

ISSUE
#12



CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS
JOHOR BAHRU ✕ 新山耶稣圣心主教座堂



*stories from
the heart...*



新山耶稣圣心主教座堂
CATHEDRAL OF THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS
JOHOR BAHRU

1982-2022

PARISH STAFF FROM 1982 TO PRESENT

When the Cathedral was opened in 1982, the late **Lawrence Er** assisted in the parish for a few months with the late Monsignor Peter Wee.

"It has given me a sense of belonging and the ability to contribute to this parish..." - Geraldine Ng

Geraldine Ng (1982-2010) full-time

Geraldine Ng reluctantly became the parish secretary after the late Fr Thomas visited her home daily to persuade her. In the 28 years, she had served over 20 priests or more. Geraldine continues serving in the weekly flower arrangement for the parish.

Priests during her time in the parish office:

1. Fr. Reginald Miranda
Fr. Thomas Sta Maria
Fr. Ignatius Huang
2. Fr. Dasan SJ
Fr. Colin Rosario
3. Fr. Conrad Rosario
4. Fr. Clement Bala
5. Fr. Moses Lui
Fr. Francis Ng CCD
Fr. Michael Mannayagam
6. Fr. Sebastian Francis
Fr. Matthew Lee
Fr. Peter Ng
Fr. Michael Teng
Fr. Devadasan
Fr. Joseph Heng
Fr. Lawrence Ng
7. Fr. Bernard Andre Binet MEP
Fr. Benedict Yee
8. Fr. James Rajendran



Geraldine with her husband, John and daughter, Lucia. John teaches Catechism while Lucia plays the organ/piano for the Sunday Morning choir.

In her words...

Praise and thank God for all the graces received!

Gratitude and thanks to Bishop Emeritus James Chan, the late Fr. Thomas Sta Maria who employed me, and all the priests posted to this parish. Transitory of priests happened so often in the parish and constant adaptation was required.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work in this parish. Grateful thanks to my family, parishioners, and colleagues too for their cooperation, help and encouragement.

Through various spiritual formations and seminars i.e. Parish Renewal Encounter (PRE), Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS), Basic Ecclesiastical Community (BEC), Youth Encounter, Family Day celebration, Corpus Christi combined celebration (CIC and SHC) etc, parishioners were inspired and actively involved in programs organised by the parish, there was a great increase in RCIA catechumens too.

I volunteered myself in floral arrangements for weekend masses and weddings and have since been involved from when I started working in Cathedral till now. It has given me a sense of belonging and the ability to contribute to this parish and I would like to thank Rev. Frs. for the blessings and support.

Glory and praise to God!



Geraldine (2nd from left) with Edna Khoo, Sally Pillai & Michelle Lee, the Flower Ladies of the parish

**Christina & Elizabeth Cheong
(2007-2009) part-time**

2 sisters, Christina & Elizabeth Cheong, worked part-time between 2007 to 2009.

Priests during their time in the parish office:

Rev Frs. Peter Ng, Bernard Andre Binet MEP and Lawrence Ng



In their words...

The 3 memorable events for us during our service in SHC were the 25th Anniversary Dedication in 2007 where we came up with the logo which is in use until to date, the Diaconate Ordination of late Rev Fr Christopher Lee in 2009 and the demise of Rev Fr Bernard Andre Binet MEP in 2009.

"Working in the Cathedral has definitely brought me closer to God." - Carol Tay Mui Lang

Carol Tay Mui Lang (2010-2021) full-time

Carol Tay worked for 11 years between 2010 to 2021.

Priests during her time in the parish office:

Fr. James Rajendarn

Fr. John Yoew

Fr. Lionel Thomas

Fr. Dr Michael Teng

Fr. Edward Rayappan

Fr. Joseph Heng

Fr. Simon Yong SJ

Fr. John Pereira



Carol (left) during Mother's Day celebrations.

In her words...

As a parish secretary, it was not only dealing with office paper work but what makes it more interesting is helping out with events of the Cathedral. There are times during the absences of the priests, I need to lend a listening ear to troubled parishioners.

The most memorable and challenging incident was when a senior lady suffering from Alzheimer wandered into the Cathedral one Sunday morning with no personal contact details except for a Presbyterian card with her name on it. Through God's grace and guidance, after 5-6 hours, we managed to locate and contact her family and brought her safely home.

Working in the Cathedral has definitely brought me closer to God.

身为一个教区秘书，不只要和办公纸打仗，但把工作弄得有趣的是要帮忙处理所有在教堂大大小小的活动。有时，当神父不在时，我需要当一个聆听的耳朵帮忙一些困惑的教友解惑。最让我难忘的是，有一个星期天早上一个老太太得有老人痴呆症进入了教堂，什么个人信息都没有只有她的名字，但是有神的帮助还有指导我们最终花了将近5-6个小时的时间，找到了她的家人成功的把她送回家。

在教堂做工让我把我和神的感情升温了。



Carol (right) during FAMILY Day in 2018.

"Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as done for the Lord and not for human beings..."

- Teresa Chew Pacifico

Teresa Chew Pacifico (Dec 2017 to present) full-time

Teresa Chew Pacifico hails from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. She moved here to Johor Bahru at the end of 2015. Teresa suffered from "Psoriasis" since she was 9 years old and her condition has progressed into Arthropathy when she was 16 years old with Spinal Involvement in 2019. Despite her physical disability, it has not hampered her parish work.

Priests during her time in the parish office:

Fr Edward Rayappan

Fr Benedict Yee

Fr Michael Teng

Fr Joseph Heng

Deacon/Fr Martinian Lee

Fr Simon Yong, SJ

Fr John Pereira

Deacon/Fr Gilbert James OFM Cap



In her words...

Hello! I'm Teresa Chew Pacifico, from KK, Sabah. I started working in the parish back in December 2017, when I was a 20-year-old. Working in the parish was never part of my plans. Fr Eddie (Edward Rayappan) took much effort to pursue me to work here when I was attending RCIA for my Confirmation. After much thought and discernment, I decided to give it a try and thus dropped all other things that I was doing at that time.

Looking back, this is what I desire to do, to serve God. God works in amazing ways in each and every one of us, and for me, he basically answered my prayer. I have been praying for the last 10 years to serve Him and the church, a desire since I was 11 years old. In exchange for my health, I promised to serve Him and his bride.

Colossians 3:23-24 is a constant reminder in my daily work and service for the church... "Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as done for the Lord and not for human beings, knowing that the Lord will repay you by making you his heirs. It is Christ the Lord that you are serving.". Learning from the priests, religious sisters, parish leaders and congregation, everything about the parish down to every little event, has taught me to discern and reflect in everything that I learn.

Every Mass, event, activity, and all additional tasks which I have been called to do, I take as a challenge and considered them 'my babies', something to be proud of. It has taught me to be patient and to adapt to different working styles. I have been blessed to meet with good people, good bosses and good colleagues. I am blessed that our God, our provider, provided for our every need. I am blessed that the parish accepts the deficiencies in my physical being. Maybe this is the reason God wakes me up every morning, to serve His church and His people.

The parish is now an aging parish in need of young ones to serve. Give the young people a sense of belonging. Encourage them and let them lead with your guidance, even though their ways of working might be different from yours. Let them fall and stand up with you holding their hands.

Lastly, in everything we do, let us do for the glory of God. Let us continue to pray for the young people and for more vocations.

"Cathedral holds a special place for me as it was the parish that I grew in faith..." - Angila Yong Yueh Ching OFS

Angila Yong Yueh Ching OFS (2021-present) part-time

Angila Yong OFS, a Secular Franciscan, joined the office as a part-time staff in the midst of the pandemic.

Priests during her time in the parish office:

Fr Simon Yong, SJ

Fr John Pereira



Geraldine with her goddaughter, Teresa together with Angila OFS.

In her words...

It has only been over a year since I started working part-time in my home parish. Cathedral holds a special place for me as it was the parish that I grew in faith from being a member of the youth and now as a mid-aged adult. The year (1982) Cathedral came into being was when I moved to Johor Bahru after my studies in Brunei and Singapore, getting involved in the parish activities through joining the choir. Although I had worked for the Diocese for over 20 years, working at the parish level is quite different. Attending to the daily needs of the congregation besides planning for the events of the parish especially during the pandemic and lockdown was quite challenging as situation was very volatile. It was heart-warming to see the return of the congregation when the lockdown and restrictions were lifted.