

# In Touch

The Cathedral Magazine - Winter Edition 2022

## Serving at the Altar



# In Touch

ISSUE 032

## Dean

The Very Revd Kwok-keung Chan

## Cathedral Chaplains

The Revd Canon Dwight dela Torre

The Revd Canon Peter Koon

The Revd Sharon Langbis

The Revd Robert Martin  
(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of Emmanuel Church)

The Revd Will Newman  
(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of St Stephen's Chapel)

The Revd Amos Poon

The Revd Mark Rogers  
(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of Discovery Bay Church)

## Cathedral Honorary Chaplains

The Revd Dr Philip Wickeri

The Revd Polly Wong Heung-fong

## Executive Administrator

Thomas Li

## Director of Music

Felix Yeung

## Assistant Director of Music

Alan Tsang

## Organist

Jonathan Yip

## Communications Officer

Evelyn Chan

## Verger

Ho Tat Hoi

## Head Server

James Choo

## Head Sidesman

Michael Spencer

## In Touch Editorial Team

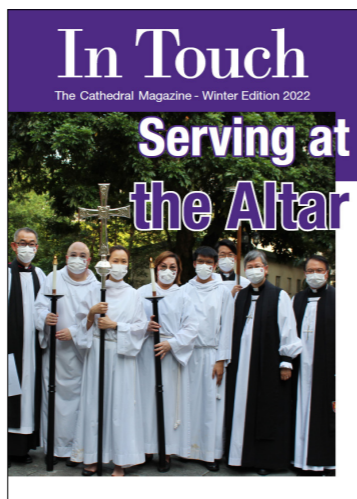
Evelyn Chan - Editor

Andrew Ashley

John Tanner

Michael Gibb

## In This Issue



- 03 Dean's Message
- 04 Serving at the Altar
- 06 St John's Cathedral Endowment Fund Further into the Future...
- 08 St John's Cathedral Michaelmas Fair 2022
- 10 Thanksgiving for the Life of Queen Elizabeth II
- 11 The Almighty Treasure
- 12 Why Be Normal When You Could Be Happy?
- 14 To Pause is Finally to See – Stories Behind the Photos
- 15 Caring For Migrant Domestic Workers to Build a Better Hong Kong
- 16 How to Find God: Look in the Unexpected Places
- 18 A Song of Eternal Ties
- 20 A Sunday in the Life of...
- 21 A Look Back in Time
- 22 Major Services at St John's & Daughter Churches

## Dean's Message

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Peace be with you!

Autumn is a cheerful season with nice weather and fresh air. Seemingly, the COVID situation and the seasonal change are both bringing us hope when we are expecting Advent and Christmas to come. The government policy of '0+3' in this latest wave of the COVID pandemic seems to be a booster for the livelihood of Hong Kong. Adding to the factor of pleasant climate, more people are going for short trips in Asia, Europe or America. This new policy also brings hope to the planning and implementation of various Cathedral ministries in recent months and next year. Hope is indeed all round us.

In this Trinity season, we organised a Choral Evensong in Thanksgiving for the Life of Queen Elizabeth II after her state funeral. The service was well attended with a full Cathedral. Most attendants gave high praises to the beautiful music arrangements. We thanked Dean Franklin Lee of Holy Trinity Cathedral for a thought-provoking homily including the intimate interaction between the late Queen and him. We will fondly miss this devout Christian leader who also loved her family members and set a good model for us to follow.

The annual fund-raising event Michaelmas Fair 2022 was held at our Cathedral on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Similar to last year, we were bound by the COVID restrictions of the government, which disallows large-scale gatherings. Without the in-person participation of school students and social welfare unit members, this year we installed an LED wall near the garden for playing recorded videos and messages from Anglican friends. Hopefully all the participants enjoyed watching the clips and attending this down-scaled Michaelmas Fair.

As I type this message, Christmas is just around the corner. The Advent season prepares all sisters and brothers to welcome the birth of Christ Jesus with hope, peace, joy and love. Although the atmosphere in the society is still filled with pressure or negativity, I would like to encourage all of you to stay hopeful. The forthcoming Messiah brings us out of darkness.

As St Peter says, 'Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.' (1 Peter 1.13) May we all stay hopeful that the grace of our Lord will be ready for us when the time of God comes.

Lovingly yours,



各位主內弟兄姊妹，平安！

令人愉悅的秋季為大家帶來了晴朗的天氣和新鮮的空氣。我們期待將臨期和聖誕時期，亦見到疫情和季節轉變所帶來的盼望。政府為推動民生，在疫情新一階段推出「0+3」抵港檢疫安排。加上怡人的氣候，令更多人準備到歐亞以至美洲旅遊。這項新政策也為座堂近月以至明年各項事工的籌劃帶來希望。誠然，盼望就在我們的身邊。

今年的三一節期，我們於英女皇伊利沙伯二世的國葬後舉行了一個感恩頌唱晚禱崇拜。崇拜期間聖堂內座無虛席，大部分出席人士對當中美妙的音樂獻禮讚不絕口。感謝聖三一聖堂李安業座堂主任牧師發人深省的講道，當中包括分享他與英女皇私下的交流軼事。我們懷念這位虔誠的宗教領袖，深愛家人的她確實為我們樹立了良好的榜樣。

每年一度的聖約翰座堂賣物會於十月二十九日順利舉行。如去年一樣，受到政府防疫措施的限制，我們未能進行大型聚會。雖然少了同學們和社福單位代表的現場參與，我們當日在花園附近設置了大型顯示屏，把來自聖公會友好團體的錄影訊息以影片方式和大家分享。希望所有參加者都喜歡這些影片以及今年的賣物會。

撰寫這篇訊息之際，也是臨近聖誕節的時候。在將臨期，各位弟兄姊妹都懷着盼望、平安、喜樂及愛心去迎接基督耶穌的誕生。縱使社會氛圍充斥着壓力或負面情緒，我鼓勵大家持守盼望；救主將要帶我們走出黑暗。

如聖彼得說：「所以，要準備好你們的心，謹慎自守，專心盼望耶穌基督顯現的時候帶給你們的恩惠。」（彼得前書 1 章 13 節）讓我們都繼續仰望，主耶穌在上帝來臨時為我們存留的恩惠。

主佑！

座堂主任牧師  
陳國強謹啟



# Serving at the Altar

By the Revd Amos Poon

**While we are still gathering at the porch, sitting comfortably on a pew, listening to the chimes and waiting for the introit hymn to be sung before each service, members of our servers' guild have already dressed up quietly and are usually busy preparing every item needed for the service. The servers' guild always pays attention to even the finest detail during the preparation work, hoping that the service can be conducted smoothly. Without their help, the service would not be as great and solemn an experience during services at St John's.**

During the service, servers are always multi-tasking. In a solemn mass with incense, two servers – the boat boy/girl and the thurifer – will pair up for some special tasks. In addition to passing the censer to the celebrant and gospeller when incense is needed, they must light the charcoal inside the censer with a burner both before and during the service. During a Eucharist, servers have to pass the chalice, the purificator, the paten, the pall and the corporal – which have been placed neatly in the correct order before the service begins – to the celebrant for setting the table.

Other duties include lighting the altar candles, checking for the correct number of service orders, leading the procession and recession at a solemn pace, and washing

and cleaning the worship items. They also carefully count the number of wafers in each ciborium (the vessel holding the bread for consecration) before and after the service, so that the Church can record how many communicants have attended the services that day. All these visible and invisible duties have made the servers' guild an essential part of our worship at St John's.

Even though the Bible doesn't mention anything explicitly about altar servers, traces of services and servers' practices can be traced from the New Testament. For example, during the feeding story in Luke's Gospel, Jesus invited his disciples to serve the blessed bread to the multitude, after which they were called to gather the leftover crumbs. This is comparable to the servers distributing the wafers and tidying up the table during services today.

Another point to note is that in the Revelation of St John, the author saw a vision of people participating in heavenly worship; those people were dressed in white. White is the colour for martyrs, witnesses and believers, for their clothes are washed clean by the blood of Christ. This is why the servers are always dressed in white, whether they choose an alb or a choir dress with cassock and a white surplice. (Incidentally, the word alb comes from the Latin word *albus*, which means 'white'.)

## Called to serve

As the longest-serving ministry at St John's, the servers' guild includes people from every generation, with different personalities and coming from various congregations, all of whom were called to serve our almighty God together as one body.

Richard Willis, one of the long-standing servers, shares that he was recruited by Denis Shea, the Head server, in 1972. He has since served on the altar for 50 years and is still serving today.

Saki Tsoi, who usually serves at the 11.45am Sunday service, says he was called as a server through a special religious experience. He shivered when the crucifier passed by him during a recession; he then told himself that he also wanted to hold the cross like that crucifier one day.

Some other young servers, like Andrew Lim and Kammuri Lee, joined the servers' guild via the chaplains' invitation.

## Discovering the meaning of worship

Each server has their own unique understanding and insight on how serving at the altar helps them see the meaning of worship. For some, they become more attentive during the service and have gained a better understanding of the liturgy. For example, Max Wu – who serves at the Chinese services as well as 11.45am Sunday service – enjoys his time with the thurible, and sees the importance of having incense, for it symbolises how our prayers ascend up to God.

Jeannie Chan, who serves on the weekday Eucharist and 9.00am Sunday service, finds the most remarkable experience is not when she dresses up as a sub-deacon with a tunic or as the Eucharistic minister, but when she is at the nave. She always feels touched as she directs people to line up and receive holy communion from the priest. She experiences truly how the body and blood of Christ are connecting with those who are receiving the communion at that moment, and with Christians of every generation who have enjoyed this eternal banquet.

Serving and getting close to God is never bound by age. God welcomes everyone to serve Him. Sicai Ng, Sinhang Ng and Chan Lok-kwan are three primary school-level servers who usually serve in the anticipated Cantonese service on Saturdays. Sicai and Sinhang are sons of our dedicated server, Kevin Ng. The two joined the servers' guild to follow the footsteps of their father. They receive proper training just as other adult servers do, and proudly say that they have become more focused on listening to the readings and learning more about Jesus' stories when they sit at the altar. These little young servers demonstrate how the teaching of Jesus could be lived out. *'Let the little*

*children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'* (Matthew 19.14)

## Enhancing spirituality

Additionally, serving at the altar even changes and enhances one's spirituality. David Tou, who mainly serves at the Chinese services, recalls his first time serving at the Good Friday service. He sat at the side of the altar and looked at the crucifix. Suddenly, he just could not hold his tears and kept crying unceasingly. That was the one moment he felt so closely connected with the suffering of Christ.

Similarly, Faye Yee – who serves at the 8.00am and 9.00am Sunday services – finds that the most significant part of the worship is when the priest consecrates the host and the cup. That scene always lets her feel how true the real presence of our Lord is.

Apart from enjoying the service as a server, some enjoy the time when they do not need to serve. After serving as a server for five years since 2017, Daniel Kong shares that he actually enjoyed the time when he did not need to serve, as this meant spending less time being among the congregation. So for every healing Eucharist, he will enjoy the service in the pews.

## The importance of humility

Serving at the altar also reminds the servers to re-evaluate their identities as disciples and servants of God. James Yim and Athena Wong have expressed similar feelings about the humility of being servers, to be humble to God as well as to fellow servers.

'At first, I joined the servers' guild only because my friends invited me to, but later I had a strong feeling that to serve is about being willing to serve invisibly,' Athena said. 'It is not about how much others know about your work, but solely about humbling yourself in front of God.'

On the other hand, James Yim realises the importance of working as a team, not as individuals. With such humility and teamwork, the servers' guild manifests the teaching of Jesus: *'For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.'* (Matthew 18.20)

Just as our Head server James Choo rightly observes, 'Every service is a manifestation of the worship in heaven; our serving is to glorify God. Through the Holy Spirit, we lead the congregation to experience God's presence in church and in their hearts.'

The servers' guild will continue to work diligently in assisting in every service, connecting the people with God and making heaven on earth. Amen!

# St John's Cathedral Endowment Fund

## Further into the future...

By Staff Reporter

**F**or members of the congregation, St John's is our spiritual home where we can experience the presence of God and meet and support one another. For members of the public, the Cathedral is a beautiful heritage site in Hong Kong where people may find quiet and peace in the busy world. It is a blessing for everyone, and as family and friends of the Cathedral, we are blessed to be able to pass this blessing on to future generations with the establishment of the St John's Cathedral Endowment Fund (2004).

The Endowment Fund's history dates back to 2001, when the Very Revd Christopher Philips (then Dean of the Cathedral) invited Dr Joseph Chan (St John's Cathedral Council member and current Trustee of the Endowment Fund) to chair the Steering Committee for developing the fund.

As Dr Chan recalls, the initial target was to raise HK\$30 million 'to provide a solid foundation to ensure not only that our lovely old building can be appropriately maintained, but that our outreach programmes can continue to make a real difference in the wider community.' The plan was to invest the funds to continually generate a minimum of HK\$1.5 million annually to support these two goals.



Raising HK\$30 million can be a challenge even in the most conducive of environments. It proved especially challenging in 2003 when Hong Kong (and many parts of the world) was hit by the SARS epidemic. But the exciting events hosted by different groups and individuals showed that the Cathedral family rose to the challenge.

Reports in *St John's Review* chronicle many fundraising events and activities, such as Music for Everyone, Cathedral Walkathon, Golf Tournament, Smart Casual Day, Lai See Drive, Flowers for Heritage, etc. The St John's Cathedral Heritage Dinner Concert and the Thanksgiving Service in April 2004 were definitely the highlights in successfully launching the Endowment Fund that year.

Ten years later, by the grace of God, the Fund was registered as a Charitable Trust Fund in 2014 under the administration of five trustees to provide financial support for its outreach projects and for the preservation of the Cathedral buildings.

Recalling the fundraising campaign in those days, Dr Chan gave credit to his wife and members of the Steering Committee for their tremendous help to solicit support and donations. 'I am not a good fundraiser,' he said.

Apart from the creative fundraising efforts of St John's family, Dr Chan also thanked then-Archbishop Peter Kwong for the generous donation of HK\$10 million from Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.

Reviewing the running of the Endowment Fund, he considers that it should be a living fund, with new donations coming in instead of relying solely on the initial donations.

Currently, the estimated maintenance cost of buildings in the Cathedral is HK\$2.5 million per year. Meanwhile, we are supporting different target groups through dedicated outreach ministries such as:

- Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW)
- St John's Cathedral Bookstore
- St John's Cathedral Counselling Service
- St John's Cathedral Life Enrichment Centre

Since 2014, a number of outreach projects have been supported by the Endowment Fund. These include:

- St John's Cathedral Counselling Service - Youth suicide prevention, intervention and after-care wellness programme
- Cathedral Interior Painting

### Notes of appreciation from St John's outreach ministries

#### Ms Cynthia Tellez, General Manager of MFMW:

With support from the Endowment Fund, MFMW managed to serve our targets through a number of projects, including:

- Give Care to our Caregivers: service fair held on the Cathedral grounds that serves the physical and psychosocial health needs (traditional Chinese medicine, chiropractor, dental health, art therapy) of more than 2,000 migrants. It also expands the connection of MFMW to service organisations and kind-hearted individuals for other programmes.
- Research on conditions/concerns/needs of migrant domestic workers involved in elderly care and assistance provides a concrete basis for recommendations submitted to the Hong Kong government for consideration.
- Migrant Care Centres (MCCs) - held in areas outside of Central, these centres actively reached out to provide preventive education and information, and contractual rights and responsibilities for migrants to cope with the challenges of the 'new normal' before their crisis condition escalates. The MCCs enabled our promotion activities all over Hong Kong.

It is important for migrant domestic workers to feel that St John's Cathedral is doing Christ's work among them – that they are not forgotten and are loved.

- HIV Education Centre - Microfilm Competition for youth to raise awareness of prevention of HIV/AIDS and to combat discrimination
- Cathedral Bookstore - hiring part time staff to develop online business
- MFMW - Domestic Worker Training for elderly care
- HELP - Educating schoolchildren on their relationship with domestic workers
- Counselling Service - subsidising counselling for people in poverty
- Life Enrichment Centre - hiring a part-time programme assistant
- HELP for Domestic Workers - the MeHeal and FirstHand Programs

'We welcome new donations from our congregation and friends so that the Endowment Fund may grow to fulfil its mission. Meanwhile, we are eager to hear from our outreach ministries to see how the Fund may further support their projects to offer much-needed services to the community,' Dr Chan concluded.

#### Dr Elda Chan, Director of St John's Cathedral Counselling Service:

Access to mental health support and treatment in Hong Kong has always been challenging. Even though there has been an increased social acceptance towards seeking help, access for those on low incomes requires a long waiting time, especially in the public sector. Financial constraints and loss of livelihood have also been exacerbated by COVID, posing a significant impact on people's income and even their employment. For those who do not speak the local language, they may find it even more difficult to access the services they require.

St John's Cathedral Counselling Service has been providing affordable multi-lingual counselling and psychotherapy to the Hong Kong community since 1977. Due to the support of St John's Cathedral Endowment Fund, we have been able to sponsor people to receive pro bono counselling sessions and psychiatric treatment. From January 2021 to June 2022, we have provided pro bono and low fee counselling services to 340 clients, conducting over 2,600 sessions for them. We have also sponsored over 10 clients to receive psychiatric treatment from our partnered psychiatrists. This support and sponsorship has been highly appreciated by the clients and families who were desperate in receiving treatment for their mental health problems, and would have severely struggled with the waiting times to access services.

If you are a mental health professional and would like to offer your time and profession to help those in need of mental health services, or if you would like to make a donation, please contact the Director of the Counselling Service at [elda.chan@sjccs.hk](mailto:elda.chan@sjccs.hk).

# Michaelmas Fair 2022

Thanks be to God, and to the generous support from our family and friends of St John's Cathedral. We were blessed with good weather and a wonderful time at this year's Michaelmas Fair on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Despite the restrictions on social gatherings, we enjoyed our fellowship together and raised fund for the Cathedral's ministries. Let's have a look at some of the snapshots.



# Thanksgiving for the life of Queen Elizabeth II



**T**he late Queen Elizabeth II has been celebrated for her timeless grace and dignity, a steadfast presence over the decades, friendships with presidents and prime ministers, her dedication to the Commonwealth, and her great affection for corgis and horses.

Complementing these sentiments, the thanksgiving Choral Evensong at St John's Cathedral on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022 focused on an aspect of her life that the global media have generally overlooked.

'Faith was her guiding light, and she never let this light dim,' the Very Revd Franklin Lee said in his homily during the service.

He reminded us how the late queen would share her Christian faith with millions of viewers worldwide during the broadcast of her Christmas messages over the years, stressing how she put her trust in God and drew strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.

'We are encouraged by the late Queen's example to trust in the promise of the Lord to all humankind, the Christian hope that is beyond comprehension, the light that triumphs over darkness, the love that overcomes all evil and pain, and sorrow,' he said.

By Michael Gibb

The service of thanksgiving was, as you would expect, suitably poignant, especially the words of the first lesson taken from Ecclesiastes 3:

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to love, and a time to hate;*

*A time for war, and a time for peace. I know that whatever God does endures forever.*

The Very Revd Franklin Lee also reminded us of Queen Elizabeth's humour and humility. He shared a story during his homily about his occasional encounters with Queen Elizabeth when he served as a Minor Canon at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. He said he was so nervous meeting her for the first time that he was dumbstruck and forgot to bow. But the queen immediately put him at ease with a handshake and a smile.

'This example of humility, I believe, is why she was so well loved, admired and respected. She humbled herself to follow the Lord faithfully,' he said.

Joining the St John's congregation at the thanksgiving service were representatives from the diplomatic corps: Mr Brian Davidson, the UK's Consul General, who was accompanied by his husband, Mr Scott Chang, and their three young children; Mr Alistair McEachern, Australia's Deputy Consul General; and Mr Gregory May, U.S. Consul General, who was joined by his wife, Margaret.

'As St Paul says, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. This was the faith Queen Elizabeth II held onto throughout her life, in which we find peace. Together with all the Faithful Departed, may the late Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace and rise in glory!' said the Very Revd Franklin Lee in the final words of his sermon.

The service ended with a lone piper, Mr David Maitland-Gardner, playing the haunting Lament, 'Flowers of the Forest,' followed by William Walton's 'Crown Imperial', played by Mr Jonathan Yip, Cathedral Organist.

# The Almighty Treasure

By Megan Ho and Jason Wong

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

~ Romans 6.23

**H**idden from sight, overlooked and sometimes ignored, is a treasure meant for all. This treasure can be truly yours and promises eternal joy if you follow a specific path. This article offers a way to that treasure, a path that demands faith and wit. The choice is yours to make. Do you have what it takes? Are you ready to walk the path?

**S**tart by paying respects to Private Ronald Maxwell of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps Company who fought the Japanese when they attacked Hong Kong in 1941. A Roman Catholic Eurasian, Private Maxwell died at the young age of 22. The gravestone marks the spot where he fell in battle, near where your feet now stand. Ever since, he continues to haunt the Cathedral grounds...hence...

**B**ow before the Celtic Cross and confide your prayers for the valiant souls lost during the two world wars. Hold your peace and enter the *Journey with God* through the Gothic lamp posts. Proceed with each solemn step until you find yourself *encircled* in the arms of God. *Look up* for a place of invigoration while you reflect on this *first message*:

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

~ Psalm 23.5

**T**urn in the *direction* where Jesus sat upon his ascension. Scout for the soul who had died and proclaim the arduous duties that were once performed. Ponder on this *second message*:

*To me to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

~ Philippians 1.21

**S**EEK next the *origin* of the chimes that strike the canonical hours. Beneath lays the cypher of a British

monarch suspended atop the sacred *gateway* to your final destiny. Apprehend this *third message* as you gain ingress:

*You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

~ Isaiah 62.3

**S**earch for a *creature* known for its grace, strength, keenness of vision and powers of flight, soar through the narthex from where the symbolic aviator stands. March on until the *golden boss* shines high above. This shall be where the truth is revealed. Embrace the presence of God and appraise the final words He speaks for your journey:

*First message:* take the *initial* of the divine place as thou gather faithfully in the dawn of the day for invigoration.

*Second message:* but for character thou shall defer to the *second* in the name first addressed of the lost soul.

*Third message:* and thou shall know the *last* of the two embroidered.

*Final Treasure revealed:* compose and thus realise for whom thy heart shall desire.

**G**o in peace. Be certain about the treasure that finds you from within.

*Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure In heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

~ Luke 12. 32-40

In mid-June 2022, Megan Ho and Angela Leung jointly designed and hosted two 'room escape games' for our usual Friday gathering. The games required participants to appreciate different parts of the Cathedral through carefully engineered routes tainted with wicked plots and twists. We all ended up amazed at how much more we could learn about the Cathedral that we mistakenly believed we were familiar with. Somewhere in this issue of *In Touch*, we share with you a taste of this (*with answers*)! *Can you find it???*

Do drop by our Friday gatherings if you have the time to find out more about us!

# Why be normal when you could be happy?

By Staff Reporter

**I**t took me quite a while to ponder on the meaning of this title of the debut drama of the Expressive Arts Teens Drama Project by St John's Cathedral Youth Ministry. I guess this is exactly what the project aims to achieve: to invite us as the audience to spend time to watch, listen to and discern the 'messages' hidden in the words and actions of young people.

Using drama as a means of communication, the Project in fact provides the young participants with an opportunity and a time to self-heal through creative expression. Thirty-three participants aged between 13-25 were recruited to create the drama from scratch and put on a show onstage in front of a public audience.

Alita Chow, a Year 1 student in the Creative Arts Acting for Global Stream at Hong Kong Baptist University, was among those who had been inspired by the Project to pursue their dreams in different parts of the production process. As a theatre lover, Alita was a member of the drama society in school, and joined several workshops and productions of some theatre companies and groups. She understands that theatre performance doesn't just combine elements such as acting, singing and dancing. The show is actually the result of the collective efforts of different parties over a substantial period of time. As part of a team, some people discuss their ideas in detail and develop the scripts together, while others design and make the costumes, props and make-up. Both the cast on stage and the crew behind the scenes must spend time and work together to successfully stage the performance.

Alita offers her sharing with passion: 'Drama gives us a chance to pull away from reality. You are allowed to have a free flow of imagination on stage. My friends see that being such an imaginative person, I do belong to the theatre.'

Having said that, she adds that the story and plot need to be logical. 'The creative process requires both physical and intellectual powers to complete. But I enjoy it very much, especially being on stage.'

Alita told us that her participation in the Project was very different from her past experiences. For some theatre groups or companies, the show is the focus and always comes first. 'This Project of St John's Cathedral is more people oriented. We did not begin by having rehearsals, but attending various

workshops to find out what kind of person we are; what we are good at and what we are not; what we like and what we do not like. Throughout the process, we gained a better understanding of ourselves and about acting.'

As she puts it, the whole process was more humane and warm.

The Project came to a successful close on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 following a two-day performance run. The cast and the crew, as well as many in the audience, were deeply touched by the performance. Kevin She, one of our Faith Begins group leaders, watched the show on 20<sup>th</sup> October. He shared:

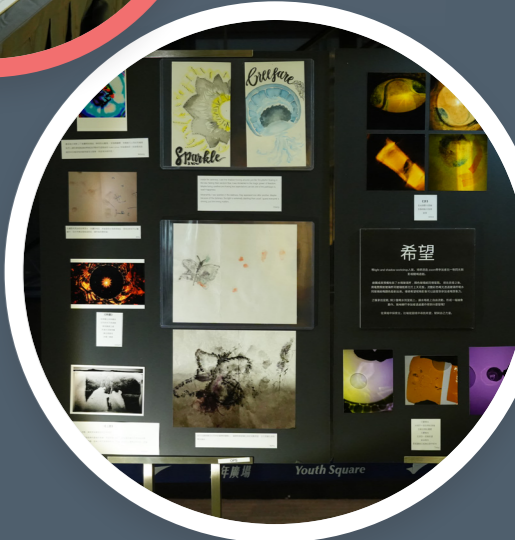
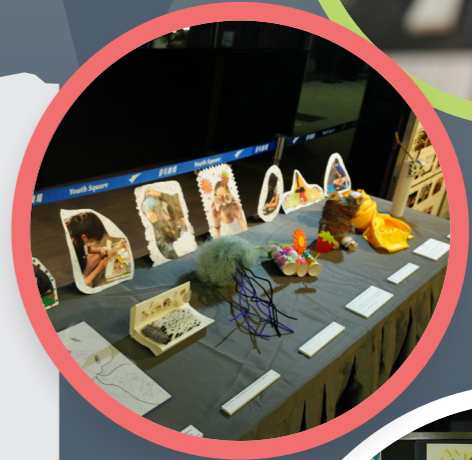
'The story is about the Happy Prince's intervention in three cases, as he helped the frustrated protagonists satisfy their needs and seek happiness.

'Even though this is a story written and performed by young people, I'm glad a not-so-young person like me can also find myself in the characters, be comforted and find strength. After all, people of all ages have to face these issues. Who doesn't have to face parental pressure and meet their expectations one way or another? Who hasn't wondered why we have to conform with social norms and peer standards on sexuality, dating and marriage? And who doesn't have to face a success-driven culture in society, perhaps sacrificing their personal dreams in the process?

'I'm particularly impressed by how they handled the rarely discussed issue of "asexuality" in a skillful and sensitive manner.

'The director told me afterwards that most of the actors did not have much acting experience before joining the cast. So, given the actors' superb performance and the fact that it touched me and others in the audience profoundly, they have certainly fooled me with their acting!'

It took almost a year for the participating young people to design, develop, rehearse and stage the drama. They presented the question 'Why be normal when you could be happy?', searched for the answer themselves and shared that with the public during the show. They should be proud of themselves for what they have achieved. And we, the Cathedral family, should be proud of them, too.



# To Pause is Finally to See

## - stories behind the photos

By Staff Reporter

**I**n this busy world, pausing for a break during one's daily routine may be a luxury for some. However, slowing down or even taking time out allows us to appreciate better the positive messages hidden in the ordinary moments of life.

Sponsored by the Hop Yuen Charitable Foundation Limited, St John's Cathedral Life Enrichment Centre (LEC) hosted a Photography and Storytelling Competition under the theme 'To Pause is to Finally See' to remind people to slow down during the pandemic.

An exhibition on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in Li Hall encouraged viewers to see more than just the surface of the photos and creative stories but also to feel the weight of history. Travelling 'from past to present', people can better reflect on the inner beauty of all things.

'This is the first time that LEC has organised such an exhibition,' said Vanice Chan, Service Coordinator at LEC. 'We had noticed that many people focus on the constraints of the pandemic and forget to enjoy the small blessings and beauty around them. Although people may not be able to travel, we wanted to remind people to see all the

colourful things around them, and appreciate the beauty of the Creator through this opportunity.'

The competition, which received more than 100 entries in the public and student categories from the community, provided a channel for participants to share their views through their creative works. Such wonderful moments and stories can inspire more of us to pause and live in the present, appreciate small events in life and listen to each other's stories.

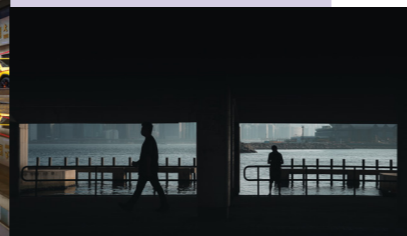
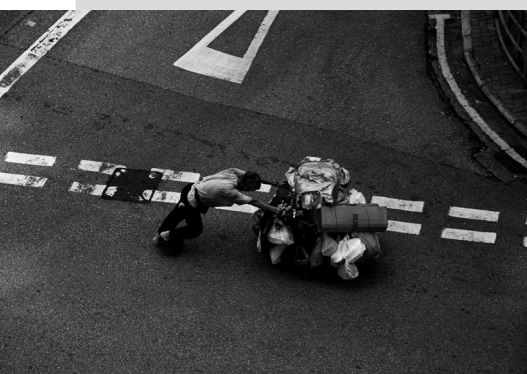
'Over the years, youth support programmes have faced many challenges, including social changes, adolescent distress and various family needs, etc.' said Vanice. 'With the slogan "Aspire to Inspire, Together We Thrive", we address the needs of young people and accompany them on their journey. We aim to empower and inspire them, hoping they can support each other.'

Established in December 2018, LEC serves more than 2,000 people each year through the Expressive Arts Youth Drama Project, Life Building Mentoring Project, and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme, among others. The Centre welcomes support and donations for the growth of our next generation.

### Student Category

## Winning Entries

### Public Category



# Caring For Migrant Domestic Workers to Build a Better Hong Kong

By Johannie Yan

**T**here are more than 300,000 migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong. They spend most of their time with Hong Kong household families, especially the children and elderly whom they care for. They devote more time to Hong Kong society than their own children and families back home. However, their needs are often overlooked.

As one of the Outreach ministries in the St John's Cathedral, the Mission For Migrant Workers (MFMW) serves migrant domestic workers and cares for their needs as the branches of the Church.

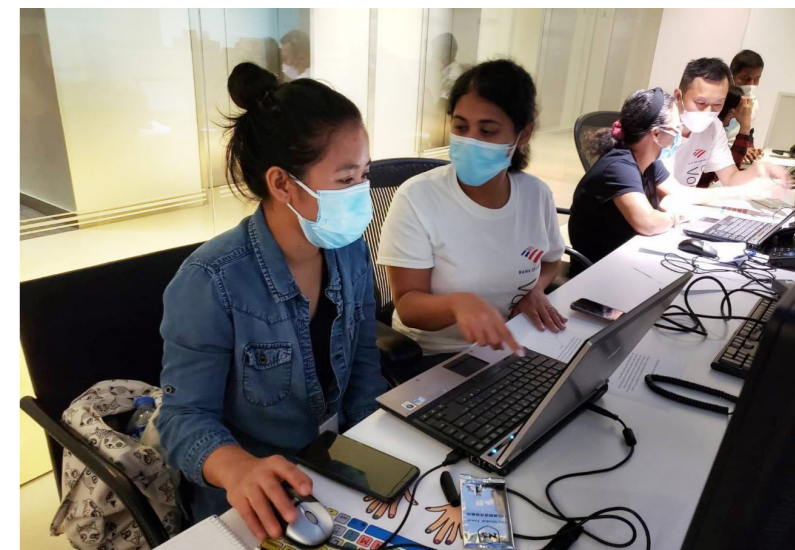
The past months at MFMW have been quite busy. Our center receives over 40 migrant workers each week seeking our guidance and assistance. With our 'Migrant Care Centers', we deliver outreach services throughout Hong Kong to reach over 100 additional migrant workers in a week.

We are grateful that the pandemic situation has been relatively stable since July, compared to earlier this year, which has allowed us to safely resume work and our life skills seminars in face-to face mode for hundreds of migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong. Since we resumed face-to face training sessions for migrant domestic workers, we are offering Cantonese lessons with the involvement of local volunteers.

We continue to adapt our training sessions and seminars to fit the current needs of the migrant worker communities. With more of our lives moving online in the 'New Normal', we offer seminars on computer literacy, with additional training on protecting personal information online, equipping migrant workers with the skills to protect themselves and their employer' families from online scams.

More so, we have expanded our partnership with the private sector to offer skills training in new areas such as basic floral arrangement, understanding the importance of nutrition, and pet care. We have also worked on promoting occupational safety in a household setting and the safe use of cleaning materials to ensure workers can protect themselves and their employers' families.

The impact of the pandemic on migrant workers' physical and mental health cannot be ignored. Most have gone for almost three years now without being able to take



a vacation; rest days are limited; and fear of getting sick continue to impact the community. In a survey we conducted among migrant workers at the end of 2021, almost 70% reported increased stress and anxiety, and 50% of the respondents experienced body pain. One out of every four reported feelings of depression. And this was before the fifth wave of COVID!

As we look forward to the future, we are adding programs about understanding mental health, and developing coping skills not just for migrant workers but for the wider community as well. The objective is to understand mental health and how the migrant community in particular is impacted.

Please join us at our events to learn more about upcoming activities promoting the general well-being of migrant domestic workers.



# How to find God: look in the *unexpected* places

By John Tanner

**A**round a year ago, I read a book called *How Can I Find God?* The book is an anthology edited by Jesuit priest James Martin, who asked this very question to a few dozen people. He didn't just ask Christians, but people of other faiths, and some of no faith at all.

As you might imagine, the answers varied widely (and were therefore very interesting, at least to me). Mind you, there are no wrong answers in the book. It's more a matter of matching the right answer to the right person. After all, there are many paths to God, and each seeker must choose the path that works for them.

Here are some of the search tips respondents offered.

## Scripture

Some people suggest reading the Bible. After all, it is through the Bible that we understand who God is, his relationship to us, and what he ultimately wants for us. A friend of mine once likened it to an instruction manual for an appliance. You can't understand how it works until you read the manual.

On the other hand, who reads manuals anymore? Almost every electronic device available these days ships with the promise of an 'out of the box' experience. Put simply, you remove it from the box, plug it in, switch it on, and it just works. And if it doesn't work, it should be easy to figure out how to make it work by fiddling with whatever controls are available. If you have to pull out the manual (or open the PDF version), the product is deemed a failure.

The Bible may tell us everything we need to know about God – but that doesn't mean everyone 'gets it' on first pass. (*I* certainly didn't.) The Bible is not a beach read. It's a dense, multi-layered book that leaves out most of the historical and cultural context necessary to really understand what's going on and why. Even with that, there are still many parts of the Bible we don't fully understand.

Let's put it this way: you don't need to practice exegesis and hermeneutics to understand a manual for an espresso machine.

To be clear, some people can (and do) find God by reading Scripture. But others reading it for the first time

may find it to be bizarre and incomprehensible. Or, at the very least, they may come away with more questions than answers about who God is and how they might find him. The best case scenario for some is that it is a good starting point. But more may be required.

## Sacraments

Some others say the sacraments is a good place to find God. This sounds reasonable from a theological perspective, which says God is indeed present in the sacraments, which are visible symbols of his grace.

But as with Scripture, the results will vary. Some people who have not yet experienced God may look at the sacraments as superstitious rituals with words read off a page or recited by rote. Some may indeed feel that the sacraments point the way to God – but again, more may be required.

## Prayer

A common and (for me) more helpful suggestion from the book is prayer. Prayer is, after all, communication with God. It's a time for us to sit down, quieten our minds and talk to God about whatever is on our minds – what we're thankful for, what worries us, what we want God to change or fix in our lives, or even just to tell God how cool he is and how much we love him. We don't even have to say anything – we can just sit quietly and see what God may have to say to us.

If he answers, congratulations – you've found him!

If he doesn't ... well, that's the tricky part, isn't it? Even believers aren't always sure when God replies. For one thing, God's responses aren't always immediate or direct. As the saying goes, God answers prayers in his own time, according to his will, and in ways we often don't expect. Consequently, his replies are sometimes easy to miss. So it's helpful to set your expectations accordingly.

## Action

Another suggestion for finding God is to take action and do the things that God calls us to do – loving our neighbour, helping the poor and marginalised, standing for social justice, etc.

We don't have to wait for God to call us to do any of these things – we can do them now. Many non-believers do. When we do these things, we are in God's presence, whether we're aware of it or not. It's up to us to recognise him.

## Finding God in unexpected places

Which brings me to another book I read a couple of months ago by Philip Yancey: *Finding God In Unexpected Places*.

As the title suggests, the book explored how we often encounter God where we least expect him. Which of course raises another question: Where do people think is the most *likely* place to encounter God?

For many people, the obvious answer may be 'church'. That's fair, though it may depend on the church. On the other hand, the obvious place isn't the *only* place. As Yancey notes in his introduction, when Jesus talked about finding God, he didn't direct people to the synagogues. His examples ranged from widows and tax collectors to sparrows, wheat fields and wedding banquets – even a mixed-race foreign woman with five failed marriages.

So in a way, *Finding God In Unexpected Places* provides helpful suggestions to finding the answer to the question: 'How Can I Find God?'

In short: if you really want to find God, the secret is in knowing where to look.

## People

Sister Helen Prejean says that for her, the most direct road to God is in the faces of the poor and needy. Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25 ('*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in*' etc.) only really hits home when you connect with the people who are hungry, thirsty, sick, imprisoned.

'To me,' she writes, 'to find God is to find the whole human family. No one can be disconnected. Which is another way of talking about the Body of Christ. That we are all part of this together.'

## Places

Finding God among the poor, sick, needy and marginalised also implies going to where they are – hospitals, slums, prisons, disaster areas, war zones, etc.

Yancey mentions all of these in his book, though prisons come up several times. For example, he recalls the time he accompanied Ron Nikkel, President Emeritus of Prison Fellowship International (PFI), to visit Christians in jails in Chile and Peru, both of which were notorious at the time for horrific prison conditions. He encountered prisoners of faith joyfully singing and celebrating Jesus, changing people's hearts in conditions that would test anyone's faith to the limit.

'Some people try to prove the truth of the gospels in the halls of academia, battling over apologetics and theology,' Yancey writes. 'Ron Nikkel says he just keeps going to prisons. There he finds the final testing area of forgiveness and love and grace. There he finds whether Christ is really alive.'

Yancey also talked to a woman named Joanna who, in post-Apartheid South Africa, began a successful ministry in the country's most violent prison. When he asked her how she did it, she said: 'Well, of course, Philip, God was already present in the prison. I just had to make him visible.'

As Yancey observes, that's a pretty good mission statement for all who seek to find, know and follow God. No matter where we are, God is already present – what can we do to make him visible?

## God is also searching for you

If it helps, one point that comes up several times in Martin's book is that God doesn't just sit around waiting for us to find him. God meets us where we are.

'Relax, and be assured that God is also seeking you,' advises the poet Kathleen Norris.

Personally I find this the most helpful and comforting tip for finding God. It works whether you have already found God, are still looking, or found God and then lost him again. Sometimes God feels distant to me – so it's a great comfort to remember that he is still out there, actively looking for his lost sheep to bring them home again. (See Luke 15. 1-7 for details.)

The trick is to keep looking for God, even as he looks for you. As actress and writer Mimi Kennedy puts it: 'Obey God's commandments. Feed God's sheep. Call God and make sure there's at least one place where you can always be reached. Check in for messages. God will find you.'

# A Song of Eternal Ties

By Ruiwen Chen

**Protestant Christianity has promoted the development of Western music in China since its entry into the country in 1807. A large number of outstanding Chinese musicians grew up in Christian families in modern China. Influenced by Western hymns and church music, they developed their love for music and began to learn Western music. Many of them later shone on the world music stage. Pianist Hsu Feiping (許斐平, 1952-2001), who was born in a Christian family on Gulang Island (鼓浪嶼), is one such musician. Here, I would like to share his story with friends at St John's Cathedral.**

On the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> March 1993, I attended the concert 'Dedicated to Prof. Fan Dalei (范大雷)' by Kong Xiangdong (孔祥東) and Zhou Ting (周挺) at the Shanghai Center, which was intended to raise funds for Prof. Fan (who was seriously ill), and to encourage him. Fan, Kong and Zhou were famous teachers and students who recorded piano pieces on tape such as 'Sonatas' and Carl Czerny's Op.599, 849, 299 in the 1980s and 1990s. These recordings became well-known among those who studied piano in Shanghai and throughout China. The recital was broadcast by radio to the bedside of Fan Dalei.

One of the pieces was Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18 by Sergei Rachmaninoff. This piece was composed in 1902, when the composer was in the most unfortunate period of his life. It is one of the most moving works in the world's piano oeuvre with its long and touching melody. Both Fan Dalei and his father, Prof. Fan Jisen (范繼森), one of the greatest piano educators of China, were well known for their lifelong love of this piece. Fan Jisen has made a name in history for refusing to play for Chiang Kai-shek (蔣介石) during Chiang's meal and answering, 'Do I have to play the instrument even if the leader is in the toilet?', which demonstrates the nobility of Chinese musicians. At the beginning of each New Year, Fan Jisen played a recording of Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor at home to mark a new start on life.

Fan Dalei died after the concert in the early hours of the morning at the age of only 47. At his memorial service, Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor was used as mourning music to send him off for the last time.

Rachmaninoff's concerto thus took root in my heart at the age of 9. Later, influenced by the works of Zhao Xinsan (趙鑫珊) and Zhou Yuming (周玉明), I was particularly interested in both the concerto itself and its

incomprehensible relationship with the Fan family. The first recording I bought with my own money was of this concerto. I still remember that the cover was painted with a green Russian forest and the English name of the concerto was written on it.

By that time, I was already taking piano lessons with Prof. Ouyang Wen (歐陽文), my teacher. And I was going to the middle school affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music every week. Prof. Ouyang assigned a lot of piano works for me, which greatly broadened my musical horizons.

She emphasised several of them: Chopin Étude Op. 10, No. 1 in C major (known as the 'Waterfall Étude'), Chopin Étude Op. 10, No. 12 in C minor (known as the 'Revolutionary Étude'), Chopin Étude Op. 25, No. 6, in G-sharp minor (known as the 'Thirds Étude'), and the Italian Concerto (BWV 971) composed by J.S. Bach. She even wrote the phrase 'Ten years to sharpen one sword (十年磨一劍)' on my music book for the Thirds Etude, encouraging me to play it all the time and for the rest of my life.

She was also a person who cherished talent, so she always told stories about Chinese pianists as if enumerating her family valuables. However, among them, there was no mention of Fan Jisen and Hsu Feiping (許斐平), the most famous teacher and his student in the history of Shanghai Conservatory of Music. This seemed very strange.

Prof. Ouyang died in a car accident in 2016. Six years later, in the early spring of April 2022, I heard a recording by Hsu Feiping. Hsu's performance is characterised by a constant breath that resonates from tone to tone, and by a graceful flow of passion and tension within a noble and balanced framework.

This has reshaped my understanding of piano art. In my many years of studying piano, I have never felt such a strong feeling as I do today: Hsu's passionate playing for the 3<sup>rd</sup> movement of Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata' burned like a fire in my heart, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> movement of Beethoven's 'Pathétique Sonata' rushes forward like a warm spring tide to encompass and relieve everything. The compact, mournful but not distressing and clear-cut handling techniques shows the literati spirit and valuable cultivation that emerged from the soil of Chinese culture, which is full of the poetry of Chinese culture, unifying the secular and the sacred, nature and life. I understood

something in his music that was easy to express but requires a lifetime of practice: music is language, music is character, and music is beauty.

What's more, when I read through Hsu Feiping's historical materials, everything was connected to my own piano learning history: Fan Jisen practiced his teaching system, allowing the senior students to help the junior students. This is why Prof. Ouyang often asked us to teach the younger classmates; Fan asked Hsu to play the Chopin's Waterfall Étude, Revolutionary Étude, Thirds Étude, Handel's Variations and other pieces. Hsu's perfect interpretations of these shocked the whole Chinese piano world and he was later transferred to the Central Orchestra.

These are the pieces that I practiced under the guidance of Prof. Ouyang. Since I met her, she exposed me to a large amount repertoire of music. This is also the most well-known teaching method of Fan Jisen, using music pieces instead of the études to train students.

Prof. Ouyang did not mention Hsu Feiping to us. I regard this as the mystery of God Himself. I heard Hsu's music this spring, from his moving version of the hymn 'Abide with Me' to the pieces by Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and some Chinese pieces without being influenced by anyone else. Perhaps this experience of

creating an impression from a blank sheet of paper is the most precious.

What's more, from a horizontal view, Hsu's story is closely linked to my own piano history, just as T.S. Eliot implied: 'The end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.' Here, finite and infinite, instantaneous and eternal, past and future, life and death are all interpreted. In the longitudinal direction, the multiple dimensions in his music have helped me to look up from the secular lowlands of music to the sacred heights of this art. And I am determined to run in the flood of music again and never stop.

In the spring of 2001, Hsu Feiping recorded Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in Russia, and six months later he died in a car accident in the section between Qiqihar (齊齊哈爾) and Lindian (林甸) in northeast China. Like an unexplained mystery, Rachmaninoff's concerto took him away from the world. When I hear his performance today, I think of Ouyang's death six years ago. I am speechless. I know Feiping and Ouyang are both in heaven. With the recording I got from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in my hand, I truly shed tears of sorrow and of grace mixed together on earth.

Ruiwen Chen, Ph.D., is a Researcher at the Center for Historical Research, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Archives.

## The Almighty Treasure Revealed

### First message

Enter the Journey with God: the Labyrinth!  
Become encircled in the arms of God: stand in the centre of the Labyrinth.  
Look up (literally) for a place of invigoration. Do you like coffee? 'My cup overflows': NEST!



### Second message

Where was Jesus seated? At the right hand of God. Turn right from the Labyrinth. Mourn for the person who died. Look for a monument. Notice the verse 'To me to live is Christ and to die is gain' engraved at the very bottom. Salute to Captain William Thornton Bate!



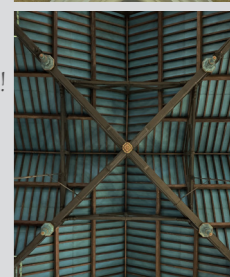
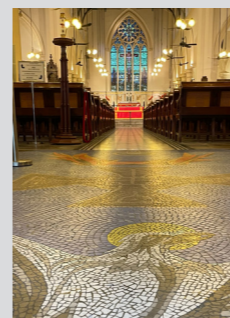
### Third message

Seek the origin of the chimes: the Cathedral bells!  
Which British Monarch is on the Emblem? Queen Victoria.



### Walking the Path

What is the symbol of St John? The eagle at the entrance of the Cathedral!  
Travel down the aisle straight to the Altar.  
Have you ever noticed the golden boss on the ceiling?  
Take a moment to embrace the magnificent stained glass where Jesus stands.



### Final Answer

Take the initial of the place. Yes. Literally. N from Nest.  
Then defer to the second character of the first name of the Captain. Yes. Literally! I from William.  
Know that last of the two letters of the monogram on the Emblem. Yes. Yes. Literally! R from VR.  
What can you make of the 3 letters: N, I and R?  
INRI – the King of Jews whom we shall keep in our hearts. The true treasure from within.

# A Sunday in the Life of...

## Sandy Villamil

### Bookstore Manager

*In conversation with Andrew Ashley*

**I**'ve spent a lot of Saturdays and Sundays here,' says Sandy Villamil, looking back over her six years managing the bookstore at St John's. 'But things have settled down now, and I'm not usually here at weekends, except for special events like Outreach Sunday.'

So Sandy's life at St John's isn't really about Sunday any longer, even though she is one of the most visible members of the Cathedral community. There is a steady stream of visitors to the bookstore and Sandy is always ready to make them feel welcome at St John's. 'People don't just come in to buy books,' she says. 'They want to talk, to ask, and to learn about the church.'

Many people think the Cathedral is a Catholic church, so Sandy explains about Anglicanism and about St John's distinctive offering. She's well prepared for this role, both from her own experience as a Christian – she was Lutheran, her husband was Catholic, and they became Anglican together – and from studying for a bachelor's degree in theology in her spare time.

Sandy is characteristically modest about her academic life. 'I'm doing the degree part-time and I haven't finished it yet. I really don't enjoy learning via Zoom!' Sandy's hoping that she'll be able to resume her theological studies in the classroom next year.

It was Sandy's interest in theology that led her to her current position. She'd previously built a career in high end residential developments and private clubs, and had become highly experienced in building, facilities and catering management. But she had started to wonder if it was time for a second career.

So when Sandy saw an ad in the HKSKH Echo for the position of bookstore manager, she thought 'Why don't I give it a try?' Not only was she studying theology but she had a great affection for bookshops and loved hanging out in them.



There were over 50 candidates for the job and Sandy had to go through a rigorous selection process of three interviews. Her theological training and her in-depth knowledge of the materials she would be selling made Sandy a natural for the position. It soon became clear that her transition to her second career was a journey planned by God.

Sandy has become prominent in the world of religious bookselling. She currently chairs the Christian Booksellers Association of Hong Kong and is well known in the business. When people are trying to obtain rare or hard to find books, particularly in English, the customary refrain is 'Go to St John's and ask Sandy!'

This keeps Sandy very busy. 'There's a big demand for theological books here,' she says. 'Christians take their faith seriously and spend time learning about it.'

Now that Sandy has the book store running smoothly, with excellent support from Kendy and Wai, she mostly works from Monday to Friday and her Sundays are her own. She and her husband live near Tai Po and they worship at St Joseph's, Kam Tin. 'Archbishop Andrew's wife asked us to go to St Joseph's when Andrew was preaching there. We went, liked it, and decided to stay.'

Sandy's happy at St Joseph's, though she remarks on the length of the Sunday morning services. 'The sermon always lasts more than half an hour!' But that still leaves time for her to indulge one of her other passions, cooking. After church, she enjoys shopping in wet markets, before going home to cook and relax with good food. The perfect Sunday for our busy bookstore manager.

# A Look Back in Time

*By Michael Gibb*

**T**ravelling was tough, families separated, loved ones lost and clouds of uncertainty hung in the air. Sound familiar? No, this is not a comment on the global pandemic of 2022. This was 1941.

I expected the *St John's Review* of 1941, a year synonymous with the invasion of Hong Kong, to be filled with anxiety. But actually, glancing through the pages, you get a sense that, although war was uppermost in Hong Kong's mind in 1941, life continued as usual, which only adds to the sense of tragedy.

The year began with hope. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held on 5<sup>th</sup> January rather than before Christmas, as is the custom today; the Revd A. P. Rose, who would take over the deanship from the Right Revd J. L. Wilson later in the year, (and who would play a hugely influential role in Hong Kong post-1941), married Miss Mary Wansey at the Cathedral on 30<sup>th</sup> January; and a plucky advertiser was making bold claims for an 'Anophelene Spray' that would end 'mosquito horror' in Hong Kong. The spray was 'Safe! Speedy! Efficient!'

However, thoughts of war loomed. The Dean shared his feelings about the current state of geopolitics in the January issue. 'The causes of war,' the Right Revd J. L. Wilson wrote, 'still lie in the unredeemed dispositions of our hearts, and most of the miseries of poverty and disease are the results of man's unwillingness to change his mind about his own selfish desires.'

The Dean took up the post of Bishop of Singapore in July 1941. He was consecrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> July at the Cathedral in Hong Kong rather than in Britain, as was customary for a new Bishop, as the journey would have been too perilous.



*Procession into the Cathedral at the Consecration of Bishop Wilson on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1941.*

Fast forward to November 1941 and anxiety about war is present in *St John's Review*, for sure. The magazine contains a stinging editorial on Nazism and the Christian duty to resist such evils. 'The intensity of our revolt against the spiritual evil embodied in the Nazi system is at the same time... an affirmation of belief in God.'

Actually, some felt Japan was not such a threat. A section in the regular 'Searchlights' column in the November issue suggested that war would further tarnish Japan's already battered reputation. The conflict in China had been 'conducted with cruelty and terror,' the writers insist. Why would Japan make the situation worse?

The review of *The Nature and Destiny of Man* by Reinhold Niebuhr in the November issue adds to a sense of foreboding. This heavy tome argues that 'the Christian standpoint is the only standpoint from which man can be understood', according to the reviewer, the Cathedral chaplain Revd Charles Higgins, who points how Niebuhr echoes Proverbs 16.18 that 'pride goeth before destruction'. The suggestion is our arrogance and overestimation of our powers before God lie at the root of humanity's failures.

Yet life in the St John's community carried on with a degree of normalcy. Attendance at the social hour after Evensong was growing, the regular organist Mr J.R.M. Smooth was back from 'an enjoyable leave' in Australia, and was planning to rebuild the present organ. Meanwhile, the Cathedral welcomed back Colonel Dowbiggin and Mr H. Owen-Hughes, also back from leave. And Mrs Dowbiggin was recovering from an operation.

There are comments about the housing crisis in Hong Kong, concerns of refugees sleeping rough on the streets, and the lack of mother tongue education for primary school children, the complaint being that the 'absence of a properly organised system of government primary schools' was 'deplorable.'

There was even a call for new members to join the choir, ('New assistance is always welcomed!'), and an invitation to breakfast after the morning service on 9<sup>th</sup> November. P B Wilson, the Honorary Secretary of the Server's Guild, asked that readers inform the Cathedral secretary if they could attend, adding, with some disappointment, that only three people had joined the previous month.

But then the *St John's Review* fell silent until April 1947.

# Major Services

## at St John's & Daughter Churches

### St John's Cathedral

4-8 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong  
Tel: 2523 4157  
URL: [www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk](http://www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk)

**11 DEC** **The Third Sunday of Advent**  
8.00am Said Eucharist  
9.00am Sung Eucharist  
10.30am Sung Eucharist (*Mandarin*)  
11.45am Choral Mattins  
1.30pm Sung Eucharist (*Filipino*)  
5.00pm 'Blue Christmas' Eucharist

**17 DEC** 6.00pm Chinese Carol Service with Eucharist (*Cantonese*)

**18 DEC** **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
8.00am Said Eucharist  
9.00am Worship for All  
10.30am Sung Eucharist (*Mandarin*)  
11.45am Responsorial Eucharist  
1.30pm Sung Eucharist (*Filipino*)  
5.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**24 DEC** **Christmas Eve**  
3.00pm Crib Service  
4.30pm Christingle Service  
11.00pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity and Blessing of the Crib

**25 DEC** **Christmas Day**  
8.00am Said Eucharist  
9.00am Sung Eucharist  
10.30am Sung Eucharist (*Mandarin*)  
11.45am Responsorial Eucharist with Carols  
1.30pm Sung Eucharist (*Filipino*)

**31 DEC** **New Year's Eve**  
11.00pm Watchnight Eucharist

**22 FEB** **Ash Wednesday**  
8.00am Said Eucharist  
12.00nn Said Eucharist (*Cantonese*)  
7.30pm Sung Eucharist

### Discovery Bay Church

SKH Wei Lun Primary School  
Lantau  
Tel: 2987 4210  
URL: [www.discoverybaychurch.org.hk](http://www.discoverybaychurch.org.hk)

**Every Sunday**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist

**4 DEC** **The Second Sunday of Advent**  
10.00am Nine Lessons and Carols

**24 DEC** **Christmas Eve**  
6.00pm Christingle with Nativity Play

**25 DEC** **Christmas Day**  
10.00am Family Eucharistic Celebration of the Incarnation

### Emmanuel Church

Béthanie Chapel  
139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pok Fu Lam  
Tel: 2523 4157  
URL: [www.emmanuel.org.hk](http://www.emmanuel.org.hk)

**Every Sunday**  
10.15am Sung Eucharist

**11 DEC** **The Third Sunday of Advent**  
7.30pm Carol Service

**24 DEC** **Christmas Eve**  
10.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity and Blessing of the Crib

**25 DEC** **Christmas Day**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist with Carols

### St Stephen's Chapel

St Stephen's College  
22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley  
Tel: 2813 0408  
URL: [www.ststephen.org.hk](http://www.ststephen.org.hk)

**Every Sunday**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist

**11 DEC** **The Third Sunday of Advent**  
6.00pm Christmas Lessons and Carols by Candlelight with St Stephen's Chorale

**24 DEC** **Christmas Eve**  
5.00pm Christmas Crib Service for young families, with Carols  
11.00pm Christmas Midnight Mass

**25 DEC** **Christmas Day**  
10.00am Christmas Eucharist with Carols

*The Cathedral is closely monitoring the pandemic situation.*

*Please visit our websites for the latest updates about service arrangements.*



ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL  
聖公會聖約翰座堂

***Be Friends with the Environment***

A little step by all of us can make a sea change to our environment. We invite our readers to join us in protecting the environment. There are two ways to get involved:

***1. Pick up the magazine at the Cathedral    2. Read the magazine online***

The Cathedral Office keeps a subscription list of *In Touch*, and mails hard copies of the magazine to readers and parishioners quarterly. If you choose to pick up the magazine at St John's Cathedral, fewer plastic bags will be used for delivery. Please inform us by filling out and returning the form below to the Cathedral Office if you would like to unsubscribe from the mailing list.

For those who wish to continue receiving *In Touch* by mail, we wish to assure you that the bags are 100% degradable.

In 2018, we started publishing *In Touch* on Issuu, an online digital publishing platform that provides readers with a more convenient reading experience, regardless of the mobile devices or computers they are using. The PDF version of *In Touch* is also available on the Cathedral website (<https://www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk/>). Please scan the QR code to read our current and past issues.



---

***Unsubscribe from the Mailing List***

To unsubscribe from the mailing list of *In Touch*, please fill in the form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Return the form by email to [communications@stjohnscathedral.org.hk](mailto:communications@stjohnscathedral.org.hk) or by post to St John's Cathedral, 4-8 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong.