



MCI (P): 014/06/2017



22nd Edition, July 2017

A Tribute to Fr Edmund Chong.

Thank You Father Edmund

Speech by Dominic Soh, Chairman, PPC-Exco at the Silver Sacerdotal Jubilee Dinner of Fr Edmund Chong on 9 May at the Hilltop Garden Restaurant, Civil Service Club, Bukit Batok.

“When Richard Lee (organizer of the dinner) told me that I am to deliver the speech for tonight, the first thought that came to mind was that this is going to be tough as it is always difficult to try and sum up the contributions of a person over twenty five years especially of a person of Fr Edmund’s caliber as this is a long period and there would be so much to say. Like many of us, I prayed for a direction and the picture I saw was his name “Edmund”. Immediately, from the letters in the name, pop up some of the many qualities that I see in Fr Edmund, and since, it is only six letters, I know I wouldn’t be risking a long speech and have brickbats thrown at me, so it will short and sweet.

Fr Edmund was first posted to this parish as Assistant Parish Priest on 15 October 2003. He subsequently assumed the appointment of Parish Priest in 2007. In total, Fr Edmund has been with us for a period of thirteen and a half years. We can at present, therefore, claim that that we had the privilege of him being with us for more than half of his priesthood thus far and I am confident that many years from now, Fr Edmund will also be telling everyone that this is his longest posting to any parish. In his time with us, Fr Edmund has pastored conscientiously, seeing to the upgrading of the main church, which was transformed from an old, warm and neglected building to a beautiful sacred place for divine worship; attendance at masses have increased significantly ever since. The building of our Rosary Garden of which we believe is the first in this diocese especially in terms of its size. And ongoing now, the upgrading of our Community Hall, where we will all be looking forward to a new Chapel by the end of this year. Many have also benefited from

his homilies that have always been profound, thought provoking and meaningful to our lives. Not forgetting the numerous talks and counseling sessions that he has provided to many, often cheering everyone up if not by his jokes, then it

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Top: A souvenir plaque was presented to Fr Chong at the dinner with words inscribed,

*“Rev Fr. Edmund Chong
Our Beloved Shepherd
2003 - 2017
St Joseph Church
Bukit Timah.”*



Top left to right: Fr Peter Zhang, Fr Edmund Chong and Fr Christopher Lee.

Foreword

We are grateful to Fr Edmund Chong for his contributions to St Joseph Church and may the Good Lord continue to shower him with the gifts that will enable him to shepherd His flock at the Church of the Holy Trinity.

Together with recently appointed Assistant Parish Priest Fr Peter Zhang, we are looking forward to be working hand in hand with ministry members and parishioners to make St Joseph Church a more vibrant, dynamic and inclusive community - one that is aware of the traditions of the Church and parish’s heritage and one that is pleasing in the eyes of God.

Monthly Eucharistic Adoration will be held on the first Friday of each month beginning in July. Let us come together to be closer to Jesus and allow Him to be closer to us and guide us through the trials and tribulations of our daily lives.

**Fr Christopher Lee
Parish Priest.**

A Tribute to Fr Edmund Chong.*Continued from page 1.*

would be by his laughter before the punchline. I will move on now to talk about some of the qualities of the man who is the reason for our celebration tonight.

The first letter "E" is easy because all priests are extraordinary persons and that applies of course to Fr Chong too. Priests are extraordinary as they are firstly called and chosen by God. They willingly offer and devote their entire life to God, a sacrifice not easy for the ordinary people like you and me. Fr Chong is also special for the Spiritual acumen that he possesses. A gift that enables him to sense, understand and can appreciate the Spiritual realm more intimately.

"D" is for docile. He is definitely dutiful and obedient to God, a likable person who is accommodating. He is meek for the beatitudes states that these shall have the earth as inheritance. For those who don't know, Fr Chong journals a lot. He is thoroughly observant and

he reflects deeply and much of his thoughts are recorded in his journal of which he has kept for many years. If you had wondered where Fr Chong draws some of his most interesting stories of his experiences, yes, they are from his journal. He considers many issues carefully and knows the right thing to do. His permissive nature makes you feel comfortable, as though you have him wrapped around your fingers, but in actuality, he has a good grip of the situation.

"M" is for Mother Mary. Many may have the impression that Fr Chong does not support devotional activities. That perhaps is a misperception. Fr Edmund prays the Rosary and also the Divine Mercy chaplet often. If you have been on the pilgrimages he leads, you would have noticed that he always makes it a point to visit Marian sites and he makes his devotions faithfully. Mother Mary is the only woman in his life. Fr Chong also prays often and over many matters, always seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit and flowing with the Spirit all the time.

"U" is for understanding. Fr Chong is sympathetic and kind, he is a good listener, and definitely, tolerant and forgiving. That is why at times, he tells me, "My challenge is that when someone talks to me and makes a request, I find it difficult to reject them." He is a compassionate person who is discerning and wise.

"N" is for Nothing. What you may not have heard often is Fr Chong's expression, "I am nothing." It is an illustration of his humility. What we would often hear is the statement, "I am not good enough to be a parish priest." Again said in humility. Fr Chong, after all these years, parishioners at St Joseph Church (Bukit Timah) are certain of one thing, "You are definitely much more than just good enough as a Parish Priest and we will miss your inspiring pastorship."

"D" is for Devotion to God. This is obvious and I shall not belabour the point. What you see is

what you get, a man who is totally and completely devoted to the Lord, an instrument of God's grace and joy, living fully to the call of his vocation.

I shall end this speech to share what I found when I search the meaning of the name "Edmund." Curious as I am to know why I was led to use the name "Edmund", I looked up and found out that "Edmund" means Protector, Riches and Prosperity. It quickly dawned upon me that in all these years, Fr Edmund has taught us through his example that we need to be Protectors of the Word, we need to recognize and live the richness of God's Word, and that Prosperity in our lives can only come when we live our life according to the Word of God.

On behalf of Fr Chris and Fr Peter, the PPC Ex-Co and parishioners of St Joseph's Church, I take this opportunity to thank Fr Edmund Chong for his care, guidance, patience and hardwork. We wish you happiness, and many more blessed and wonderful years ahead."



Top: A framed certificate from the Pope was presented to Fr Chong at the dinner.

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Top: Fr Edmund Chong with family members at his Silver Sacerdotal Jubilee Dinner.

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Photos of our parish events on our website or on Facebook: "St Joseph's Church (Bt Timah) Photo Gallery."

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A Tribute to Fr Edmund Chong.

Continued from page 2.



Top: Fr Cary Chan (in white) who celebrated his 25 Sacerdotal Anniversary was invited to stage by Fr Chong for the cutting of the cake while Fr Chris (in blue) looks on.



Top: Fr Chong being presented with a framed certificate for his 25 Sacerdotal Anniversary by a friend from overseas, Fr K. Arul.



Top left to right: Katherine Seet, Fr Edmund Chong, Richard Lee (event organizer) and Dominic Soh (PPC Ex-Co Chairman).



Top: Fr Chong posing with Master of Ceremony Trevor (with hat) and the entertainers from our parish.

Extreme left: Concelebrated Mass of Fr Edmund Chong at 6pm on 9 May.

Left: A young artist presented a painting depicting Fr Chong's service to the parish.

Below: Photo montage at the dinner.





Emergency and Fire Drill

An Emergency and Fire Drill was conducted by members from the Hospitality Ministry (Wardens) on 29 April. Key members serving at each mass were briefed on evacuation procedures, first aid, usage of the wheelchair and a hands on experience in using the fire extinguisher.



Top: PPC Ex-Co Chairman Dominic Soh (in white) welcoming guests to the event.



Top: Fr Peter Zhang chatting with a PBG member.



Top: PBG members posing with Fr Chris.



Top: Members from the Sunday 5.30pm Evening Mass Choir providing entertainment at the event.

“Shared Easter Joy” with our Migrant Community

The Parish Befrienders Group (PBG) organized the event on 30 April that brought migrant workers, guest workers, expatriates and members from other ministries together as a family.

Games, quiz and a lucky draw were highlights of the event with attractive prizes given away.



Top: Lourdes Joseph (in blue), one of several representatives of the various parish committees in attendance was invited to conduct a lucky draw and to give away prizes.



Top: PBG members dishing out food for the guests.



Left: Guests and parishioners in attendance were invited for a group photo with PBG members.

Welcome to the Family



Thirty-five elects and two candidates were received into the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation through the RCIA (English) programme at the Easter Vigil, on 15 April (pictured on top left). Eight elects and 1 candidate were received into the Church via the RCIA (Chinese) programme at the 7.15am Mandarin Mass on Easter Sunday 16 April (pictured on top right).

The Great St Joseph Celebration, Sunday 7 May 2017.



Top: Some of the Wardens on traffic duty at the main entrance.



Top: Sale of the parish's history book.



Top: Floral bouquets on sale.



Top: "Cheers!" Fr Bartholomew assisting at the Chinese RCIA food stall.



Top: The middle of the tentage is the sitting area at the food and fun fair for this year due to ongoing renovation works at the community hall.



Top: Some of the many youths from the Kanektas Youth Ministry manning their food stall.



Top: Games stalls located at the Kindergarten grounds due to ongoing renovation works at the Parish Community Hall. Top Right: Children amusing themselves at the "Bouncing Castle" station.



Top: Visitor priest Fr Lionel Thomas at the procession.



Feast of Corpus Christi.

CORPUS CHRISTI

What is the precise significance of today's solemnity, of the Body and Blood of Christ? The answer is given to us in the fundamental actions of this celebration we are carrying out: first of all we gather around the altar of the Lord, to be together in his presence; secondly, there will be the procession, that is walking with the Lord; and lastly, kneeling before the Lord, adoration, which already begins in the Mass and accompanies the entire procession but culminates in the final moment of the Eucharistic Blessing when we all prostrate ourselves before the One who stooped down to us and gave his life for us...

Corpus Christi reminds us first of all of this: that being Christian means coming together from all parts of the world to be in the Presence of the one Lord and to become one with him and in him...

With the gift of himself in the Eucharist the Lord Jesus sets us free from our "paralysis". He helps us up and enables us to proceed, that is, he makes us take a step ahead and then another step, and thus sets us going with the power of the Bread of Life....

The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Eucharistic Adoration and Procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi

On 17 June, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi saw the return of the exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 5pm in the church.

Procession proceeded indoors owing to heavy downpour. The Holy Rosary was recited during the procession that took place after the 5.30pm Evening Mass.



Top: Due to heavy rain the procession with the Blessed Sacrament could not proceed outdoors. Therefore, it was re routed indoors.

The Corpus Christi procession teaches us that the Eucharist seeks to free us from every kind of despondency and discouragement, wants to raise us, so that we can set out on the journey with the strength God gives us through Jesus Christ....

Each one can find his own way if he encounters the one who is the Word and the Bread of Life, and lets himself be guided by his friendly presence. Without the God-with-us, the God who is close, how can we stand up to the pilgrimage through life, either on our own or as society and the family of peoples? The Eucharist is the Sacrament the God who does not leave us alone on the journey but stays at our side and shows us the way...

God created us free but he did not leave us alone: he made himself the "way" and to take it....

Adoring the God of Jesus Christ, who out of love made himself bread broken, is the most effective and radical remedy against the idolatry of the past and of the present. Kneeling before the Eucharist is a profession of freedom: those who bow to Jesus cannot and must not prostrate themselves before any earthly authority, however powerful...

We prostrate ourselves before a God who first bent over man like the Good Samaritan to assist him and restore his life, and who knelt before us to wash our dirty feet. Adoring the Body of Christ means believing that there, in the piece of Bread, Christ is really there, and gives true sense to life, to the immense universe as to the smallest creature, to the whole of human history as to the most brief existence. Adoration is prayer that prolongs the celebration and Eucharistic Communion and in which the soul continues to be nourished: it is nourished with love, truth, peace; it is nourished with hope because the One before whom we prostrate ourselves does not judge us, does not crush us, but liberates and transforms us.

This is why gathering, walking, and adoring together fills us with joy.

POPE BENEDICT XVI
The Magnificat,
June 2017 edition

His Holiness Benedict XVI was Pope from 2005 to 2013.



Top and below: Ninety children received the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist on Corpus Christi Sunday at the 11am Mass.



Top: Children who participated at the procession with the Blessed Sacrament.





来自神圣慈悲敬礼小组之讯息……

神圣慈悲敬礼小组自从五年前，每年都会主办到海外朝圣及庆祝慈悲主日。今年四月二十五日到五月四日我们一共八位组员到澎湖及台湾中南部朝圣。

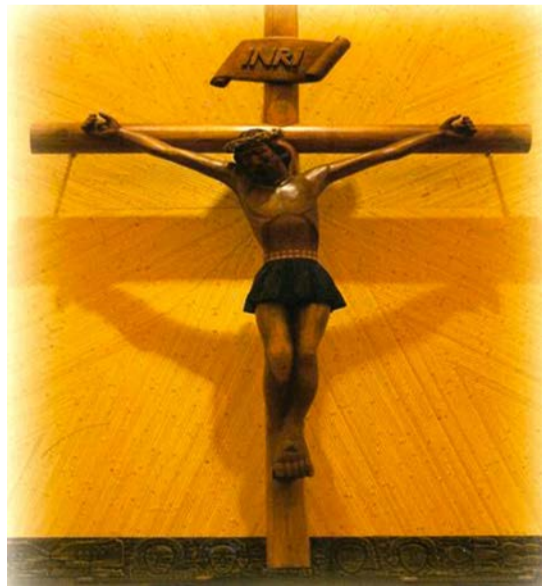
这次虽然旅游多过朝圣，最使我怀念的是我们在五月一日圣若瑟劳工主保节从台东到垦丁路上意外参观了金仑圣若瑟天主堂。它让我们步入一座台湾原住民族-排湾族文化特色的圣堂。因弥撒正在进行中，我们到圣堂的圣体室朝拜圣体及庆祝圣若瑟主保。



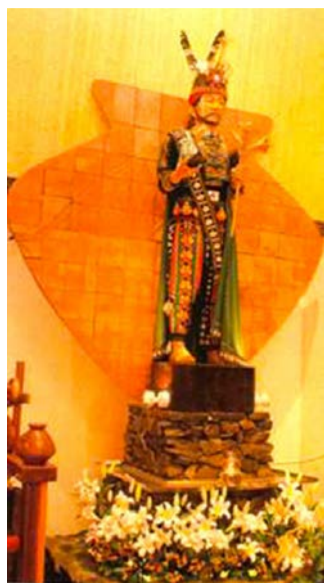
金仑圣若瑟天主堂



圣堂祭台



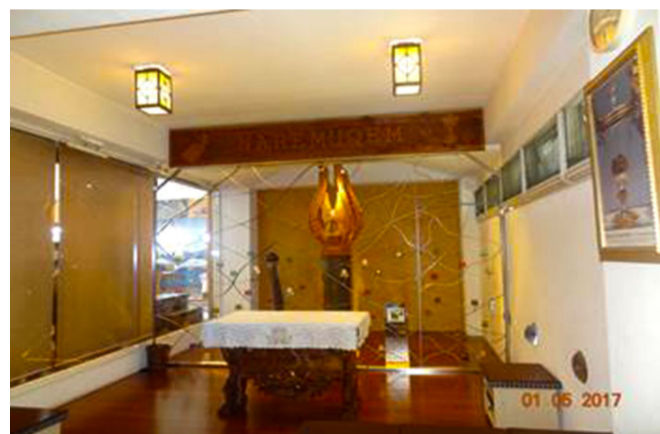
排湾族的耶稣



排湾族的圣若瑟



排湾族的圣母



圣体室



我们很高兴见证了梵蒂冈第二个大公会议的精神(Inculturation)就是所有的文化都能够以教会的教导纳入我们的礼仪(弥撒)中。我们也很高兴由我们的钟神父的领导及训导我们更认识圣若瑟。我们也期望明年越南之旅。(Lavang圣母朝圣)



“每当一位神职人员调职，离开我们时，都会带给教友们无限的不舍和感触。何况钟神父在本堂服务了13年。在这13年当中，他甚少干涉我们小组的活动，相反的，只要是适当的请求，他都支持。尤其是在扩展，翻新，添置的设施方面，他都尽了力。如：添置玫瑰园，翻新教堂的内殿，扩展礼堂...等。在钟神父离开我们而调到圣三堂之际，让我们除了感谢他之外，并祝他：身体安康，主宠日浓，主恩满满！”

主内 郑权辉
华语圣经读经组

感恩这十多年来有钟神父为本堂的建设及牧灵付出了许多心血，更感谢他对华文组织的支持，让我们这小族群的华文教友能安心地在主的爱内成长。我们真诚地祝福钟神父无论到何处，都能继续发挥天主赐予他的恩典与特长。牧灵愉快！

圣若瑟基金团
黄应兰

“回想起来，钟神父已在本堂服务了13年之久。他在我心中一直是一位和蔼可亲的神父，也是一位遵从的神职人员。记得当年他刚接任一些华文组织做神师时，他反应说感到很困惑。因为认为自己华文语言能力不足，胜任不来。我们也知道主祭华语弥撒对他而言是一大挑战。但他却都遵从了，并欣然接受了这些职责。过了这些年，大家也都觉得他的华文程度进步不少。他对我们教区的贡献也很大。从基础设施到教友和组织的灵修，他都尽心尽力。我们感谢并祝贺这位谦逊的神父，在他的新职务上继续做位教会内的好牧人。”

主内 郑国雄
华委主席

敬爱的钟神父，谢谢您在本堂服务快十三年了。更要感谢您虽然不懂潮语，但还是很支持和帮助潮语读经组和潮语炼灵组。我们的神师林西满修女和组员们衷心感谢您！愿天主保佑您平安健康，主爱满满！主内陈瑞英。



圣若瑟堂华文歌咏团卅年 - 光阴似箭，主恩不变

本堂圣若瑟华文歌咏团成立至今已有卅年了，是本堂歌咏团中历史最悠久之一。当被问及我们团体成立这么久了，有何感想？通常问这问题的人都会自己答说“一定不简单吧…”真的是这样吗？的确，在成立至今，我们的团体与任何的团体一样，都会面对挫折及挑战。团员之间也不免发生过小摩擦。但就如一位儿童在成长岁月中，不是也时常会跌倒受伤吗？况且，在父母的呵护下，伤口也变得没那么痛了。这些挫折只会让小朋友变得更坚强，准备好日后更大的挑战。同样的，因有天父的陪伴与祝福，我们的团体在跌跌撞撞中成长，并在喜悦与感恩中以我们的歌声唱出天父的仁慈与怜悯。所以，一路走来不简单是吗？的确不简单。但就因走的路是主的道路，我们不觉得辛苦，反而觉得轻松、愉快、满足…



1987那一年，郑权辉兄弟邀请了陈宇翰兄弟带领本堂华文弥撒的歌咏部分，因此而开始了我们的歌咏团。萌芽初期，歌咏团是由本堂各华文小组志愿组成的。虽然在开始时，团员们并没有什么声乐的知识与经验，但在天主的引领下，歌咏团克服了重重困难与

挫折。从当初的每两周一次，到现今每周的华语弥撒中，我们都可以看到团员们从老的到少的，一起以歌声与音乐赞美并宣扬上主的美善。



很庆幸的是，通过圣神的指引与召唤，我们的团体也不断地有新成员加入，从现任的团长及琴手两兄妹，到在团体中渐渐成长的小朋友们，如今都长大了。最庆幸的就是他们虽然长大了，外界的活动，不管是学业上或事业上，也繁忙许多，但他们还依然留在歌咏团内侍奉，并以大哥哥大姐姐的角色带领着我们的小团员们。他们的年轻朝气不只带给团体活力，也带给我们华文组织一些朝气及安慰。这安慰在我们渐渐老化的天主教华文团体内是即时而又必要的。

除了在这台华语弥撒中侍奉，我们也常举办活动来联系感情，如一起出国旅行，避静，郊游，聚餐等等…通过这些活动，我们不仅玩得开心，也增进

St. Joseph's Church {BT} Chinese Choir 30th Anniversary *Unchanging Love of the Lord in Changing Times*

This year we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the St. Joseph's Church Chinese Choir, one of the earliest established choirs of this parish. When asked how I feel now that the Chinese Choir is celebrating its 30th Anniversary, I usually will get an "auto-reply" from the person asking almost immediately. "It's not easy, right?..." Is this really the case? Indeed, from the start of this ministry till today, the Chinese Choir, like any other groups and ministries, is challenged all the time. However, just like a growing child, the frequent falls and hurts will only make him stronger and more prepared for future challenges. It becomes less painful especially when the parents are there to nurse the wounds and provide their love and support. Such is the love and compassion of our Lord through these years as we journey with Him. The road may have its ups and downs, but in God's companionship, we can only feel His holy comfort, happiness and fullness...

1987 was the year that Mr Peter Chin invited Mr Luke Tan to help lead the Chinese Choir. With a humble beginning, the choir started by gathering volunteers from various Chinese groups in the parish. Although the group started off with little knowledge and experience in choir formation and techniques, it continued to grow under the guidance of our Lord, overcoming many difficulties and setbacks. With the grace of God, the choir has grown spiritually through offering their voices in the then fortnightly and the now weekly 7.30am Mandarin Mass.

By the work of the Holy Spirit, the choir is continuously rejuvenated with new members. Firstly with Thomas and his sister, Michelle, to the children who

grew up with the choir, the group has been continuously blessed with vibrancy from these young people. Today, the choir consists of members from all four generations, sharing one common goal, and that is to use our voices and music as instruments to praise God and proclaim His Greatness!

The choir also regularly enjoys good fellowship such as overseas tours and pilgrimages, retreats, excursions and gatherings... Through these fellowships, not only does the choir grow in love and camaraderie in Christ, the relationship with the Lord is also strengthened. During the Christmas season, the choir will always be on a mission to spread the Christmas cheers through caroling and plays.

Bearing the passion to serve, the choir gathers to sing with joy during Mass and in short practices just before and after the Mass. Regardless of age, we welcome all who share the same passion, no matter young or old, to join us in one voice for God!

In Christ,
Thomas Teh
28th May 2017

For more information contact: Thomas Teh @ 97536302 or Luke Tan @ 67633248.



彼此主内兄弟姐妹间的友谊和默契，从中更贴近主的怀抱内。在圣诞期间，我们也通过报佳音和话剧宣扬主耶稣的来临。最近，我们还到组屋区的邻里菜市场报佳音。通过这些活动，我们希望能把祂的好消息传达给教友们，未认识主的朋友们，和安老院的老人家们心中。

秉持着奉献的信念，我们在每台华语弥撒中欢悦歌唱，也期待着弥撒前后的练习。如您也有意以歌声赞美上主，无论年龄大小，只要有一份侍奉的心，我们都欢迎您加入，和我们齐声歌颂主的伟大！您可向我们的团员联系，也可向国雄兄弟（97536302）或宇翰兄弟（67633248）了解详情。

主内 郑国雄
2017年5月28日

