿說的：「我們曉得，天主使一切協助那些愛祂的人，就是那些按祂的旨意蒙召的人，獲得益處。」（羅 8:28）

## 聖言成血肉：2026年的每日相遇

「聖言成了血肉，寄居在我們中間。」（若 1:14）這奧跡並不遙遠，而是在2026年的每一天，耶穌基督——天主的聖言，都會在我們的生活中「成為血肉」：在晨曦的靜默祈禱中，祂將輕喚我們的名字；在日常工作中，祂將陪伴我們實踐愛德；在家庭喜樂與挑戰中，祂將坐在我們的餐桌旁；在陌生的相遇中，祂將以窮人、孤獨者、喜樂者的面容向我們顯現，等等。

問題是：我們是否培養了看見祂的「心靈之眼和信德之眼」？

## 瑪利亞的筆記本：一個小故事

讓我與您分享一個真實改編的故事，一位年長教友叫瑪利亞。她已經82歲了，獨居多年。去年初，她在整理舊物時發現一本空白筆記本，本想丟棄，心中同時一動，「也許可以留下它，記錄今年你看見天主的時刻。」

起初幾週，筆記本幾乎空白。直到一月某個寒冷早晨，她在一次買東西結賬時，發現還差五元。身後一位年輕人默默遞上不足的款項，簡單說：「天主保佑您。」瑪利亞回到家，就在筆記本寫下第一條：「1月17日，我在一個年輕人的眼睛裡看見了基督的慷慨。」

自此，她開始更有興趣這個練習。二月，她在醫院探訪中，聆聽了一位陌生老人的生命故事，她記下：「在分享中，猶如看到基督的傷口在發光。」四月，她在公園餵鴿子時，她安慰了一個哭泣的孩子，直到母親到來：「基督的小手緊握著我。」

十月，瑪利亞摔傷了，住院期間感到從未有過的孤獨。一位護士連續三晚，陪著她為她朗讀聖經。瑪利亞寫道：「當我無法尋找祂時，聖言以意想不到的方式找到了我。」

2025年12月31日，瑪利亞翻閱一年寫滿「與基督相遇」的經歷。使她感受到：聖言並非抽象的概念，而是具體的愛德行動。當然，除非我們努力去發現和記住。除夕夜祈禱時，瑪利亞忽然領悟：「『在起初已有聖言』——原來，在我每一天的『起初』，基督已經在那裡等待與我相遇。我的任務只是睜開心靈的眼睛，讓相遇成為故事。」

今年元旦，瑪利亞送給孫女一本空白筆記本，封面寫著「2026年」，內頁只題了一句話：「在起初，已有聖言——而在你的每一天起初，祂已在那裡。」

## 2026年的邀請

親愛的弟兄姐妹們，請在2026年，嘗試這個靈修的方法。

第一，培養神聖的覺察：在日常生活例行中，留意基督臨在的細微記號。第二，記錄恩寵的足跡：用簡單方式記下感恩時刻，年終時你會驚嘆天主的奇妙作為。第三，成為聖言的媒介：正如我們從他人身上遇見基督，我們也被召成為他人遇見基督的途徑。

「那普照每人的真光，正在進入這世界。」（若1:9）這光在2026年依然照耀，穿透我們計畫的縫隙、人際的網絡、喜樂與痛苦的時刻。讓我們在這一年之初，同樣效法聖母的態度：「把這一切事默存在自己心中，反覆思索。」（路 2:19）

願2026年對我們每個人而言，都是聖言更豐滿地「成為血肉」的一年，恩寵滿溢的一年，在平凡中發現與主相遇的一年。

願主耶穌基督的恩寵，和天主的愛情，以及聖神的相通，常與你們眾人相偕。（格林多後書 13:13）