Thoughts for Prayer SHALOM

As yesterday, today we are invited once again to recall and meditate on the Annunciation to Mary. We Catholics are often accused of honouring Mary too much and those who do not share the fullness of our faith even erroneously, of course, accuse us of worshipping her. The simple fact of reading the Gospel of the Annunciation on two consecutive days in Advent, as well as on other feast days throughout the year is a reminder that if we truly appreciate the gift of God’s son as our redeemer, we can never meditate too frequently on Mary’s generous and courageous love and freedom of Mary in accepting God’s invitation to be the mother of Jesus.

We, of course, live in the time after Jesus’ resurrection and so we are enlightened by our Easter faith in the fullness of redemption which Jesus won for us by his death and resurrection. This enlightenment may often somewhat affect our appreciation of the tremendous courage which the Annunciation and God’s calling required of Mary. If only we were as generous and courageous in answering Jesus’ call to be his disciples and apostles!

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us that we, too with God’s grace, may be generous and courageous in following Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

King David wishes to build a temple for God with wood, mortar and stones. God, however, promises something different; God Himself, will build a temple with living stones. This promise is fulfilled when Mary becomes the temple of the Most High God. As Paul affirms, it is the plan kept hidden for long ages but now revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Humans are to accept God’s plan rather than make a plan for God.
Notices and Events Announcement

**SHC Christmas Carols by Candlelight**
The Parish Christmas Caroling will be held this Sunday, December 21st, 2014 at 7.30pm at the foyer of Sacred Heart Parish Centre. All parishioners are invited to join in the carolling.

**Blood Donation Campaign**
SHC Charity Ministry will be co-organizing a blood donation drive this Sunday, December 21st, 2014 from 8.00am to 1.00pm in room G1 at the Parish Center. Staff from QEH Blood Bank will be on hand to assist in the donation effort.

**Christmas Cantata**
The SHC English Choir and friends will be performing their Christmas Eve Cantata on Wednesday, December 24th, 2014 at 8.00pm at the Cathedral after the Sunset Mass. All are invited.

**SHC / CMI, Bookshop and St. Joseph’s Benevolent Fund Office Closed**
The Parish/Sub-Parish Offices, Bookshop and SJBF Office will be closed from 9.30am onwards on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th, 2014 (Annual Clergies & Staff Christmas Fellowship) and closed from 12.00noon onwards on Wednesday, December 31st, 2014 (New Year eve).

**MASSES ON CHRISTMAS**

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<tr>
<th>Christmas Eve December 24th, 2014 (Wed)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart Cathedral</td>
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<td>Church of Mary Immaculate</td>
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**Archbishop Christmas Open House 2014**
Our Archbishop will be having an open house at the Sacred Heart Parish Centre on Christmas Day, December 25th, 2014 (Fri) from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. Let us celebrate Christmas with our Archbishop and other well-wishers and visitors.

**Archbishop Emeritus John Lee Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee**
There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, December 28th, 2014 at 4.00pm at the Cathedral. Let us pray for God’s choicest blessings on Archbishop Emeritus John Lee in his priestly ministry.

**Year-end 2014 and New Year 2015 Masses @ SHC**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Dec 31st, 2014 (Wed)</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solemnity of Mary</td>
<td>Jan 1st, 2015 (Thu)</td>
<td>6.00am</td>
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<td>Mother of God</td>
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**Weekly Vespers and Holy Hour**
Please be informed that effective next year, the weekly evening prayers and Holy Hour at the SHC will be held on every Thursday from January 8th, 2015 from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. As usual the Parish Centre will be closed during these Vespers and Holy Hour and will only be opened at 8.30pm.

**Infant Baptism**
Parents, please register your child at the SHC Parish Office during office hours. Bring along original and copies of your Church marriage certificate, child’s birth certificate and confirmation certificate of godparent. For information, please call Tel: 223618, 224741, 262068.

**Parish Calendar 2015**
All Parish Groups / Ministries/ Communities, please submit your activity itineraries for the year 2015 to the Parish Office as soon as possible (Attention: Johnny) for inclusion in the Parish Calendar 2015.

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**Archbishop John Wong, Fr. Jeffi Gumu, Fr. Rhobby Aaron Mojolou, Fr. Mitchelly Kiu, Fr. Wilfred Atin, Fr. Felix Chung, Deacon Abel Madisang, SHC / CMI Parish Pastoral Councilors, SHC Parish Finance & Property Councilors and Parish / Sub-Parish Staff wish all parishioners a BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**

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**Pre-Marriage Course (PMC)**
Register at the Parish Office. Fee is RM50 (registration, morning tea and booklet). Please call the SHC Parish Office for information at 223618, 224741 & 262068.

**SHC Parish Office - Revised Office Hours w.e.f Jan 2015**
Monday-Friday @ 8.00am to 4.30pm
Lunch Break @ 12.00pm to 1.30pm (Closed)
Saturday @ 8.00am to 12noon

Please note that the office will be CLOSED on the first Saturday of every month.

**Closures of Facilities at the SHC Parish Centre**
Sacred Heart Parish Centre will be closed from December 23rd to 26th, 2014 (Tue-Fri) to facilitate our Christmas preparations, Archbishop Open House and thereafter, cleaning up works.

**Vocation Seminar 2015**
If you want to discover more about the Diocesan Priesthood or feel you are called by God to be a Diocesan Priest come to this Seminar to be held from January 16th to 18th, 2015 (Fri - Sun) at the Bundu Tuhan Retreat Centre. Working young men, 18 years and above, with SPM/STPM and unmarried are cordially invited.

Pick up a registration form during office hours from your respective Parish Office and return the completed form to Fr. Wilfred Atin at Tel: 088-712297/ 715017 or Fr. Rayner Bisius 088-236102 or your Parish Priests together with copies of your birth certificate, identity card, baptism and confirmation certificates and academic certificate(s) on or before January 4th, 2015.

**Spirituality & Growth Retreat**
This is organised by LIFE community (ICPE Mission) and will be held from January 16th (starting at 12noon) to 18th, 2015 (ends at 2.00pm) at Manis-Manis Resort Crocker Range National Park, Keningau Highway. A retreat reflecting on various themes on spirituality and growth, drawing from a rich Catholic tradition and aims at being a source of mutual support for each other in our journey towards inner freedom. Fees at RM250.00 per person. Please contact Beatrice Chong 0138569616 for registration and information.

**Sunday Collections (Dec 13th & 14th, 2014) (in RM)**
SHC Black Bag (15,692.85), Red Bag (11,539.35); CMI Black Bag (6,616.06), Red Bag (5,608.55).