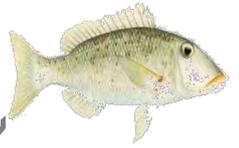




The Islander



Christmas Island Community Newsletter

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Easter Celebrations

CHRISTMAS ISLAND CATHOLIC CHURCH

Easter is the commemoration of Jesus resurrection celebrated by Catholics around the world. This year, Holy Week celebrations started with Palm Sunday on 20th March and ended with Easter Sunday on 27th March 2016. This year we had a very jovial and down to earth Redemptorist priest, Fr John Hodgson to conduct mass for us during this Holy Week.



Once again the church was decorated to celebrate this special feast.

Easter Vigil mass started at 8pm on Saturday 26th March. It was a beautiful service with the church in complete darkness right up till the singing of the Gloria. The Easter candle was lit outside the church and then filled with light as the community walked in with their lighted candles taken from the Easter candle. The flame from the Easter candle depicts Jesus as bringing light to the world. The candle flames were then doused and the church was once again plunged into darkness.

All readings were done in the dark with a small torch for the reader. This was the very first time the Easter vigil readings were done in this way and I must say it was an experience!

It was wonderful to see that today's Easter Sunday Service saw the church filled almost to its capacity. Once again Fr John celebrated the Easter mass which began at 9am and ended around 10.15am. Easter is a joyous feast and today the church musicians and the congregation celebrated this by singing joyous Easter songs which were accompanied by the ringing of numerous bells.

Almost everyone stayed behind after the service to enjoy some food and refreshments kindly sponsored by the Shire of Christmas Island, Long's Bakery for their scrumptious hot cross buns and Boong Trading for their kind donation of Easter eggs.



Easter eggs were handed out to everyone who attended the service (adults and children). It's always a joy to receive Easter eggs and it was no exception here.

The Catholic Church Committee would once again like to thank the Shire of Christmas Island, Boong Trading and Long's Bakery for their kind assistance in helping us to celebrate Easter.

Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped with the cleaning and decorating of the church and its surrounds.



Christmas Island Senior Citizens Centre

The final stage of the CI Senior Citizens Centre is underway. With the arrival of the final load of materials and furniture on the next ship until the official opening at the beginning of Seniors Week on the 18th July, the CI Seniors Citizen Centre will have the wheelchair access ramp completed, car park kerbing, fit out of the interior, furniture and white goods installed. The Minister for Major Projects, Territories and Local Government, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP has been officially invited to open the new Centre on the 18th of July 2016.

This project was jointly funded by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development through the national Community Development Grants Program and the Shire of Christmas Island. It is to provide a place of leisure and recreation for the growing number of seniors on the island. The CI Senior Citizens Centre has also enjoyed the support of local residents during the construction phase with notably the 2015 Fashion Show organised by Suzane Chan raising \$3300 to go towards a Wish list the CI Seniors Association had for items in the centre. In addition, CIDHS 2015 graduate Dewi Ang donated a landscape painting as well as a self-made macramé needlework welcome sign.

The Centre was designed to be an adjunct to the central Poon Saan Community Hall, following the architectural style and colour scheme of the building. It will be occupied by the Seniors Association of Christmas Island (inc) who will put together the programming for the Senior Citizens Centre.

For more information on the CI Seniors Association, contact President Ang via the Community Development Officer Ron Foo at ronf@shire.gov.cx. For more information on the CI Senior Citizens Centre building, contact the CEO, Mr Kelvin Matthews or the Manager Community Services, Mr Chew Boon Beng at the Shire of Christmas Island on 9164 8300 during office hours.



Interior of the kitchen and hallway.



Left to right: Councillors Kelvin Lee, Phillip Woo, Foo Kee Heng, Seniors Association President Ang, Councillor Azmi Yon, Gordon Thomson and Mrs Ang.

CLA & CINC "PASAR MALAM" NIGHT MARKETS SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 6.30PM CLA FORESHORE



The **Qingming** or **Ching Ming Festival**, also known as Tomb-Sweeping Day in English, is a traditional Chinese festival on the first day of the fifth solar term of the traditional Chinese lunisolar calendar. This makes it the 15th day after the Spring Equinox. The Qingming Festival is an opportunity for celebrants to remember and honour their ancestors at grave sites. Young and old pray before the ancestors, sweep the tombs and offer food, tea, wine, chopsticks, joss paper accessories, and/or libations to the ancestors. Members from the CLA will be making their annual offerings at the Chinese Cemeteries in Settlement and Phosphate Hill on the morning of this **Sunday 3rd April 2016**.

