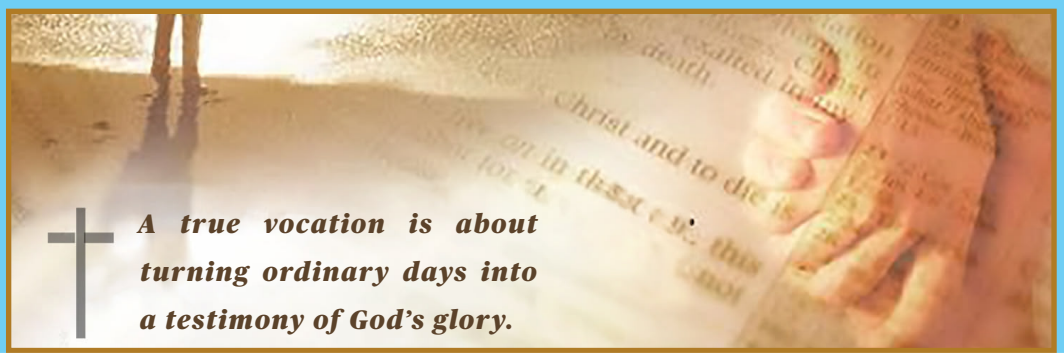
St. Joseph's Church

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Aug, 2026



Enlightening Teaching From Our Parish Priest / 2026

CULTIVATING FAITH AND VOCATION

Sr. Vera Wen Yuan, SSpS

Faith and vocation are inseparable, woven together in the life of every believer.

Faith is a gift from God, and vocation is God's intimate call to each soul. To nurture one is to nourish the other—for true faith inevitably bears the fruit of a calling, and every vocation finds its source and support in a living relationship with God.

The cultivation of faith begins at baptism and continues as an ongoing conversion. The Second Vatican Council emphasized that all Christians are called to the perfection of love. This formation is not simply a matter of intellectual instruction, but an intimate encounter of the heart with God. Daily prayer, attentive reading of Scripture, participation in the Eucharist, and faithful reception of the sacraments form the foundation of a rooted faith. Listening to God in silence, purifying the heart through repentance, and uniting with Christ in the Eucharist allow God's love to become the center of life.

Vocation is not limited to priests, deacons, or consecrated religious. Rather, it is God's invitation to every person—a life plan tailored uniquely for each one. Lumen Gentium affirms the universal call to holiness: every baptized person is called to be holy. Pope Francis reminds us that "holiness is for everyone," and that we are to witness to the Gospel in the ordinary circumstances of daily life. Discerning one's vocation requires humility and patience—listening in prayer, drawing strength from the sacraments, and seeking clarity through spiritual guidance. Pope Francis has repeatedly stressed that vocational discernment should not be undertaken alone, but with the accompaniment of the Church community, grounded in human maturity and spiritual stability, so that one's inner voice is not drowned out by worldly noise.

Living one's vocation faithfully is not without challenges. Doubts arise, difficulties come, and the path ahead may sometimes seem unclear. Yet these struggles can themselves deepen faith, teaching us not to rely on our own strength but to trust in God's providence. As Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "Faith is a gift from God, and prayer is the key that opens the heart to receive it."

Faith is the light of the journey, and vocation is the path of the journey. To cultivate faith throughout one's life is to respond to vocation throughout one's life. The cultivation of faith and vocation ultimately finds its fulfillment in the practice of love. Faith without works is dead; vocation without service is empty. Whatever one's state in life, to treat others with the love of Christ, to face the world with justice and gentleness, and to be salt and light in the family, workplace, and society—this is the truest cultivation of faith and the most authentic response to vocation. A true vocation is about turning ordinary days into a testimony of God's glory.

Cultivating Faith and Devotion

Is it worth it to do good? Is it worth helping when people abuse our kindness? Is it worth giving when people take advantage? Is it worth doing our best when nobody even says thank you? Is it worth loving when our love is not returned? Is it because of our faith and devotion? Remember the golden rule, "Do unto others whatever you would have them do unto you." But sometimes when we give kindness, they take advantage. We give trust, they betray us. We give our time, they criticize us. We give our best, they do not even notice. As Mother Teressa once said, “People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.", "The good that you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.", and "Give the world the best that you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway." Because it is Jesus who noticed and with gratitude, applause, and appreciation. By this our faith and devotion are being cultivated. If the world can make us stop doing good, then evil has won by hurting us and by making us become evil as well. Trusting God that He will not allow the ingratitude of others to determine the goodness of our heart.

As we cultivate our faith and devotion here in our home away from home in St. Joseph’s Church, I would like to take this opportunity to greet my very own community, “Happy Blessed 52nd Anniversary - Filipino Catholic Group”. May we continue to serve Him amidst hindrances. And be a blessing to others. Do good anyway. Love anyway. Give anyway. God bless everyone.

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

FCG 52nd Anniversary at The Harbourview Hotel

Officers with our Guests

Launching of SJC – Safety Guardian Angel

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time with Rev. Jerry Perocho, Rev. Dennis Testado, Rev. Jingjong Rocha, and Rev. Jimbao

THE HEART OF JESUS, FULL OF GOODNESS AND LOVE

June is the month dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. We, the Apostleship of Prayer community, devoted to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, prepared a two-week celebration to honor and observe His Solemnity. During the first week, we held the investiture of new members and new promoters of our community. It was such an honor and privilege that Rev. Fr. Anthonius Reynolds Balubun, SVD, the National Director of the Apostleship of Prayer in Hong Kong, was present to bless the new members and promoters. This was followed by the renewal of Consecration for all community members.

As the saying goes, “Many are called, but few are chosen.” The new members and new promoters of the Apostleship of Prayer are chosen to uphold and promote this devotion through daily oblation prayers, intercession for the Pope’s monthly intentions, and by spreading God’s love to all mankind. The celebrations continued in the second week with a procession of the image of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, held before the 7 AM Mass.

A serenade in honor of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus was also held at the upper hall. We are deeply grateful to the Filipino Catholic Group and Sowers Community for their wonderful participation.

An inspiring talk was delivered by our guest speaker, Sr. Jerosuslimitana Espiritu, SSVM, which highlighted our theme: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Wellspring of Mercy and Reparation. Sr. Jero emphasized how Jesus loves us unconditionally, how His love transforms and strengthens our faith, and how it empowers us to share our faith and lead others to Him. She also shared that our devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus brings profound change to our lives when we continuously believe in Him and follow His calling for us.

Thank You, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, for Your unconditional love — a love that never fades.

Have Mercy on Us!

Article By Jhonna May Tasin (Apostleship of Prayer)

A PRAYER TO TEND OUR FAITH

Loving Heavenly Father,

We gather before You within the quiet sanctuary of Saint Joseph's Church; to tend the spiritual life You have planted within each of us, as a gardener gently nurtures tender seedling.

We thank You for gifting us Saint Joseph as our patron, whose quiet, steady trust in You is our model of lifelong devotion. He cared faithfully for Mary and Jesus through uncertainty, humble labour, and quiet waiting; teach us to mirror his gentle perseverance in our own lives.

Pour out Your grace upon every soul who walks through our church doors this month. For our young parishioners, grant curiosity to seek You deeply; for our elders, sustain the faith they have tended across many years; for all working amid daily pressures, give us moments of stillness to pray, reflect, and rekindle our love for You.

Help us cultivate devotion not only in private prayer, but in how we live as one parish family. Give us soft hearts to welcome every visitor, compassion to bear one another's burdens, and humility to grow closer to You together. When weariness, distraction or doubt dim our faith, water our spirits with Your mercy, so our love for You may take deeper root.

May this August be a season of growth: may our prayers become more sincere, our trust more unshakable, and our devotion more heartfelt.

Saint Joseph, faithful guardian of the Holy Family and protector of our parish, intercede for us. Pray that we may faithfully tend our faith each day, live lives rooted in devotion and remain a united community of believers.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Called to Serve

The Special Ushers Group

The group was formed from six different Sunday communities and three from Saturday. Two members from each of these communities' volunteer to be ushers and together, they form this Special Ushers Group. Everyone of us share the spirit of unity and take initiative in completing the tasks and jobs assigned to us. We feel like a good Samaritan - serving our beloved Mass goers/parishioners by providing tents, seats, tables, manning first-aid kit corners, helping parishioner to line up, to name a few. We are always prepared with open hands to serve people to ensure the smooth flow of our Parish/Church on Saturdays and Sundays which are packed with tight mass schedules. We are blessed having members/volunteers who are dependable and hardworking, even under inclement weathers. The Group is unified by each of the members who share the virtues of humanity, diversity, and humility. Our gratitude goes to those who trust us and people around us, and the coordinators. We are especially thankful for the staunch support from our Parish Priests: Rev. Joseph Tan, Rev. Paul Chen, and Rev. Jerry Perocho. Most of all, we must thank our Lord Almighty who is with us always. Praise Be to God!

Article written by: Jinkie C. Lobo (Special Ushers Group Leader – FCG)

with Fr. Paul Chen

Saturday Group

with Fr.Joseph Tan and Johnny

Nurturing Living Faith and Sincere Devotion in Our Saint Joseph's Church Family

Faith is the quiet, steady foundation of our life as one family at Saint Joseph's Church, Garden Road. It is more than prayer and ritual; it is our trusting surrender to God's plan, even when life is uncertain, and our willingness to walk closely with Him each day.

Within our beloved St. Joseph's Church community, faith grows not in grand moments alone, but in ordinary, consistent devotion. It flourishes during our weekend Masses, communal worship, parish gatherings, and quiet personal reflections before the Lord. Our faith becomes alive when we choose to believe, hope, and persevere together as one parish family.

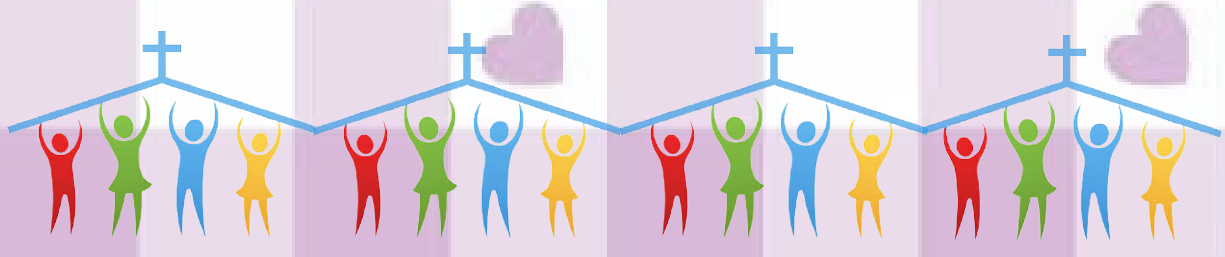
Faith anchors us through life's joys and struggles. When we face weariness, doubt, or challenges, our shared faith in God sustains us. It reminds us that we do not journey alone—God walks beside us, and our parish brothers and sisters lift one another up in prayer and kindness.

Devotion follows naturally from genuine faith. At St. Joseph's Church, our devotion is shown through simple, heartfelt service: volunteering in ministries, supporting parish activities, caring for fellow parishioners, and living with compassion and humility. Every small act of love, obedience, and commitment nurtures our spiritual life and strengthens our parish community.

True faith transforms our hearts. It teaches us to trust God's goodness, obey His teachings, and live uprightly in the world. It inspires us to worship sincerely, serve faithfully, and love genuinely.

As members of Saint Joseph's Church, let us continue to cultivate vibrant faith and humble devotion. May we keep seeking God in prayer, supporting our parish mission, and encouraging one another. May our faith remain steady, our devotion pure, and our community a beautiful witness of God's love and grace to all.

Article by: Arlene Loable Phoda (Filipino Prayer Group)



Parish Adult Catechism Class 2026

ENGLISH CATECHISM CLASS

(for Adults)

St. Joseph's Church
Garden Road

Every Tuesday (starts October 6, 2026)
7:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m

*No classes on 5th Tues of the month
Inquiry: stjosephs.hk@gmail.com

Tel: 2522 3992
WhatsApp: 5117 9111

I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE,
AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY. (JOHN 10:10)

Website: https://www.stjosephs.hk/

英文成人慕道班

聖若瑟堂
花園道

逢星期二【2026年10月6日開始】
晚上7時至8時30分

每個月第五個星期二不用上課
報名方法: stjosephs.hk@gmail.com

電話：2522-3992
WhatsApp: 5117-9111

我來，卻是為叫他們得生命，
且得更豐富的生命。(若10:10)

網址：https://www.stjosephs.hk/

Cross-Border Charity: Fr. Joseph Tan Uplifts Two Philippine Faith Communities

Peace and blessings to all parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

Our parish is blessed by the generous heart of our benefactor, Rev. Fr. Joseph Tan, who has answered two separate financial appeals from rural Catholic communities in the Philippines to nurture their sacred worship spaces and pastoral growth.

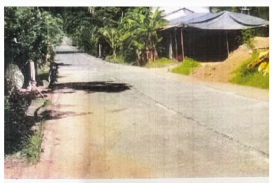
The first appeal came from Saint San Blas Chapel in Antique, whose aging roof suffered severe leaking during heavy rains, creating safety risks for local parishioners. Fr. Joseph readily granted support for full roof renovation. After the repairs were completed, chapel coordinator Marvin J. Tahanlangit and treasurer Rona Mae O. Matinong sent a heartfelt thank-you letter, sharing how this gift restored their safe place of prayer and strengthened their small community's faith. They continuously offer prayers of abundant blessings for Fr. Joseph.

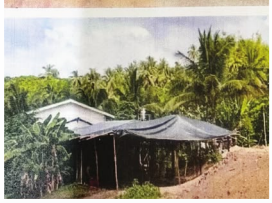
The second formal request arrived December 1, 2025, from Rev. Fr. Herminio M. Tacardon of St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Leon, Iloilo. The town's expansive pastoral territory makes consistent sacramental ministry difficult across 50 barangays, so the community aims to establish a new standalone parish in Barangay Bayag Norte to serve 15 remote villages. This project includes building a priest's residence beside the barangay chapel, enabling regular Simbang Gabi, Holy Week masses, funerals and other liturgies without relying solely on the distant main parish. Fr. Joseph graciously approved this request to fund the parish's canonical and construction preparations.

These two acts of kindness embody our parish's core mission of global Catholic solidarity. Fr. Joseph's support revives a damaged chapel and builds a brand-new parish home for distant brothers and sisters in Christ, proving that generosity crosses oceans to grow God's Church.

Let us unite in prayer for Fr. Joseph Tan, asking the Lord to bless him a hundredfold for his selfless charity, and may we all follow his example of compassionate outreach to faith communities in need.

Home of the resident priest





我的母親吳珍寶Anna

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及親友跟讀者分享他們對逝者的思念和對生命的感受。本期的內容來自吳珍寶　Anna的兒子胡泰安的悼詞，Anna的出殯逾越聖祭於去年4月1日上午在本堂舉行。

我母親生於1926年，因為家道中落，只讀過一年書。年幼便從鄉下到上海工作，在上海結婚。家父出身寒微，年幼喪父，只讀了幾年書。他在十多歲（30年代中）從寧波到上海當練習生。父母生長在動蕩的年代，他們經歷過八年抗戰，好不容易熬到1945年8月日本投降。和平這一年，我大哥出世，母親才19歲。

母親是一位很堅強、有毅力的女性。生活的磨難不少，但她總是堅忍地跨越。和平後，大家都很高興，衆人都想著生活會好轉過來。誰料到不久之後竟爆發內戰，父親在1949年離開了上海南下香港，母親便要在家鄉獨力撫養兩名兒女，同時亦透過不同政府部門申請到香港與父親團聚。1955年，母親獲政府批出通行証後，還要大清早步行二十多里從鄉下寧波到鎮海去取。隨後，母親帶着未夠十歲的大哥大姊，用了三天時間經上海、廣州再到香港。母親這年29歲，到香港後還要適應語言和香港的生活方式，更要找工作以及安排小孩讀書，但父母都熬了過來。到60年代中，家庭中多了三個孩子。到70年代初，家中又經歷一些經濟困難，但有賴父母及大哥大姊的努力工作，難關終於跨過了，感謝天主的眷顧！

母親面對困難時或許多一點急燥，但她相信「天助自助者」，所以她總是盡全力和有條理地解決困難。信仰告訴我：寄望是在將來天國的重逢，到時大家共聚歡然。我想用一首聖歌作為這個分享的結束祈禱，歌詞正反映我們對生命的盼望：

「吾主耶穌征服死亡，我等良伴我等君王！　哀哉此日我母長眠，吾主是賴永生泉源；奉主聖名求主慈眷，既蒙寵召在主膝前；天堂諸聖聚首歡然，我等在世永與罪遠；望愛德修天福同霑。」

BAPTISM

2026-07-11

Alexander Panda Spruce

2026-07-31

Matthew Alfred Tong

St. Joseph's Church, 37 Garden Road

NEWSLETTER

Dear Saint Joseph Family,
We invite you to contribute to our upcoming newsletter! Each month, we will explore a unique theme that encourages reflection and engagement. Your voices and experiences are vital to our community, and we would love to hear your thoughts on any of the following topics:

October: Missionaries of Hope Among All People
宣報希望於所有人
November: Called to Holiness Today
被召而追求聖潔
December: Emmanuel – God Is With Us
厄瑪奴耳- 天主與我們同在
January 2027
Light to the Nations 萬民之光
February
Love in Mercy and Prayer 慈悲與祈禱中的愛
Spring: Newness of Life 春天：生命的更新
March
Saint Joseph, Our Protector 聖若瑟：我們的守護者

Please send all submissions to our official newsletter email:
stjosephs.hk@gmail.com
We eagerly look forward to your heartfelt contributions and thoughtful insights!
Submission Guidelines:
Entries should be submitted one month prior to the chosen month's theme publication, preferably on the 7th of each month. This allows the Parish Newsletter team sufficient time to process the articles.
We look forward to your contributions and insights!
Blessings,
Arlene Loable Phoda (Parish Newsletter Editor-in-Chief)

BIBLE VERSES

He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began. (2 Timothy 1:9)

聖經金句

天主拯救了我們，以聖召召叫了我們，並不是按照我們的行為，而是按照他的決意和恩寵：這恩寵是萬世以前，在基督耶穌內賜予我們的。(弟後1:9)

In Loving Memory

Funeral / Memorial Mass:

2026-07-08	Maria Law
2026-07-09	Joseph Chan
2026-07-23	Assumpta Tam
2026-07-24	Stephen Cheung

神師訓語

培育信仰與聖召

温元修女

信仰與聖召密不可分，在每位信友的生命中交織在一起。信仰是天主所賜的禮物，而聖召則是天主對每個靈魂的親切召喚。培育其一就是滋養其二———因為真正的信仰必然結出聖召的果實，而每一份聖召都在與天主活生生的關係中找到其根源與支撐。

信仰的培育始於洗禮，並在持續不斷的皈依中延續。梵蒂岡第二屆大公會議強調，所有基督徒都被召叫達到愛德的成全。這份培育不是單純的知識灌輸，更是心靈與天主的親密相遇。每日虔誠祈禱、專心閱讀聖經、參與感恩祭、忠實領受聖事，這些構成了扎根信仰的基础。在靜默中聆聽天主、藉悔改淨化心靈、在感恩祭中與基督結合，使天主的愛成為生命的中心。

聖召並不局限於司鐸、執事或獻身修道者。相反，它是天主對每個人的邀請———是為每一個人量身訂做的生命計劃。《教會憲章》肯定了成聖的普遍召喚：每位領洗者都被召叫成聖。教宗方濟各提醒我們：「成聖是每個人的事」，我們要在日常生活的平凡境遇中為福音作見證。分辨自己的聖召需要謙遜與耐心———在祈禱中聆聽、從聖事中汲取力量、透過神修指導尋求明晰。教宗方濟各多次強調，聖召分辨不應獨自進行，而應在教會團體的陪同下進行，以人性的成熟和靈性的穩定為基礎，使內心的聲音不被世俗的喧囂所淹沒。

忠實地活出聖召並非沒有挑戰。疑慮會升起，困難會來臨，前方的道路有時似乎模糊不清。然而，這些掙扎本身可以深化信仰，教導我們不要依賴自己的力量，而要信賴天主的照顧。正如加爾各答的聖德蘭所說：「信仰是天主所賜的禮物，而祈禱是開啟心靈接受它的鑰匙。」

信仰是旅途的光，聖召是旅途的路。一生培育信仰，一生回應聖召。信仰與聖召的培育最終在愛德的實踐中找到圓滿。沒有行為的信仰是死的，沒有服務的聖召是空的。無論一個人處於何種生命狀態，以基督的愛對待他人、以正義與溫良面對世界、在家庭、職場和社會中成為地上的鹽和世界的光———這才是信仰最真實的培育，也是對聖召最真誠的回應。真正的聖召，就是將平凡的日子轉化為天主榮耀的見證。