

# 教友通訊

## Newsletter

December/January/February 2018 十二月/一月/二月



Sacramento  
Chinese  
Catholic  
Community

沙加緬度華人  
天主教團體

Mass: Sundays 3:00 p.m.

Priest: Fr. Nicholas Ho  
415-727-7880

地點：聖體大教堂

聯絡：陳紹強會長

Place: Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament  
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## Words from Fr. Nicholas Ho Reflections from Christmas.

Things do not go as we plan. Mary and Joseph had made plans. They were going to marry, live in Nazareth and raise a family. A nice quiet and ordinary life. But God intervened, turning their world upside down. God wanted her to be the mother of The Savior and Mary embraced God's plan. When Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant with child, he planned to divorce her quietly. But after the angel's visitation, Joseph scrapped his plan.

How readily and graciously can we change our plans when circumstances urge us to do so? Do we believe that God's plan is always better than our own?

Life is a journey.

We must keep moving and growing. The Christmas story contains several journeys. Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem. The shepherds and the Magi also journeyed to worship the new born King. Our whole life is a journey too. God calls us to keep moving. What is the most important movement in our lives? It is reaching out to others in love, as Mary and Joseph did and as God did by sending Jesus to us.

Have a Joyful and  
Blessed Christmas.



## 何神父的話

### 聖誕節的回想。

事情沒有按照我們的計劃進行。瑪利亞和若瑟已經制定了計劃。他們原本要結婚，住在拿撒勒，然後成立一個家庭，一個不錯、清靜和平凡的生活。但天主介入了，把他們的世界顛倒了。天主希望她成為救世主的母親，瑪利亞接受了天主的計劃。當若瑟得知瑪利亞懷孕的時候，他原本計劃悄悄的離婚。但天使訪問後，若瑟放棄了他的計劃。

當形勢要求我們這樣做的時候，我們如何樂意和藹地改變我們的計劃？我們相信天主的計劃總是比我們自己的好嗎？

人生是一場旅程。

我們必須不斷前進，不斷成長。聖誕節的故事包含了幾個旅程。瑪利亞和若瑟前往白冷城。牧羊人和賢士也前往去朝拜新生王。我們的整個人生也是一個旅程。天主召叫我們繼續前進。我們生命中最重要旅程是什麼？如同瑪利亞和若瑟所做的那樣，他們正在向別人伸出愛的援手，正如天主派遣了耶穌給我們一樣。

願大家有個快樂  
和幸福的聖誕節。

## 教宗方濟各 2017 年 12 月 6 日要理講授：緬甸和孟加拉國之旅

親愛的弟兄姐妹，上午好！

今天我想談談我最近在緬甸和孟加拉做的使徒之旅。這是來自天主的偉大禮物，因此我感謝祂的一切，尤其是對於我所遇到的。我再次表示感謝兩國和各主教當局的一切準備工作，並對我和我的同事表示歡迎。我想向緬甸人民和孟加拉人民表示衷心的“謝意”，他們向我表示如此的信任和熱情。謝謝！

伯多祿的接班人第一次訪問緬甸是在這個國家和羅馬教廷建立外交關係後不久發生的。

這次我也希望表達基督和教會對一個因衝突和鎮壓而遭受苦難的人民的親近，而這地方現在正在慢慢地走向自由與和平的新局面。一個佛教信仰深的人，有其精神和倫理原則，其中基督教徒是一個小羊群和天主王國的酵母。我有幸在信仰和共融中在與國家主教的會議以及兩次聖體聖事慶祝活動中確認了這個充滿活力和熱情的教會。第一次是在仰光市中心的大運動場舉行的，那一天的福音書回憶說，由於信仰耶穌的迫害對於他的門徒來說是司空見慣的，但作為一個見證的場合，“連你們的一根頭髮，也不會失落。”（路加福音 21：12-19）。第二次彌撒是我在緬甸訪問的最後一件事，是獻給年輕人的：聖母瑪利亞的一個特別的禮物，一個希望的象徵，以她的名字命名的大教堂。在那些充滿歡樂的年輕人面前，我看到了亞洲的未來：一個不是建設武器的未來，而是那些散播夥伴感情的未來。也作為希望的象徵，我祝福了十六間教堂，一間神學院和一間教廷大使館的基石：共十八間！

除了天主教社區之外，我還能見到緬甸當局及鼓勵國家的建設和平努力，並希望國家的所有不同組成部分都能在同一進程中相互尊重地合作。本著這種精神，我希望會見到在這國各種宗教團體的代表。特別是對於佛教僧侶的議會，我表現出了教會對自己古老的精神傳統的尊重，我相信基督徒和佛教徒可以一起幫助人們愛天主和鄰人，拒絕一切暴力，善待善惡。

在離開緬甸之後，我去了孟加拉，首先我崇敬了獨立戰爭的烈士和“國父”。孟加拉的人口主要是穆斯林教徒，因此，我的訪問 - 在保祿六世和聖若望保羅二世的腳步 - 標誌著基督宗教和伊斯蘭教之間的尊重和對話的進一步發展。

對於國家當局，我回顧說，羅馬教廷從一開始就支持孟加拉國人民建立獨立國家的意願，其中包括宗教自由永遠得到維護的要求。我特別要表示聲援孟加拉國的承諾，幫助已經湧入其人口密度已居世界之首的羅興亞難民。

在達卡的一個歷史公園裡慶祝彌撒，由十六位神父的協助，這是這次旅程中最重要和最歡樂的事件之一。事實上，在孟加拉國和緬甸跟其他東南亞國家一樣，感謝天主，不缺乏就業，這是一個活生生的社區標誌，其中引起了呼籲他們跟隨他的主的聲音。我與孟加拉國的主教們分享了這個喜悅，我鼓勵他們為家庭，窮人，教育，對話和社會和平而慷慨的工作。我同這個國家的許多神父，獻身的男女，以及修士和新人分享了這種喜樂，我在那裡看到教會的種子。

在達卡，我們經歷了深刻的宗教間和普世對話的時刻，使我有機會強調開放心靈作為相遇、和諧與和平文化的基礎。

此外，我還參觀了“德蕾莎修女之家”，他們歡迎無數的孤兒和殘疾人。在那裡，修女們根據自己的神恩，每天都為服務窮人和敬拜受苦基督的祈禱。他們的嘴唇永遠都是微笑的：那些祈禱的修女，為苦難服務的人，不斷地微笑。這是一個美麗的證詞。我非常感謝這些小修女們。

孟加拉國青年的最後一件事是個豐富的見證 - 歌舞。這些孟加拉國人民跳得如何？他們真的知道如何跳舞！這是一種慶祝，表現了這種文化所得到的福音的喜悅，許多傳教士和基督徒的父母的犧牲取得了豐碩的成果。在場的還有年輕的穆斯林教徒和其他宗教的人，孟加拉國 - 亞洲和整個世界的希望象徵。

謝謝。

## **Pope's December 6, 2017 Message: Journey to Myanmar and Bangladesh**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Good morning!

Today I would like to speak about the Apostolic Journey that I made in recent days in Myanmar and Bangladesh. It was a great gift from God, and therefore I thank him for everything, especially for the encounters I was able to have. I renew the expression of my gratitude to the Authorities of the two Countries and the respective Bishops, for all their work of preparation and for the welcome accorded to me and to my co-workers. I would like to offer a heartfelt 'thank you' to the Burmese people and to the Bangladeshi people, who showed me so much faith and so much affection. Thank you!

For the first time a Successor of Peter has visited Myanmar, and this occurred shortly after diplomatic relations were established between this Country and the Holy See.

I wished, in this case too, to express the closeness of Christ and of the Church to a people that has suffered as a result of conflict and repression, and which now is slowly moving toward a new situation of freedom and peace. A people in whom the Buddhist religion is deeply rooted, with its spiritual and ethical principles, and among whom Christians are present as a small flock and as leaven of the Kingdom of God. I had the joy of confirming this vibrant and fervent Church in the faith and in communion, at the meeting with the Bishops of the Country and during the two Eucharistic celebrations. The first was held in the great sports ground in the centre of Yangon, and that day's Gospel

reading recalled that persecution due to faith in Jesus is common for his disciples, as an occasion to bear witness, however, "not a hair of their head will perish" (cf. Lk 21:12-19). The second Mass, the last event of my visit in Myanmar, was dedicated to young people: a sign of hope and a special gift of the Virgin Mary, in the cathedral that bears her name. In the faces of those young people, full of joy, I have seen the future of Asia: a future which will not be that of those who build weapons, but of those who sow fraternity. And also as a sign of hope, I blessed the cornerstones of 16 churches, of the seminary and of the nunciature: 18!

In addition to the Catholic community, I was able to meet the Authorities of Myanmar, encouraging the Country's peacebuilding effort and hoping that all the different components of the nation, none excluded, may cooperate in this process with mutual respect. In this spirit I wished to meet the representatives of the various religious communities present in the Country. In particular, to the Supreme Council of Buddhist Monks, I manifested the Church's esteem for their ancient spiritual tradition, and my confidence that Christians and Buddhists together can join in helping people to love God and neighbour, rejecting all violence and countering evil with good.

After leaving Myanmar, I went to Bangladesh where, first of all I honoured the martyrs of the fight for Independence and the "Father of the Nation". The population of Bangladesh is mainly Muslim, and thus my visit — in the footsteps of Blessed Paul vi and of Saint John

## **Pope's December 6, 2017 Message: Journey to Myanmar and Bangladesh**

Paul ii — marked a further step in favour of respect and dialogue between Christianity and Islam.

To the Country's Authorities I recalled that from the beginning, the Holy See has supported the will of the Bangladeshi people to establish an independent nation, including the requirement that religious freedom always be safeguarded within it. In particular, I wished to express solidarity with Bangladesh in its commitment to help the great influx of Rohingya refugees that has poured into its territory, where the population density is already among the highest in the world.

The Mass celebrated in a historical park in Dhaka was enriched by the Ordination of 16 priests, and this was one of the most significant and joyful events of the journey. In fact, in Bangladesh and in Myanmar as in other Southeast Asian Countries, thanks be to God there is no shortage of vocations, a sign of a living community, wherein resonates the voice of the Lord who calls them to follow him. I shared this joy with the Bishops of Bangladesh, and I encouraged them in their generous work for families, for the poor, for education, for dialogue and social peace. And I shared this joy with so many of the Country's priests, consecrated women and men, as well as with seminarians and novices, in whom I saw the seeds of the Church in that land.

In Dhaka we experienced a profound moment of interreligious and ecumenical dialogue, which afforded me the opportunity to emphasize openness of heart as the

foundation of a culture of encounter, harmony and of peace.

In addition, I visited the “Mother Teresa House”, where the Saint resided when she was in that city, and which welcomes innumerable orphans and people with disabilities. There, according to their charism, the Sisters live each day the prayer of adoration and service to the poor and suffering Christ. And their lips are never without a smile: nuns who pray a great deal, who serve the suffering, and do this constantly with a smile. It is a beautiful testimony. I thank these little Sisters very much.

The last event with the young people of Bangladesh was rich in testimony, song and dance. How well these Bangladeshi people dance! They really know how to dance! It was a celebration that manifested the joy of the Gospel received by that culture; a joy made fruitful by the sacrifices of many missionaries, many catechists and Christian parents. Also present at the encounter were young Muslims and those of other religions: a sign of hope for Bangladesh, for Asia and for the entire world.

Thank you.

*[https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2017/documents/papa-francesco\\_20171206\\_udienza-generale.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2017/documents/papa-francesco_20171206_udienza-generale.html)*

## Who Am I?

Ellis Chan

**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.” - John 16:4**

As a new comer, I would very much like to take the opportunity on the Newsletter here to share my religious experience so as to let you know how did I find the way to the truth and get to know our almighty Father.

More than two years ago, I migrated from Hong Kong to California with my family. My religious life started at St. Thomas The Apostle Church at Tsing Yi and time went back to a day by end of the year 2000 when a letter from St. Thomas The Apostle Church, a religious group that I had no knowledge and had not come across before, was received in my mailbox. Thinking that it might be another kind of commercial flyer, I did not pay much attention but just put it aside somewhere.



Before that day, I only focused on my work at Hong Kong Immigration Department. I had performed law enforcement to combat cross boundary illegal immigration activities, handled the Vietnamese Refugee problem that troubled Hong Kong for decades and once posted to work at the British Embassy in Hanoi, took up the office of the Deputy Commandant at Immigration Service Training and Development Institute, seconded to the Security Bureau of the Central Government to work on immigration related policies and worked at Immigration Headquarter to coordinate immigration control at air, land and sea. With an average of over 12 hours at work everyday as well as other work related entertainments and activities, the only time I could

spend at home was for going to bed or rest. Nothing could be spared for my family and friends.



Later, I was the Parade Commander of the Immigration Department Golden Jubilee Grand Parade and the Aide-De-Camp to the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR Government. Along with the development of my career, I became over confident and even arrogant and conceited. I had not the slightest care for others. Once I shouted angrily at an induction trainee who made a minor mistake in his practice on the drill ground and I even snapped the hat from his head and threw it away. Not only the trainee was scared to death, but other training officers there also did not know how to respond. Young and enthusiastic at work, the trainee made mistake but did not deserve to be treated like that. It was all because I had no understanding of “love and forgiveness” but only cared about my career and success.



When it seemed that I was in control of everything and at the height of my career, something unexpected did happen suddenly that changed my life. Please stay with our next issue if you would like to find out what. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

耶穌回答說：“我是道路、真理、生命，除非經過我，誰也不能到父那裡去。”(若 14:6)

作為一位初來報到的新朋友，我很想借此教友通訊的一角來分享我的信仰歷程，讓大家知道我是如何踏上這條真理大道，認識那位全能仁慈的天父。

我在兩年多前由香港舉家遷移到加州，而以往的信仰生活則源自香港青衣聖多默宗徒堂，並且要時光倒流至 2000 年尾的一天，從家中信箱內收到的一封信，一封來自聖多默宗徒堂的信，一個我不認識亦沒有接觸過的宗教團體。當時的我也不太為意，只將之視為一般宣傳單張而將它隨手放到一角。



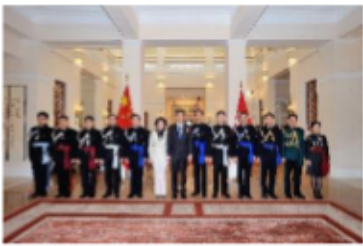
聖多默宗徒堂  
聖多默宗徒堂在加拿大及美國設有堂區，並設有牧靈及牧靈服務。如有任何查詢，請電：(416) 291-1111 或 (416) 291-1112。地址：多倫多聖多默宗徒堂，位於 1111 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A5。如有任何查詢，請電：(416) 291-1111 或 (416) 291-1112。

在那天以前我一直專注在香港入境事務處的工作，曾經負責執法行動打擊跨境非法入境活動，處理困擾香港多時的越南難民問題及派駐當時英國設在河內的大使館工作，擔任入境事務處訓練學院副校長，借

調往中央政府公安局提供政策支援及在入境處總部協調海、陸、空的出入境管制。平均每天工作時間超過 12 小時，再加上不少公務上的應酬，能夠留在家中的時間就只有休息和睡眠，因此對家人和朋友絕對沒有半點關心。



後來更任入境事務處 50 週年金禧大會操指揮官及香港特別行政區行政長官的副官。而隨著仕途發展，個人自信心亦大增，甚至近乎自大，行為舉止目中無人，自覺不可一世。還記得一次在訓練學院的步操場上，其中一名學員因為少許差錯，被我當眾疾聲嚴勵訓斥，而他頭上戴著的制服帽子更遭我隨手掉到遠處，直把那學員整個嚇呆了，其他在場教官一時間也不知如何反應。其實一個年青小伙子滿腔熱誠出來社會工作，縱然犯下些微錯過也屬平常，不該受此對待。但當時的我心高氣傲，不懂何為“仁愛，寬恕”，不會為他人著想，只顧自己成就及個人事業。



正當事業如日方中，一切盡在我掌握之際，意想不到的事情突然發生。欲知後事如何，請留意下期通訊。



在此祝大家聖誕及快樂新年!

## 團體活動照片 Community Events Photos



感恩節聚餐活動 Thanksgiving Dinner

