

# The Echo 迴聲



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## 恭賀新禧 2024

編者的話：

在這新春佳節，恭祝各位龍年快樂，  
幸福平安！

*Editors' Note:*

*Happy Chinese New Year!*

*The Echo team wishes all  
parishioners Joy & Peace in the year  
of the Dragon!*

福

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福

福



# The Echo

## 聖堂的馬槽

聖堂的馬槽，有個蘋果，為什麼呢？

原罪就是因一個蘋果而產生，所以耶穌要誕生。神父每年都很有心思製作馬槽，問題是我們有沒有體會到神父的心意及提醒？



有人說：「有福的原罪，帶來了救世主，否則亦沒有需要了。」

從馬槽，我們看到耶穌的一生貧窮，在一個破爛的馬槽裏誕生，聖母安置了祂，然後用襁褓裹起，就像包著屍體一樣，象徵耶穌將來是會被襁褓包著祂的屍體。

馬槽是馬吃草的地方。有神父說過，在領聖體的時候，耶穌就在那裡等著我們，願意奉獻自己給我們領受。祂處於很貧窮，很謙卑的地方，叫我們用同樣的心去領受祂。

從馬槽看到很多羊，希望我們是其中的一隻，朝拜耶穌，跟祂接近。馬槽也有很多花，可以代表用我們的善功來陪伴耶穌。

馬槽真的有很多讓我們反思的含義，希望我們多些在馬槽裏見耶穌，看祂想跟我們說什麼。那個蘋果，提醒我們，在耶穌手中，壞的事可以變成好事。所以如果我們遇到不愉快的事情，記著依賴耶穌，因為祂可以將事情變成有益、有好處的；所以信賴祂會給我們帶來幸福喜樂。





## 我的一則花邊新聞

今日想同大家分享一則有關我讀中學時發生的花邊新聞。當我讀完小學，參加升中試後，我被派往青年會中學就讀，但當媽媽跟街市的人談話時，聽聞有一間很好的學校名為香港仔工業學校，很多壞的小朋友入讀之後都會變好，媽媽聽了後，連忙叫我去報名。

當時，我雖然不是一個極壞的小孩，但絕對不是一個好孩子。我還記得六年班的成績表，上面寫著全班46人，我考第45，當時我心裡很開心，謝天謝地，因為這是小學最後的一個成績表，不需要家長簽名交回學校，我可以靜靜地消滅它。若果讓爹爹看見，一定被他打到我屁股開花。

當時入讀香港仔工業學校是要考智商的，入學之前還要考面試，而考我面試的是一個會講流利中文的「番鬼佬」，他笑容滿面，好似一個極慈祥的慈父，就是這樣，我便被這個風度翩翩的「番鬼佬」吸引，他就是華近禮神父。雖然後來我才發現，學校所收的不是中一學生，而是小學六年班學生，知道之後，我依然「義無反顧」地跟這個「入讀之後會變好」的聲音去重讀六年班。

香港仔工業學校有一個習慣，就是食完飯後便一齊去操場散步，我們好多時都會圍住神父或修士們一齊散步。我還記得有一次，有一位神父問我們：「是誰帶你們來這裏讀書呀？」我不知到何時、有沒有人回答這個問題，而我就就大聲地回答：「是聖母呀。」這位神父即時讚我，說我答得非常好。就這樣，我便開始明白和深信，聖母從小就拖著我的手，教我如何由壞變好。而這位神父便是剛過世的劉志剛神父。在我心目中，劉志剛神父是一個聖人，他教我們愛聖母、依賴聖母、並要永遠拖著她的手。若你有時間，可在 Youtube 「愛·常存」看看劉志剛神父的生平。主佑！

Joseph Yip (聖母軍團員)





# The Echo

## UNANSWERED PRAYERS

### Country Singer Garth Brooks' version of "Unanswered Prayers"

Man and his wife ran into an old flame at a football game.

Past came back to him that every night he prayed for her to be his dame.

If God granted his wish, he would never ask for anything again.

Now seeing that she's not quite an angel he remembered in his dreams.

As she walked away, and he looked at his wife.

There he thanked the Good Lord for the gifts in his life.

### My version of Answered Prayer:

I have an accounting background. I used to advise clients to make contribution of spousal RRSP (Registered Retirement Savings) in order to even out income when they are withdrawn and pay less taxes. My husband with a higher income base would want no part of this. He consequently made much more contributions to his RRSP. I used to complain in my mind to God why his RRSP savings was so much higher than mine. At the time his RRSP was administered by a vice president of a major investment firm. To our dismay his investment had a big tumble and our RRSP savings were comparable to each other.

Insight: God has answered my prayers! Ouch, I forgot to "tell" HIM to raise my savings and not deflate my husband's. Be careful what you pray for, and God has a sense of humor!

### My version of Unanswered Prayers

When we had our house built in Edgemont, we had a walk out basement and it eventually became my accounting office. My daily voluntary outing was to go to mass and then come back to the office, meet up with my assistant and start working and seeing clients. Eventually my brother's family moved close by. His house was in a nice cul-de-sac while mine was on the main road. Once again, the Lord had to hear "my complaints" of why I could not have a nice location like my brother's. The day of awakening came when my brother moved out of his location. He told me that every time there's blowing snow his visitors' cars would be stuck and he had his fair share of helping to push their vehicles out of the rut and the whole length of the cul-de-sac. Can you imagine me asking my clients to come to my office and their cars getting stuck? I ran my office from home for 15 years without complaint from any client or neighbors. I could be there for my children when they came back from school and their friends also gathered around. Could I ask for more?

### I would like to end by quoting Garth Brooks

*Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers.*

*Remember when you are talkin' to the Man upstairs.*

*That just because he doesn't answer doesn't mean he don't care.*

*Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers.*

Sally Mary OLIVIERI (Legion of Mary member)





## 齊來頌念玫瑰經

每一位作母親的都希望自己的兒女能健康成長、品學兼優、才德兼備，將來能作家庭支柱和社會棟樑。

同樣，我們天上的母親聖母瑪利亞，也希望她所有的兒女，都能敬主愛人、跟隨基督、見證福音，將來與她在天上歡聚。

而我們身為聖母的兒女，又是聖母會會員，所以我們了解聖母的殷切願望，自當盡心竭力做她所喜歡的事。我們應要勤念玫瑰經，愛聖母，愛主愛人；並要效法聖母的謙卑、溫良、寬仁、慈善、服從、忍耐，無私奉獻，事事替別人着想，常常為罪人代禱等等。

今年為慶祝天主之母節，聖母會副會長Fandy Lam，特別籌劃「齊來頌念玫瑰經活動」，聖母會會員於12月30、31日及1月1日連續3天，在每台彌撒後派發單張，主要是介紹玫瑰經中心網頁（[www.rosarycentre.org](http://www.rosarycentre.org)），鼓勵教友參加玫瑰經中心，成員只要努力在一週內念完歡喜、痛苦及榮福15端玫瑰經，便能獲得額外的靈修益處及聖母的特殊保護。

在派發單張時，大部份教友都不太認識玫瑰經中心，但又好像沒有興趣聽多些和知道多些；當中也有樂意拿取單張及表示會上網加入。其中一位年青教友表示，她自幼領洗，雖然母親常叮囑她勤念玫瑰經，但她始終都不懂念玫瑰經呢！我們便就地和她一起念玫瑰經，務求讓她心到、眼到、口到，能夠牢記怎樣念玫瑰經。

這次的「齊來頌念玫瑰經活動」，雖然不能說很轟動，但只要能多幾個人勤念玫瑰經，也是我們作為聖母兒女的切願。願賴聖母的代禱、賞賜我們做聖母好兒女所需要的一切恩寵。亞孟。

Anne Lam（聖母會會長）



## My Tribute to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chinese Parish

For this Chinese New Year, I would like to pay tribute to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, which I joined about twenty years ago as a hired janitor and then as a parishioner.

As an outsider, I never felt like an outsider. I truly experienced the kindest and most loving people my heart could imagine.

At the invitation of our late beloved Rev. John Mak, I spent a few years instructing children for the first sacraments of the Catholic Church. They were full of attention with eager questions when I taught them the basics of faith and morals as derived from the Ten Commandments, plus some happy hymns to raise their hearts to God. I pray every day that those students, now grown, continue to serve God and follow the Mosaic Law laid down to shield them from the calamities of life in the world.

The young Scouts add a special splash of color with their contribution to the liturgy of the Mass.

As for the seniors of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, they are like gentle children full of kindness and generosity. To such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven.



I have always been impressed by the Youth and their superb contribution to our Sacred Liturgy. Their four part harmonies and their talented cantors present impeccable renditions of the psalms and their refrains. So pleasant to hear!

But most of all, I enjoy listening to the liturgy of the Word read by the young adults and the juvenile readers. Their crisp clear voices and perfect pronunciation, audible and strong, would beat out any professional radio announcer. No word has fallen to the ground in my hearing. I think the youth raise our Sunday celebrations to a high level and makes the solemnity of Holy Mass a very special spiritual Event.

As for the Cantonese and Mandarin choirs, it does my heart good to listen to their liturgical songs. The sublime Chinese hymns must have been composed by the angels, because they lift my soul to the heights of Heaven. The melodies make me imagine the joy of Heaven when I pray during the Sacrifice



of the Mass. Such celestial music and sacred song!

A special tribute to Fr. Joseph Nguyen our pastor who co-coordinates such a diverse but unified community, having a wide array of programs and apostolates. Add to that, Father's all round technical skills and artistic displays during the High Holy days of the year are beautiful. His pastoral faithfulness and generous provision for the Sacramental needs of Our Lady of Perpetual Parish will long be remembered.

Patrick Owens, English Parishioners



## 天父的安排 - 延續篇

上文說到有一位華裔神父將會成為我所屬堂區的主任司鐸。去年七月，歐健明神父從列治文加拿大殉道聖人堂轉換到高貴林花地瑪堂。在這半年內，參與中文彌撒的教友增加了不少，而我對堂區的歸屬感亦增長了很多。在聖誕期內，很感恩地我得以參加粵語的聖誕日彌撒、粵語的天主之母節彌撒，與及同華人教友一起聚餐慶祝元旦。農曆新年將至，堂區亦積極籌備新春彌撒及聯歡。數年前移居高貴林後，天父帶領我加入鄰近堂區內的中文彌撒團體，現在更恩賜華裔神師的帶領，實在想再一次讚美天父體貼的安排。感謝主！感謝祢的眷顧！

迴聲編輯 Teresa Tsui

