



ANG BINHI

"Ang Binhi" (The Seed) is the Official Newsletter of the Catholic Filipino-Australian Chaplaincy of Brisbane

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Adore 2005

On January 20, 2005, an Eucharistic-centred youth congress, aptly named 'Adore2005', began. It was a momentous occasion in Sydney, where over 600 youth from across Australia, and some all the way from the USA, converged in St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Mary's Cathedral College Hall for the four-day conference.

The main focus was giving adoration to Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. The conference was Eucharistic-centred, as our hearts were opened to the grave necessity of reverence to the Eucharist as it is so lacking in today's members of the Body of Christ. It was also Marian in spirit as our Lady was guiding each one of us during the 4 days. It gave us such perspective that to reach Jesus, we must go to Mama Mary and ask for her intercession to lead us to Him. To have a sincere devotion to her, we were reminded of this through the meditation of the life of Jesus in the mysteries of the Holy Rosary and through other Marian devotions. We decided we must treat her as our own mother, the way the saints prayed for her intercession, as we too are called to be holy in sainthood.

All who attended were entertained by various informative and entertaining speakers, such as Bishop Fisher and Bishop Porteous both auxiliary Bishops to Archbishop George Cardinal Pen - Fr. Edgardo 'Bing' Arellano and Raymond de Souza. Mass was also celebrated daily, whereby a Pontifical Solemn High Mass was celebrated by his Eminence, Archbishop George Cardinal Pell, to open Adore 2005.

An inspirational person from the USA also participated and performed at the congress. Carlos "Chucky" Ibay, a blind Filipino-American, touched the hearts of all those who attended with his God given talent of singing and playing the grand piano despite his physical disability of having no sight. This was no hindrance to him which therefore showed many that through the grace of God, anything is possible. He also visited Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to help fundraise for the Adore conference and at the same time, touched the hearts of all who attended the concerts.

The congress was also centred on prayer. Each day began with a shortened

Version of the Divine Office and with five mysteries of the Rosary. There was adoration available from the open and close of each day, in a Chapel with a high Altar. There was also Mass in the afternoon and night prayers, that brought each day to an end. It was encouraging to see many of the youth taking time out during the congress to go to Confession and spend time meditating in the Chapel before the Blessed Sacrament, solemnly exposed by a Priest.

The Eucharist is the centre of our faith, and as youths we must believe and know this, and as adults, we must never forget this, for there is a grave lack of reverence in today's world, hence the reason of our society's deadly culture. It was truly inspirational to see the fervour and positive attitude the youth had throughout the congress. Adore 2005 was hosted by the religious congregation of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts (OATH) and sponsored by the Alliance of the Holy Family International (AHFI).

Brendon Diente
Adore '05 mission team

EASTER EGG AND OUR LIFE

Christmas and Easter are two very special feasts of the Church which mean the most to us. They are alike and yet different. At Christmas we celebrate a beginning in the birth of Jesus. At Easter we also celebrate a beginning. But it was a beginning of a fuller life, for Christ did not rise from the dead in order to continue the life he had lived on earth for some thirty years. He rose to a glorified life of perfect happiness wherein he put behind him all the suffering and misery and tears that are our human lot.

But for the Filipinos, Christmas is, of course, much more appealing with all its decorations, its wonderful carols, its gift-giving, dancing, eating and merry-making. At Easter we find not much revelry...no decorations, caroling, gift-giving and merry-making. So Easter is almost stark comparison with Christmas.

However, there is one simple symbol of Easter which we should think about, and that is the Easter egg. Looking back in Church history, originally, when the Lenten fasting was extremely strict in the early Church, eggs were forbidden food. On Easter Sunday, therefore, it was but natural then for Christians to enjoy eating eggs from which they had abstained during the long period of Lent. An egg, however, is an excellent symbol of the meaning of Easter for Jesus as well as for ourselves too. Within a fertilized egg, life is slowly but surely unfolding. When the time for hatching comes, the chick emerges from the shell to begin a full, free life as Jesus emerged from the tomb to a glorified life. Right now we are temporary living in a very confined life, like that of a chick within its shell. But one day, when our time of hatching comes, we will break the shell of this life to be free to live with the Risen Christ. The bright colors with which we dye Easter eggs are a sign of our joy over Christ's resurrection and the expectation of our own. Easter reverses the image of Good Friday. It shows that Jesus Christ is truly the one who will lead us to the happiness of eternal life in heaven. HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

- Fr. Mars Singson

by Art Pagaduan



Christians all over the world celebrate Holy Week in various ways. In the Philippines, it is a week, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, dedicated to prayer, rejoicing, and nurturing thoughts and feelings a spirit of "rebirth." There are various displays of self-flagellation and sunken face fasting. Men from all over congregate to fulfil a *panata*, a public homage by portraying Christ carrying heavy wooden cross. A *panata* is a personal pledge of servitude and worship to the crucified Christ. Many believe that by doing so all their sins for the year are forgiven. In Australia, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are the highlights of the celebration. Many people still fill-up the churches but there is a consistent decrease in attendance year after year. Some people prefer to celebrate the Holy Week in beaches, in sporting arenas and in the pub carrying the four crosses (xxxx) instead.

The occasion stirred in me memories of how we used to celebrate Holy Week, in my hometown of Moncada, Tarlac. When we were kids, it was - even more than Christmas - the biggest event of the year. In those days, our town was "divided" between Catholics and Aglipayans, with the Catholics - though very much in the majority, still faced stiff competition from the adherents of the late Bishop Gregorio Aglipay, and his Philippine Independent Church. (The Aglipayans or the Philippine Independent Catholic Apostolic Church was a breakaway movement started in 1902, led by Fr. Gregorio Aglipay, a catholic priest.)

The centuries old Spanish-built colonial type church in our town (where Rose and I were married), of course, was the stronghold of the Catholics. When we were teenagers, the courtyard of the church in which we also sang off-key in the church choir - became a more interesting place, because the boys congregate there to watch the pretty girls walk by, their eyes modestly cast down although they knew they were the cynosure of attention and admiration. Their pretty hands piously clutching their rosaries and prayer books.

Diagonally across the town plaza, was the smaller but very active Aglipayan church. The Catholics and Aglipayans made the plaza and the surrounding, dusty streets as well as the main highway, which cut through the square the "battlefield" of their rival processions. There were, as you'll recall from your own hometown memories - the usual, mournful, prayerful Lenten processions. But the Sugar Bowl equivalent of the religious clash of the titans was the glorious Easter Dawn procession. In Ilocano dialect, "Nag-ungaren! Nag-ungaren! (He is risen! He is risen!). The participants would sing at the top of their voices, following the priest and his candle-bearing acolytes, while the silver incenser swung to and fro filling the air with clouds of perfumed smoke.

The Aglipayans would begin their own procession at almost exactly the same time, and at one point the two groups would pass each other. A few glares, it couldn't be helped, were exchanged between each rank of "true believers" at the apostates and heretics on the "other side." But the rivalry was mostly sham, and in the spirit of fun.

The high point of the Easter "march" was the *salubong*, when the statue of the Blessed Mother carried on her *carosa* met the statue of the Risen Jesus under a gaily-decorated arch. The arch was festooned with flowers, but the crowning act was for an "angel", naturally a cherubic-looking little girl chosen from one of the town's best families, would pop from concealment above in a contraption fashioned to appear like a huge flower fastened to the arch above, whose large petals were still closed. When the "petals" opened, the cherub would be lowered downwards, bestowing rosebuds on the Blessed Virgin's head.

This is my recollection, that was long time ago, and far away, but I still remember it vividly as if it were only yesterday. Memory plays tricks on you, I've found in life. The most trivial happenings are embedded indelibly in one's recollection, while the momentous events slip the mind. So before I lost it, I have to put it in writing. How can I say it? Nostalgia, it's remarked, is the kingdom of getting older. Easter morning always brings with it memories of my Golden Yesterday, when the entire world was young and heartbreak not even a cloud in the horizon.

Our version of the Salubong will be held on the 27th March 2005, 4:30 am (assembly time), procession will start at 5:00am, then the Easter Sunday Mass at 5:30am. to be held at Chinese Catholic Centre, 80 Nemies Street, Runcorn. The Celebrant is our Chaplain, Fr. Mars Singson. Please come on time.

My maternal grandfather, a farmer, used to tell me how to know if a rice harvest is poor or good. "**Learn from the rice stalks, those that are straight and tall are empty, while those that are bent and lowly are heavily with grain.**" There is wisdom and truthfulness of his words in many ways. There are people who are "up there", but all they have are their money and power. Take these away from them and they have nothing at all. No character, no values, no true friends, and no respect. They lived colourful lives but they are not fruitful, they live comfortable lives but they are not useful.

The building of the Filipino Shrine in Canungra (Marian Valley) is in progress. The excavation and site preparation is now complete and the pouring of the slab foundation will be done before the Holy Week. The Chaplaincy created a committee to oversee the whole aspect of the project from financial and construction aspects of it. Generous families already donated statues of our own Filipino saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz, the Mother of Perpetual Help and the Black Nazarene. There is a letter of appeal sent to individual families as well as to different groups for donation and so far we received very encouraging results but we need more. This is a project that everyone must participate. Big or small amounts of donations, when it comes from the heart, it helps a lot. Be fruitful and useful, be generous. This is our Shrine. Happy Easter to all!

MEM MURMUR

...And they sang, and they danced and everyone had a happy, memorable night.

26 February 2005 was a milestone in MEM's history. It marked the Marriage Enrichment Movement's 5th anniversary. The brainchild of Fr Dom Flores and Sr Nedy Esguerra, MEM has thrived to be one of the most enduring and active groups under the Filipino-Australian Catholic Chaplaincy. To date, it has held 10 Marriage Enrichment Seminars and various other activities which include retreats, follow-up seminars for the graduates, barbeque, parties, Lenten reflections, masses, overnight retreat, discos, karaoke singing etc. The movement has a good mix of professionals and trades people, young and old couples, government staff and private company employees and serious and jolly folks. What's good about the group is the commitment they share in making MEM a happy, productive and relevant group that answers the need of couples to belong and to share marital life in a non-threatening way. In this busy and ever-on-the-go world a support system for the couples who are the heads/leaders/movers and shakers of their own families is necessary to help them keep going. That's what MEM is all about.



GOD HAS A PURPOSE IN EVERYTHING

There are lots of things and sciences that we can learn and have learnt from schools, colleges or universities, however there are also many millions who don't have the privilege or opportunity of education, but events like the tsunami has its repercussions on practically everyone—literate or otherwise. Such is the power of the mass media. Such violence of nature we hope, will help conflicts made by men all over the world, view life in its proper perspective and thereby be an agent for the betterment of mankind.

Some have said that the tsunami was just one of the forces of nature. Others that scientists could have given ample warnings to prevent unnecessary loss of life, especially as there are places four hours away from the impending danger. Others said that God could have prevented it from happening. A somewhat close analogy can be given when Lazarus died and was buried. Some of the people nearby the tomb said, "He gave sight to the blind, didn't He? Could He not have kept Lazarus from dying?" Jesus had a reason then, and I am sure He has a reason for countless happenings going on every minute of the day. Only in the next world will be able to find the reasons to all our unanswered questions. In the interim, let each one of us see what we can do to make this world a better place.

A prayer of Cardinal Newman, a convert to Catholicism begins like this: "God has created each one to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another." He ends up with these words, "He does nothing in vain He knows what He is about."

By Albert Kessler

From my mailbox at: efren@altez.com.au

Any Vacant Position for HIM? The Resume of Jesus Christ

Address: Ephesians 1:20, Phone: Romans 10:13, Website: The Bible,
Keywords: Christ, Lord, Savior and Jesus

Hello. My name is Jesus -The Christ . Many call me Lord! I've sent you my resume because I'm seeking the top management position in your heart. Please consider my accomplishments as set forth in my resume. Qualifications: I founded the earth and established the heavens, (See Proverbs 3:19). I formed man from the dust of the ground, (See Genesis 2:7). I breathed into man the breath of life, (See Genesis 2:7). I redeemed man from the curse of the law, (See Galatians 3:13). The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant comes upon your life through me, (See Galatians 3:14) Occupational Background I've only had one employer, (See Luke 2:49). I've never been tardy, absent, disobedient, slothful or disrespectful. My employer has nothing but rave reviews for me, (See Matthew 3:15-17). Skills Work Experiences. Some of my skills and work experiences include: empowering the poor to be poor no more, healing the brokenhearted, setting the captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind and setting at liberty them that are bruised, (See Luke 4:18). I am a Wonderful Counselor, (See Isaiah 9:6). People who listen to me shall dwell safely and shall not fear evil, (See Proverbs 1:33). Most importantly, I have the authority, ability and power to cleanse you of your sins, (See I John 1:7-9) Educational Background - I encompass the entire breadth and length of knowledge, wisdom and understanding, (See Proverbs 2:6). In me are hid all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, (See Colossians 2:3). My Word is so powerful; it has been described as being a lamp unto your feet and a lamp unto your path, (See Psalms 119:105). I can even tell you all of the secrets of your heart, (See Psalms 44:21). Major Accomplishments - I was an active participant in the greatest Summit Meeting of all times, (See Genesis 1:26). I laid down my life so that you may live, (See II Corinthians 5:15). I defeated the archenemy of God and mankind and made a show of them openly, (See Colossians 2:15). I've miraculously fed the poor, healed the sick and raised the dead! There are many more major accomplishments, to many to mention here. You can read them on my website, which is located at: [www dot - the BIBLE](http://www.dot-theBIBLE.com). You don't need an Internet connection or computer to access my website. References - Believers and followers worldwide will testify to my divine healings, salvation, deliverance, miracles, restoration and supernatural guidance. In Summation, Now that you've read my resume, I'm confident that I'm the only candidate uniquely qualified to fill this vital position in your heart. In summation, I will properly direct your paths, (See Proverbs 3:5-6), and lead you into everlasting life, (See John 6:47). When can I start? Time is of the essence, (See Hebrews 3:15).

Chaplaincy Activity Schedule (March to December 2005)

MISA DE GALLO

March 23 - Holy Wednesday

March 27, 4:30am - Easter Sunday Mass (Salubong) Chinese Community Centre, Runcorn
Contact: Sr Necy & Vicky Bulaong

May 15, 2pm - St. Paul's Church, 3 St. Paul's Dr. Woodridge. Contact: Jim & Ruth Palmanni Tel. 38004685

May 28, 5pm - Flores de Mayo
St Bernardine's Church, 25 Vergulde Rd. Browns Plains. Contact: Russel & Pavier Milde Tel. 38003835

June 12 - Barrio Fiesta - FCCQ Mass c/o Pastoral Council.
Contact: Art & Rose Pagaduan/ Adel & Monina Cos

June 18, 9:00am - Pilgrimage, Marian Valley, Canungra. Choir - The Bay Singers (Deception Bay).
Contact: Art & Rose Pagaduan/ Ben & Vicky Bulaong

July 24, 11:00am - Filipino Mass
St. Mel's Church, 88 Ipswich St. Esk
Contact: Carmelita Tworte 54241670

Sept. 24, 7:00pm - Feast of St. Lorenzo Ruiz, St. Patricks Church, 70 Tobruk St. Beenleigh. Contacts: Ben & Quennie Balaba 55465112/ Joel & Vinia Se Tel. 0412936444

Sept. 25, 11:00am - Filipino Mass
Sacred Heart Church, 1 Stewart St. Childers. Contact Chris Gardner Tel. 41266197

October 1-30, 6pm

Month of the Holy Rosary, Our Lady of Fatima Church, 350 Mortimer Rd, Acacia Ridge. Contact: Mardi Britt / Efrén & Nora Altez Tel. 3273 7089

October 15 - Chaplaincy Night
(Time & Venue - TBA) Contact: Art & Rose Pagaduan & Adel/Monina Cos

Nov. 2, 7pm - All Soul's Day Mass
Our Lady of Fatima Mass, Acacia Ridge. Contact: Adel & Monina Cos

Nov. 27, Sunday, 11:00am -
1st Sunday of Advent, St. Joseph Church, 177 Currie St. Nambour
Contact: Juanita Forman 55468334 and Imelda Brian

Dec. 3, Saturday, 1:30pm
Holy Mass, St. Martin's Church, Cnr. Logan & Chester Rd. Eight Miles Plains
Contact: Nancy Spriggens

Dec. 4, Sunday, 11:30am -
Holy Mass, Sacred Heart Church, 50 Fairway Dr. Clear Island Waters.
Contact: Paul & Irma Courtney, Tel. 55273321

Dec. 10, Saturday, 11:00am -
Holy Mass, Christ the King Church, 54 Thompson St. Deception Bay.
Contact Marietta Savage Tel. 32031645

Dec. 10, Saturday, 7pm -
Holy Mass, Guardian Angel Church, 198 Bay Tce. Wynnum. Contact: Grace Moon Tel. 3396 1157

Dec. 15, Thursday, 7pm

St. Joseph & St. Anthony Church, 5 Eldorado St. Bracken Ridge, Contact: Boyet & Doris Diaz Tel. 32614105

Dec. 16, Friday, 7pm
St. Williams Church, 67 Dawson Pde. Grovely. Contact: Phillip & Rose Abundo Tel. 33550292/Noel & Minda Wright Tel. 33550062

Dec. 17, Saturday, 7pm
St. Bernardine Church, 25 Vergulde Rd. Browns Plains. Contact: Arman & Lucy Abolencia Tel. 38000487

Dec. 18, Sunday, 3pm
St. Stephen's Cathedral, 249 Elizabeth St. Brisbane. Contact: Art & Rose Pagaduan Tel. 32735921 / Sr Necy Esguerra Tel. 0401 367 236

Dec. 19, Monday, 7pm
Star of the Sea Church, 53 Passage St. Cleveland. Contact: Darcy & Amy Higgins Tel. 38246569

Dec. 20, Tuesday, 7pm
St Peter & Paul Church, 25 Main Ave. Balmoral. Contact: Adela White Tel. 33999940

Dec. 21, Wednesday, 7pm
St. James Church, 165 Old Cleveland Rd. Coorparoo. Contact: Jenny Philipps Tel. 3843 0393

Dec. 22, Thursday, 7pm
Holy Cross Church, cnr Anzac Ave & Chealsa St. Kippa-ring. Contact: Bernie Gasper Tel. 3285 6796

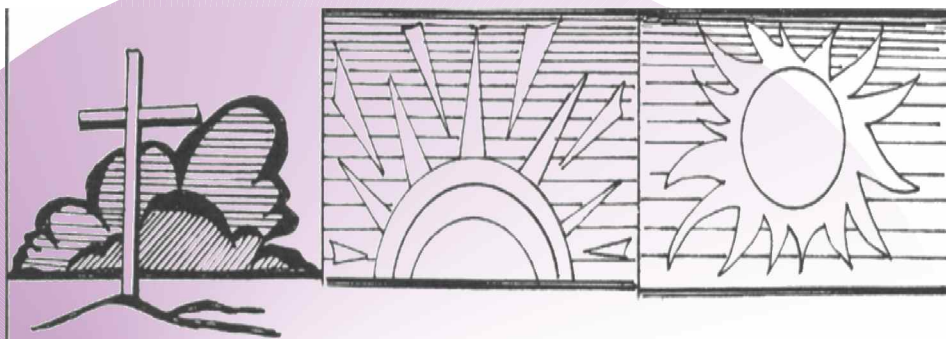
Dec. 23, Friday, 7pm
Chinese Catholic Com. Centre, 80 Nemies Rd. Runcorn. Contact: Ben & Vicky Bulaong Tel. 3216 8395

Dec. 27, Tuesday, 7pm
Holy Cross Church, 28 Chalk St. Woolloowin. Contact: Pat & Doreen Werda Tel. 3357 4745 / Cliff & Vivian Bratby Tel. 33577872

**To all community leaders:
Please plan your activities around this timetable to avoid overlapping and to ensure a good attendance in all our chaplaincy activities.*

Prepared by: Sr. Necitas Esguerra, FdCC Pastoral Associate

*In consultation with:
Fr Mars Singson, OSB (Chaplain)*



Christ
Has
Died

Christ
Has
Risen

Christ
Will Come
Again