

DEC 2025

Celebrating 70 Years of God's Faithfulness

1955
—
2025

**CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
SERIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

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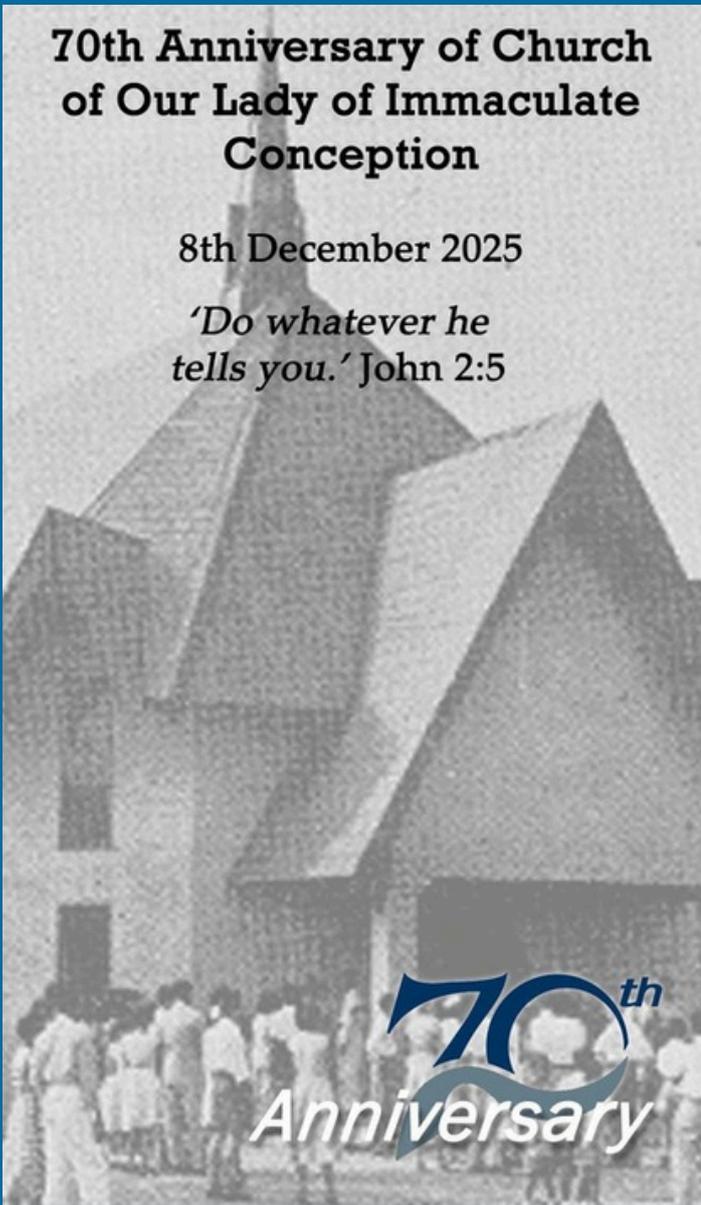
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This commemorative issue joyfully celebrates our journey, honoring the past with gratitude and embracing the future with hope. Gratefully acknowledging all who contributed photographs to preserve these cherished memories.
C.H., Editor

**70th Anniversary of Church
of Our Lady of Immaculate
Conception**

8th December 2025

*'Do whatever he
tells you.'* John 2:5



**70th
Anniversary
Prayer to
Our Lady**

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church, as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of our beloved church, we thank you for the countless blessings which your son have showered the church with through your maternal intercessions. Help us to walk and grow together as a synodal church, faithful in our mission to bring the Gospel to the world. Shape and renew your church until it bears the image of Christ and shows his true likeness to the world. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may we never stray from the way of truth and what is right and all arrive at the place your son has prepared for us. All this we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Message from the Parish Priest

Congratulations to all parishioners of Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception (COOL) on the occasion of its 70th anniversary. The peace of the Lord be with all of you and your family.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of COOL, let us not forget the people who have made significant contributions to the Catholic community in Seria. Because of them, the church continues to grow and contribute to the spiritual wellbeing of the families and the society in Seria and beyond.

Fr Aloysius Stotter MHM was appointed in 1932 as the first resident priest in Brunei. He would travel every Sunday first to Kuala Belait to celebrate Mass and then to Seria Mile 8 housing area, to celebrate another Mass at a designated home arranged by a fellow Catholic. Priests from Labuan, Jesselton, and neighbouring Sarawak would also make regular calls to Kuala Belait and Seria to celebrate Mass. The first recorded baptism in Seria was on 18th January 1933 of Lucy Ah Moi by Fr Stotter.



In 1936, Fr Arthur Crowther MHM was appointed as the first resident priest for Kuala Belait. Fr Crowther also serves Catholic families in Seria and Brunei Town. During the Japanese occupation from 16th December 1941 to end of 1945, there were no record of public religious activities in Brunei. Fr Crowther and another priest Fr Peit de Wit MHM, who came to Brunei in 1940, were interned by the Japanese and sent to Batu Lintang POW camp in Kuching. When Fr Crowther returned to Kuala Belait at the end of 1945, Mass was celebrated in a temporary kajang building built by the British Malayan Petroleum company in Lorong 10, opposite to BSRC.



In June 1955, Monsignor Jan Vos MHM, Vicar Apostolic of Kuching laid the foundation stone for the current Church of Our Lady building in Seria. A year later, he officially opened and blessed the church on 28th July 1956. Between 1955 to today, some of the main highlights in Seria was the opening of St Michael's school by the British High Commissioner, Sir Anthony Bell on 17th July 1955; the opening of the Convent in Seria by the Franciscan Sisters of St Joseph on 18th December 1957; the opening of St Angela school by then British Resident Mr D C White on 15th January 1959; the first sacerdotal ordination in COOL, of Fr Peter Tann by Bishop Galvin on January 4th 1970; the sacerdotal ordination of Fr. Cornelius Sim by Bishop Anthony Lee on 26th November 1989; COOL underwent a major renovation in 1996; Eucharistic Congress was held in St. Michael's school compound; the closing of the only boys' school, St Michael on 31st December 2006; sacerdotal ordination of Fr Arin Sugit by Bishop Cornelius Sim on 8th December 2008; His Excellency Archbishop Wojciech Zaluski visit to COOL on 12th December 2024.

Soon, with God blessings, we will see another sacerdotal ordination in COOL. The future of COOL lies with the local community and everyone doing their part, not just on the young. The young need the experiences and wisdom of the old to lead them. The old also need the dynamism and creativity of the young to draw and convert the AI generation to embrace the Catholic faith. All of us, with our own diverse culture and ways, need to live out our baptismal mission to bring the gospel of Christ to those around us. Reach out also to the lost sheep and bring them safely home. Do not be afraid to reach out to those who have yet to encounter the Lord through you. Be close to the Lord and trust that He is always with you and will not disappoint you. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Phil 1:6

May God continue to bless and guide the entire people of God in this parish and Vicariate for the greater glory of God.

REV. FATHER ROBERT LEONG
PARISH PRIEST
CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SERIA

Message from Fr. Paul Shie

Happy Anniversary to the community of the Immaculate Conception! Congratulations on 70 incredible years of faith, service, and unwavering commitment to God and His people.

I am truly grateful to be part of this special celebration. As we gather in thanksgiving, may we take this moment to offer intentional gratitude to God—for all He has done in the past and for all the blessings He will continue to pour upon this church in the years to come.

I also wish to express my deepest gratitude to God and to this community for allowing me to be part of your journey. My priestly service in your parish has been deeply enriched by your living witness of faith, resilience, and love. You have encouraged and inspired me in countless ways.



Keep shining your light, just like the star of our Blessed Mother Mary.

May your dedication and service continue to inspire the people you serve. Keep spreading God's love, kindness, and compassion.

Thank you for your tireless efforts. Happy Anniversary!

REV. FATHER PAUL SHIE
PARISH PRIEST
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, KUALA BELAIT

Message from Fr. Arin Sugit

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ.

Peace and love always!

Congratulations on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception (also known to many as COOL) in Seria, Brunei Darussalam. I like to join you all to give glory, praise and thanksgiving to God our heavenly Father for all the blessings you have been receiving from Him throughout all these years.

I was actually baptized and confirmed and finally ordained in this Church by the late Cornelius Cardinal Sim. Therefore, let us continue to pray and work together so that all will live peacefully and happily for many more years to come with abundance of God's blessing in the Apostolic Vicariate in Brunei Darussalam.

The 70th anniversary of your Church will be a momentous occasion. It is an excellent opportunity to foster and strengthen fellowship and stimulate members to come closer to one another and above all to God.



As you come together for the celebration, it will bring back memories of the past especially of the older members and enable the young members to appreciate their effort in building the Church.

May this celebration bring forth a spirit filled zeal to spur the faithful to move forward in building the Kingdom of God

Happy 70th Anniversary!

REV. FATHER ARIN SUGIT
PARISH PRIEST
CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION
B. S. BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Message from Fr. Alex Chow

I would like to wish all of you, beloved parishioners of the Church of Our Lady, Immaculate Conception, a happy and joy-filled 70th Anniversary. With deep gratitude, I give thanks to God for this parish and for all of you, her parishioners, who have shaped me and guided me throughout my childhood and teenage years, forming me into the person – and now the priest – that I am today. I pray that you may continue to grow, deepen, and renew your love and faith in Jesus Christ, Our Saviour, and in your love and care for one another.

Be encouraged, as St Paul reminds us, that “we can do all things through [Jesus] who strengthens us” (Philippians 4:13), and that “no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Each of us is called by God for a purpose: to help bring forth His Kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17–20) – first in our own lives, and then in the lives of those around us.

As St John Henry Newman beautifully expresses: “God has created me to do Him some definite service.



He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.”

May this 70th Anniversary be a time of gratitude for God’s faithfulness, a renewal of our mission, and a joyful hope for all that He continues to prepare for our parish family.

REV. FATHER ALEXANDER CHOW
PARISH PRIEST OF THE CHURCHES
OF ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST,
BLACKBURN SOUTH
AND ST TIMOTHY FOREST HILL
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

A Journey of Faith and Blessings

Seventy years of faith, seventy years of blessings, seventy years of hearts joined in prayer.

As I pause to reflect on the journey of the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, I am humbled by the generations of faithful who have walked these sacred paths before us – those who prayed, served, and nurtured this parish with love, devotion, and hope. Each stone of this church, each act of kindness, each whispered prayer is a testament to God's enduring presence in our lives.

Our parish is more than walls and altars; it is a living, breathing family. It is the laughter of children in the pews, the gentle guidance of our priests, the tireless hands of volunteers, and the quiet prayers of countless hearts. Together, we have shared joys and sorrows, triumphs and challenges, yet through it all, God's grace has never wavered.

Seventy years invite us not only to remember but also to dream – to dream of a parish that continues to grow in faith, to shine with unity, and to serve with love. May we carry forward the legacy of our forebears, rooted in Christ, guided by the example of Our Blessed Mother, Mary Immaculate, and inspired to be a light for one another and the world around us.

Message from the Parish Pastoral Council



To every parishioner, past and present, who has poured heart and soul into this sacred family, I offer my deepest gratitude. Your prayers, your dedication, your love – these are the treasures that make our parish strong and enduring.

As we celebrate this 70th anniversary, may our hearts be filled with gratitude, our spirits with joy, and our lives with the courage to continue this journey of faith together. May God bless our parish abundantly, today and always.

Happy 70th Anniversary!

ROSE SUMPING
CHAIRLADY, PPC

Today, we gather with hearts full of joy and gratitude for two reasons. First, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patroness of our church, the beautiful truth that Mary, from the moment of her conception, was preserved from all stain of sin. And second, we rejoice in the 70th anniversary of our church, a community that has been a home of faith, hope and love for generations.

Mary's "Yes" had a beginning long before she spoke it

When we honor the Immaculate Conception, we are not speaking of Jesus' conception, but Mary's. We are celebrating that from her very beginning, God prepared her to be a vessel of grace, the mother of his Son. Before she ever said "let it be done to me," God had already said "let her be full of grace."

Mary's life reminds us that God's grace always comes first- before our decisions, before our successes or failures. Grace is God's initiative, his quiet work in the background of our lives.

And Mary shows us how to respond: with openness, humility, and trust.

Our church: A work of grace

Seventy years ago, when this church was founded, God was already pouring out grace - preparing the ground, inspiring the hearts of the first families, calling pastors, catechist, volunteers and generous stewards to build up this community of faith.

Homily for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and 70th Anniversary of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Seria, Brunei

Just as Mary was chosen for a mission, so too this church was chosen to be a light in this community.

Think for a moment of the last 70 years: thousands of children baptized at this font. The countless confessions heard and hearts restored. The couple married at this altar. The sick who received comfort. The families strengthened. The poor served. The eucharist is celebrated day after day, year after year.

All these moments form the story of grace - God works, shaping hearts, transforming lives, and drawing his people close to him.

Our parish community is not simply a building or a name. It is a living vessel of God's presence, much like Mary herself.

Mary shows us what a parish community is meant to be

If we look at Mary, we see the model of what every parish community is called to become.

A parish is called to be a place of grace.

Mary was full of grace; the church is meant to be full of grace. Here, we encounter God's mercy. Here, we are nourished by the sacraments. Here, we are strengthened to go out into mission.

A parish is called to be a spiritual home.

Mary was the first home of Jesus. For 70 years, this church has been a spiritual home for families, the young and old, the strong and struggling. It has been a place where people feel held by God.

A parish is called to give Christ to the world.

Mary carried Christ into the world—not only in Bethlehem, but to Elizabeth in the visitation, to the disciples at Cana and even at the foot of the cross. So too, our parish must continue to bring Christ to the world: through acts of charity, through service, through evangelization and through lives that shine with the love of God.

Mary's grace, our mission

The Immaculate Conception is not just a beautiful belief, is not just the name of our church. It is a reminder that God prepares each of us for a mission.

Mary was prepared by grace to carry Christ physically. We are prepared by grace to carry him spiritually.

Mary said "yes" not once, but again and again through her life. We too must continue saying "yes" in our parish: "yes" to growing in holiness. "yes" to deepening our prayer. "yes" to helping our parish flourish. "yes" to serving others. "yes" to welcoming those who feel far from God. "yes" to becoming a church that radiates the joy of the gospel.



Looking back with gratitude, looking forward with hope

Anniversaries are moments of reflection. We look back with gratitude, but we also look forward with hope. The next chapter of our parish begins today. When we reflect on the founders and pioneers—those first parishioners, many of whom sacrificed so much— we realize that we stand on holy ground. The faith we enjoy today was built by generosity, hard work and faithfulness of those who came before us.

Now it is our turn

We must ask: What will this parish look like, 10, 20, 50 years from now? How will we carry forward the mission entrusted to us?

Just as God prepared Mary, God is preparing us. Just as he gave Mary a mission, he gives our parish a mission. Just as Mary bore Christ into the world, so we must bear Christ to the next generation.



Mary's hand at the heart of our parish

Throughout the years, Mary has watched over this parish with maternal love. Under her mantle, we have found protection. Under her gentle guidance, we have learned how to be disciples of her Son.

As we celebrate this feast, let us entrust our parish once again to her care. Let us ask her: to keep us close to her Son. To teach us how to say "yes" to God's will. To help us become a community of deep faith and active charity.

My dear brothers and sisters, today let our hearts echo Mary's words: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord. For 70 years, God has been faithful to this church. For 70 years, grace has flowed here. For 70 years, we have been blessed.

May Mary, the Immaculate Mother, continue to guide, protect, and inspire us. May the next 70 years be filled with even greater grace, deeper faith and a more vibrant mission- so that this parish continues to be a place where Christ is loved, encountered and shared with the world.

FR PHILIP JEROLD TAN
STO. NIÑO PARISH, ABONGAN, TAYTAY

Feast of the Immaculate Conception and 70th Anniversary of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Seria, Brunei

8th December 2025



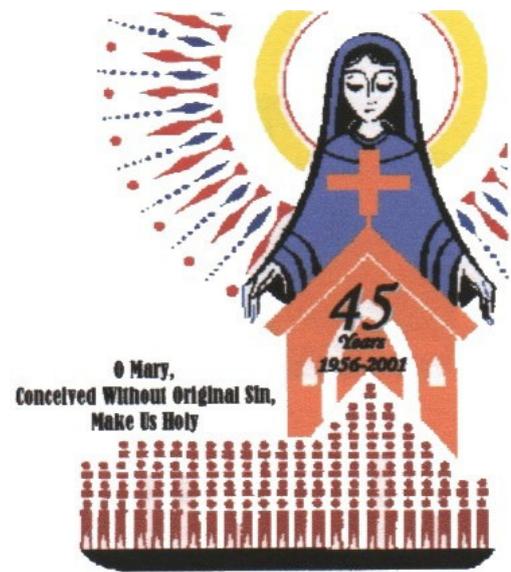
70th Anniversary Logo 1955 - 2025



PAST ANNIVERSARY LOGOS



1995 - 40TH ANNIVERSARY



2000 - 45TH ANNIVERSARY



MARY: WOMAN OF THE EUCHARIST
2005 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY



2015 - 60TH ANNIVERSARY



the foundation

This stone was laid
by the Right Reverend
John Vos Titular Bishop
of Cnidus and Vicar
Apostolic of Kuching
June, 19th 1955

history timeline

1955

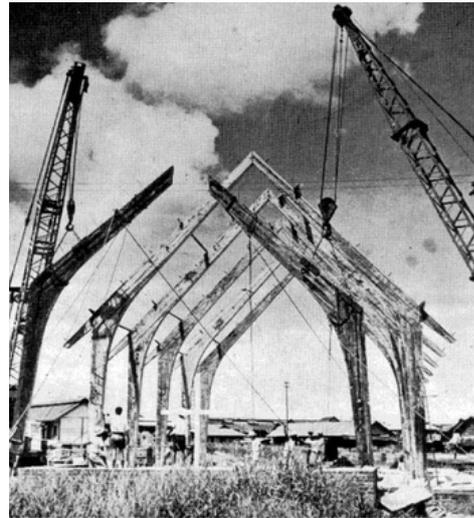


June 1955

Monsignor Vos, Vicar Apostolic of Kuching, laid the foundation stone for the Church of Our Lady, Seria

November 1955

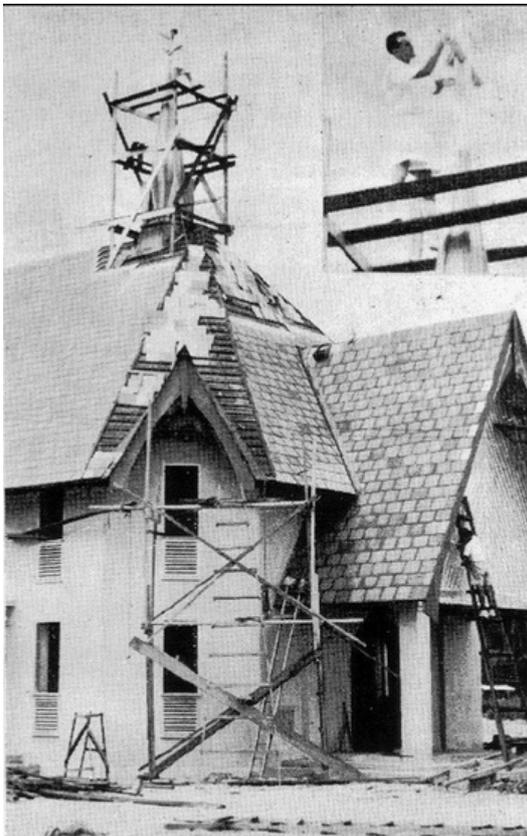
New concrete church under construction – steel structures being put up. The building was designed, constructed, and supervised by engineers from the British Malayan Petroleum Company.



1956

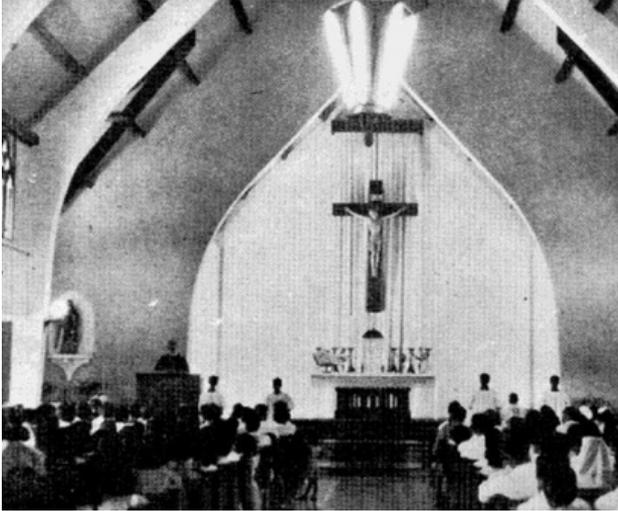
July 1956

Church of Our Lady, Seria nearing completion. Finishing touch are now being put to the new church in Seria, which will be formally opened on 29th July 1956. Seen here giving a hand with the painting of the Cross, is Mr. J. Rogers, B.M.P.'s Paint Adviser. The architect was Mr. C. Fenner of B.M.P.'s Engineering Department

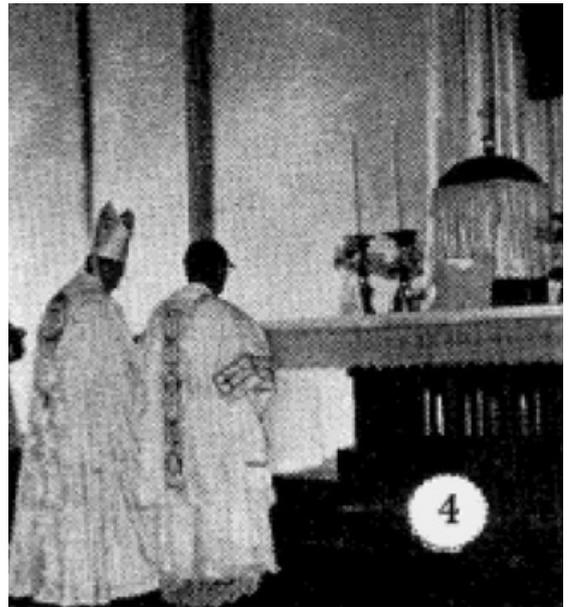
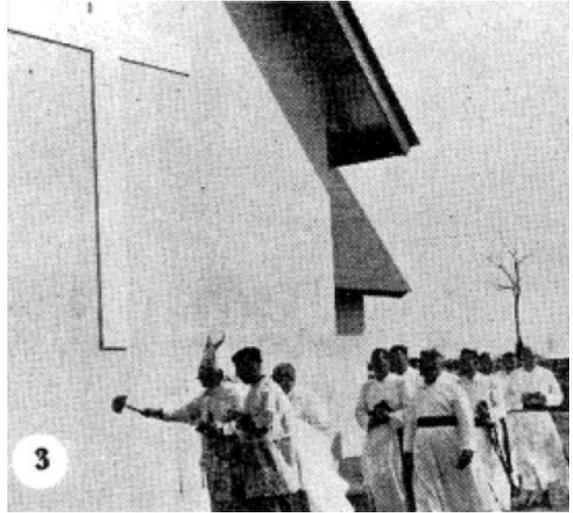


29th July 1956

The newly completed Church of Our Lady, Seria



Church of Our Lady, Seria was blessed and officially opened by Monsignor Vos, Vicar General of Kuching



1960



1970



1990



The church undergoes major renovation in 1996



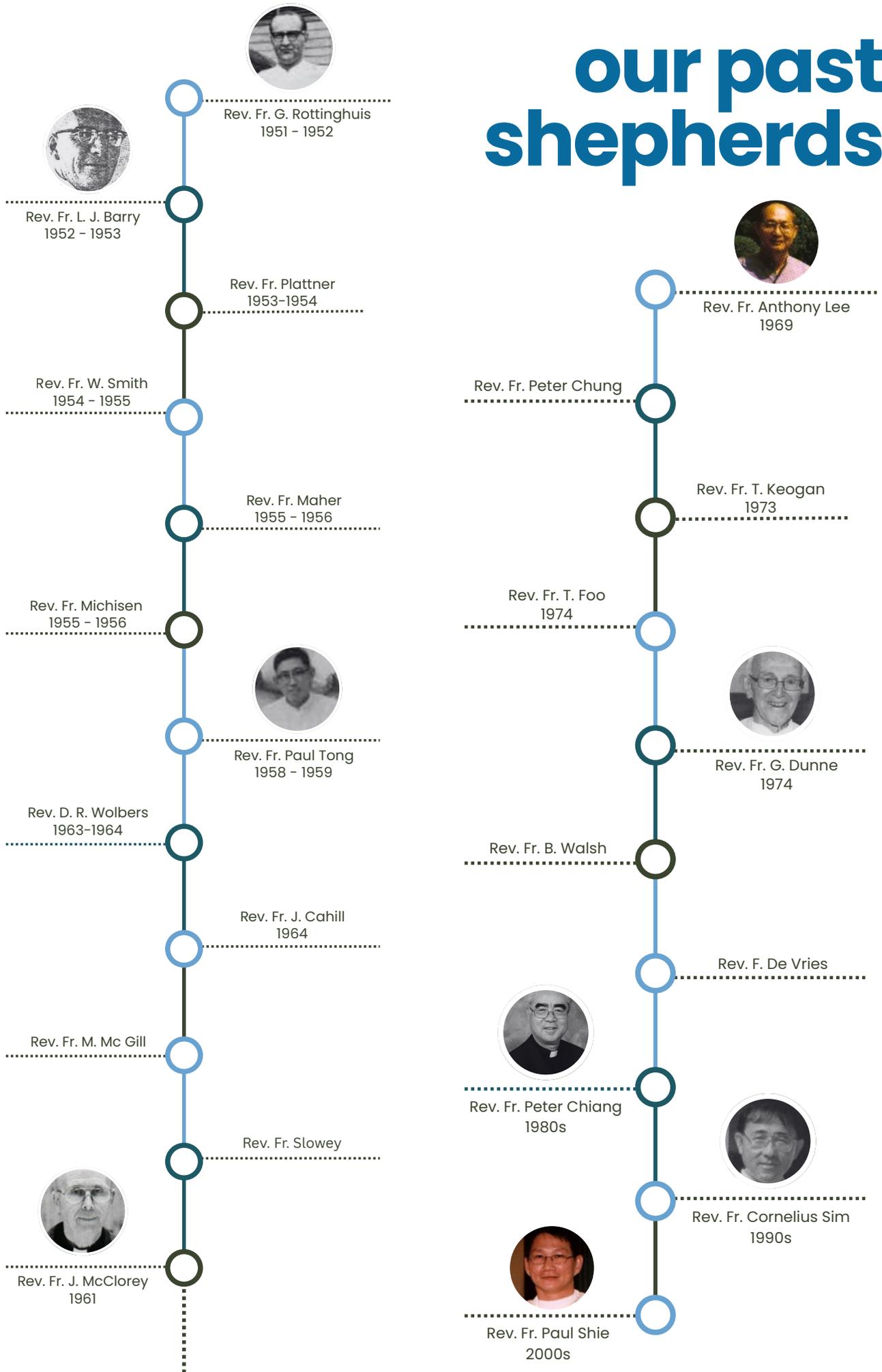
The church new roofing after the renovation



2025

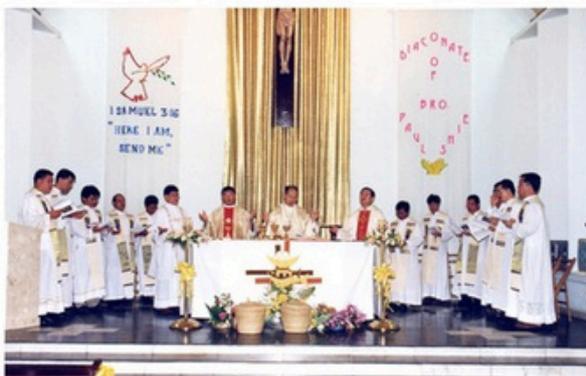


our past shepherds



Ordination to the Diaconate

On 15 January 1999, Bro. Paul Shie was ordained to the Diaconate by Bishop Lee Kok Hin, Bishop of Miri, following the completion of his priestly formation at St. Francis Xavier Major Seminary, Singapore.



Ordination to the Priesthood

Deacon Cornelius Sim was ordained to the Priesthood on 29 November 1989 by Bishop Lee Kok Hin, Bishop of Miri, after completing his studies at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, in 1988.



Ordination to the Priesthood

On 8 December 2008, Deacon Arin Sugit was ordained to the sacred order of the Priesthood by His Grace, Bishop Cornelius Sim, after completing his priestly formation at St. Francis Xavier Major Seminary, Singapore.



The Installation of Rev. Fr. Robert Leong as Parish Priest

On 11 January 2009, Rev. Fr. Robert Leong, ordained on 10 August 2003 and formerly serving as Assistant Parish Priest at the Church of Our Lady of Assumption in B.S. Begawan, was solemnly installed as Parish Priest of Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Seria by Bishop Cornelius Sim during a meaningful liturgical celebration attended by the parish community. The Installation Mass marked the formal entrustment of pastoral leadership to Fr. Robert, who succeeded Fr. Paul Shie as shepherd of the parish. The occasion was one of thanksgiving and hope, as parishioners looked forward to his guidance in faith, unity, and service.



Apostolic Delegate Visit

Archbishop Luigi Bressan in 1991



Apostolic Delegate Visit

Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio in 2005



Apostolic Delegate Visit



Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo,
Vatican's Secretary for
Relations with States
in June 2005



Apostolic Delegate Visit

Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli in 2011



Apostolic Delegate Visit

Archbishop Joseph Marino in October 2018



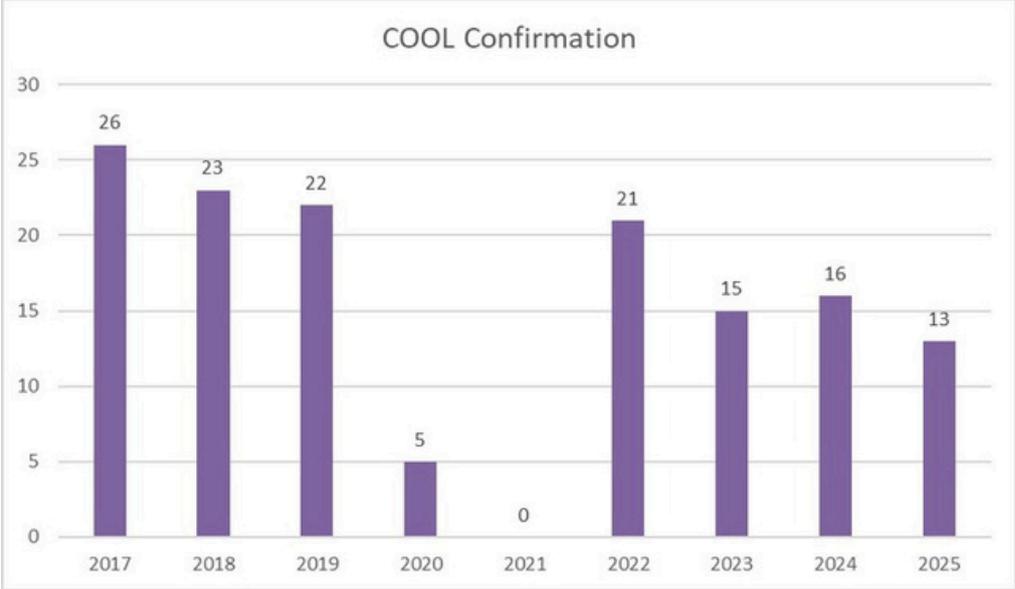
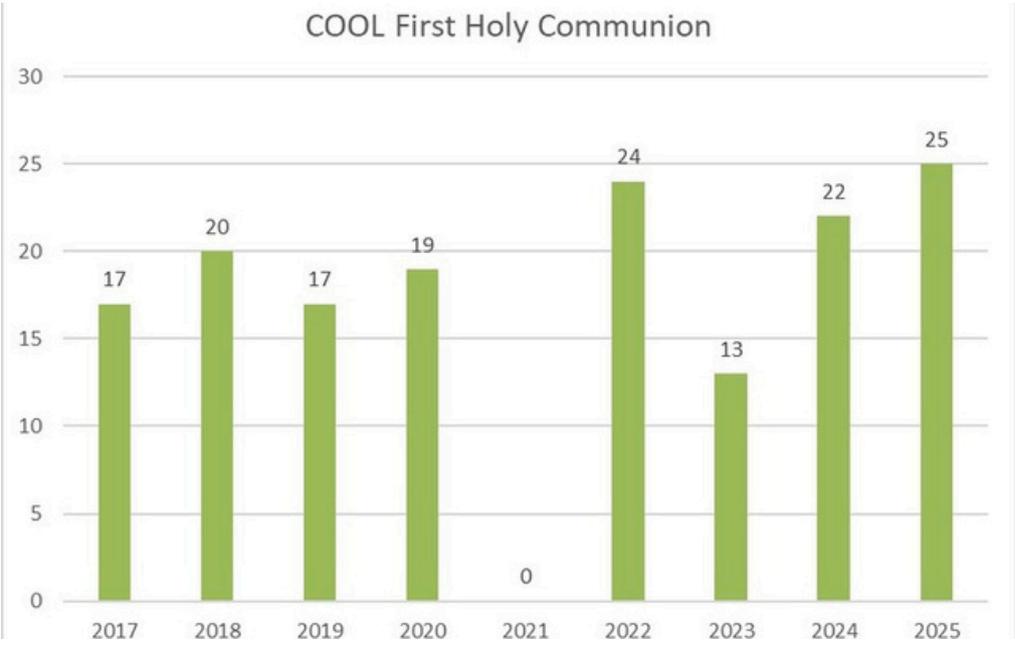
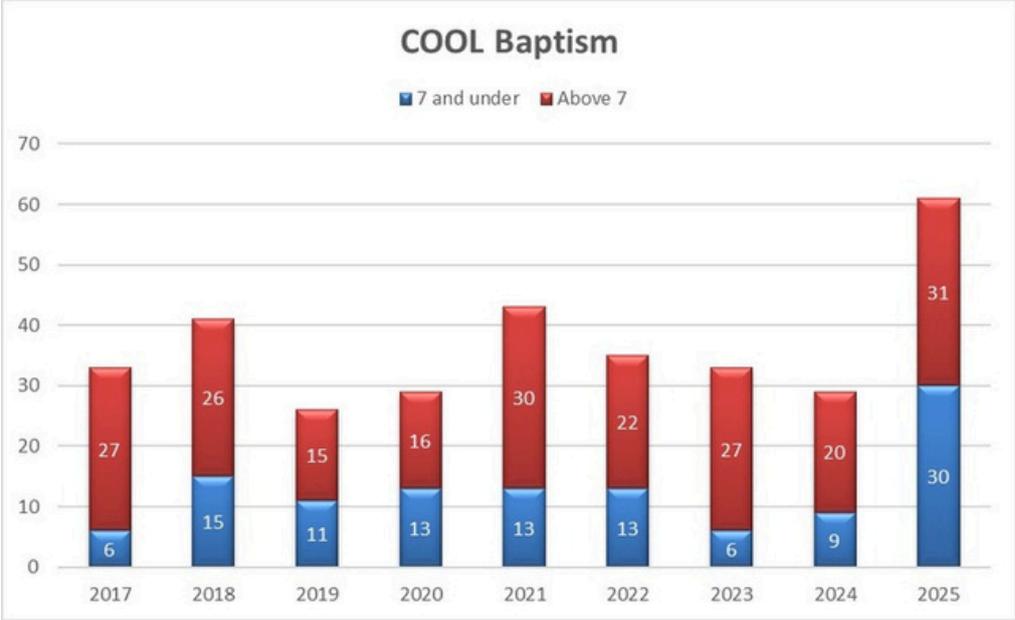
Apostolic Delegate Visit



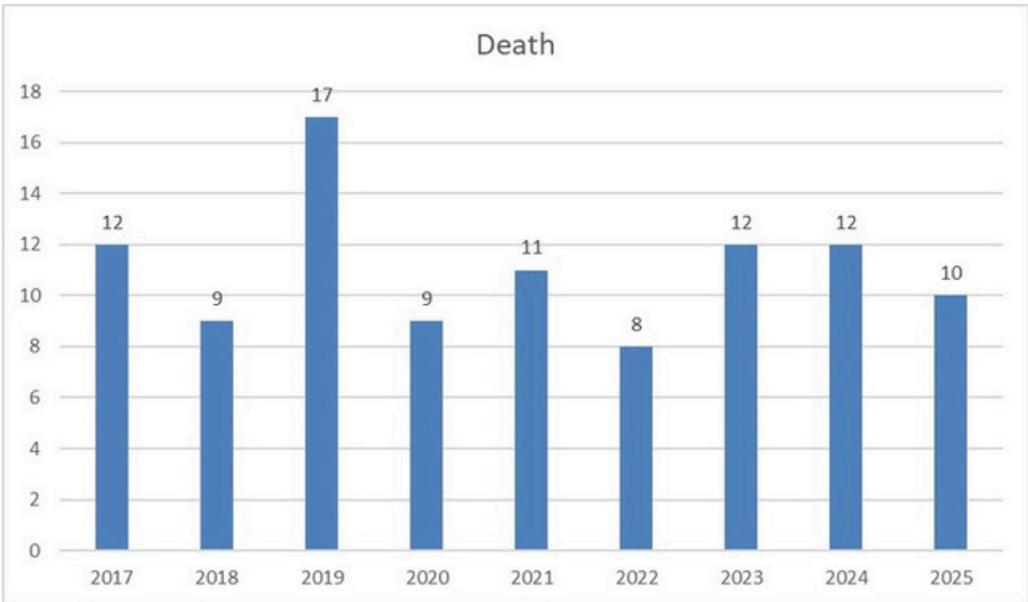
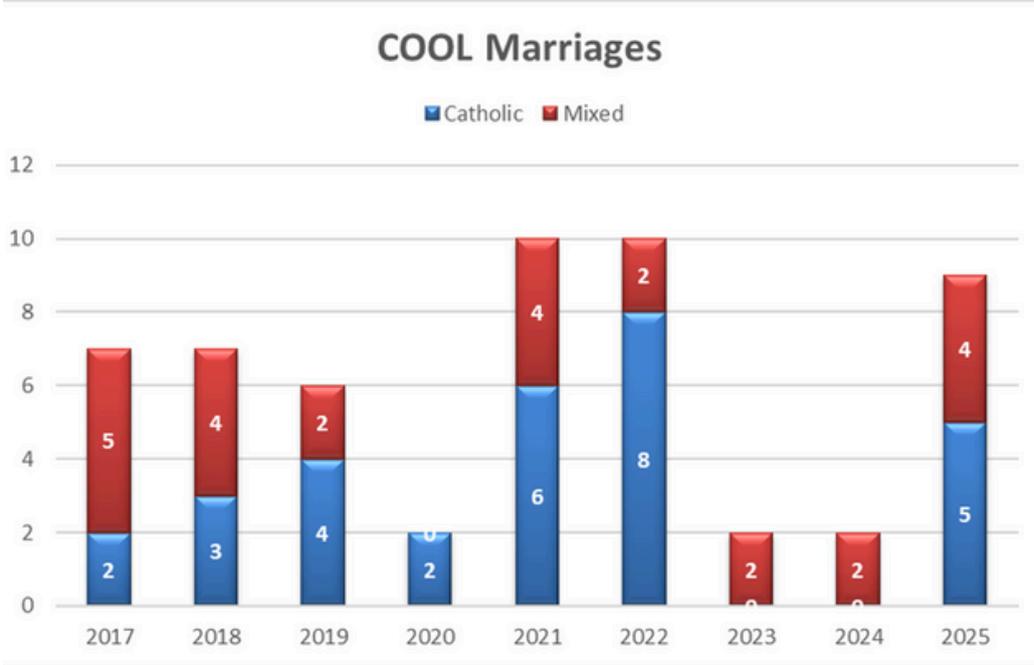
Archbishop Wojciech Zaluski
on 12th December 2024



STATISTICS FOR BAPTISM, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION FROM THE YEAR 2017 TO 2025



FOR MARRIAGES AND DEATH FROM THE YEAR 2017 TO 2025



Faith Unshaken:

The Church's Resilience Amid the Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Church demonstrated remarkable resilience by finding new ways to keep faith alive and the community connected despite restrictions and uncertainty. Through online Masses, virtual prayer gatherings, and acts of charity, parishioners continued to support one another spiritually and emotionally. The challenges strengthened the Church's unity and compassion, showing that faith can endure and even grow stronger in times of crisis.



PARISH MINISTRIES



Our Lady statue at the rosary garden

LITURGICAL Ministry

The Liturgical Committee plans parish events and assists in training Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Wardens, Choir members, Sacristans, and decorators.



the liturgy

SUB-MINISTRIES

Sacristans

The Sacristan prepares and oversees the articles and elements required for the Liturgy so that all the members of the worshipping community can take their full, conscious and active part in the liturgical celebration.



Altar Servers

Altar Servers assist the priest at Mass. The boys are third through 12th-graders who have received their First Communion. They carry the cross, bear the book, and set the altar for consecration. Altar servers play an important role during special liturgical celebrations.



the liturgy SUB-MINISTRIES

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion

Eucharistic Ministers are commissioned by the pastor to distribute the body and blood of Christ at all liturgical celebrations. All ministers are trained prior to being commissioned.



Wardens

The wardens assure that parishioners and visitors are assisted when necessary as they enter or exit the church. They notify the Eucharistic Ministers if anyone needs assistance to receive Communion. The wardens also serve as collectors for the weekly offerings.



the liturgy

SUB-MINISTRIES

Lectors & Commentators

Lectors proclaim the Word of God during liturgical celebrations.



Art & Environment (Decorators)

This group of volunteers beautify the sanctuary by decorating with emphasis on special liturgical events to include picking up flowers, hanging wreaths, banners etc.



the liturgy SUB-MINISTRIES

Choirs

COOL CHOIR

For many years, our Choir Sub-Ministry has brought music and joy to the worship life of COOL. From seven groups in the past, we now continue our mission with five dedicated choirs. Each group shares its unique voice and talent, enhancing every Mass and celebration. Through their devotion, our choirs inspire the congregation, glorify God, and strengthen the bonds of our parish community.



the liturgy SUB-MINISTRIES

Choirs

DOA DUSUN SERIA (DDS) CHOIR

The DDS Choir is a flexible and disciplined group of singers with many years of experience in leading music for Sunday Masses and various liturgical celebrations.

Formed in 1988 alongside the establishment of the DDS Charismatic Group, the choir initially gathered around 20–30 dedicated members. Although the number of members has reduced over the years, we remain active and committed, participating in combined choir events, liturgical celebrations, and other parish activities.

Our choir uniform — a yellow and black collared T-shirt — plays an important role in fostering harmony and presenting a unified, visually uplifting presence for both the choir and the congregation.

Our core mission is to enliven and encourage the faithful through spirit-filled worship. Through our musical gifts, we strive to glorify God, inspire spiritual growth, and build unity within our church community.

“Aku hendak menyanyi bagi TUHAN selama aku hidup, aku hendak bermazmur bagi Allahku selagi aku ada ~ Mazmur 104:33”



the liturgy SUB-MINISTRIES

Choirs

CHINESE CHOIR GROUP

COOL Chinese Choir was founded by Msgr. Paul Tong in 1967. Currently, the Chinese Choir consists of 14 members. Our Chinese Choir continues to sing for Sunday Mass once a month & twice a month if there are 31 days. We usually sing for the old folk at the Old Folk's Home during our Chinese New Year visit and sing at our Chinese New Year Dinner gathering.

COOL華文歌詠團

COOL華文歌詠團由蒙席董志山神父於1967年創立。目前，華文歌詠團擁有14位團員。一如既往，我們的華文歌詠團每月在主日彌撒中獻唱一次，若有31天，則那個月獻唱兩次。我們通常會在春節探訪老人院為眾孤老獻唱和在新春晚宴上獻唱。



COOL Choir founded by the then parish priest Rev. Fr. Paul Tong in 1967. (COOL歌詠團由當時的堂區董志山神父於1967年創立。)



Singing during 2025 Chinese New Year dinner gathering at Cheng Hwa restaurant, Seria. (2025年春節在詩里亞的精華餐廳晚宴時獻唱。)

the liturgy SUB-MINISTRIES

Choirs

COUPLES FOR CHRIST (CFC) CHOIR



FILIPINO CHOIR

For 15 beautiful years, the Filipino Choir filled our parish with the gift of song, bringing life, joy, and devotion to every liturgy and celebration. More than voices, they were a family united in faith, sharing laughter, friendship, and a love for God through music. In 2020, the choir concluded its journey as many members left the country for good, leaving behind cherished memories and a lasting legacy that continues to inspire our parish community.



SAINT CECILIA CHOIR

Saint Cecilia Choir, part of the Choir Sub-Ministry, faithfully served our parish with devotion and harmony, bringing life and joy to every liturgy. Named after the patron saint of musicians, their music was a true gift, uplifting the parish community and enriching every celebration. The choir gracefully came to a close as many members had to leave the country, leaving behind treasured memories and a lasting legacy of faith and music.



YOUTH Ministry

The COOL Youth Ministry was founded in 1980s and was officially led by a group of Youths in 2010.

It is a community where young people grow in faith, friendship, and service. We journey together with other vicariate youths through activities such as Youth Famine (formerly known as 30-Hour Famine), Vicariate Youth Day (formerly known as Festival of Praise), LifeNite, TimeOut, community service, and – deepening our relationship with God while making a difference and having fun together.



CATECHETICAL Ministry

Catechetical ministry is the Church's mission of passing on the Catholic faith with love and faithfulness. Through prayer, Scripture, and the teachings of the Church, catechists help children, youth, and adults grow closer to Christ and live out the Gospel in their daily lives.



FINANCE Ministry

The Finance Team plays a vital role in ensuring that the church's resources are managed with integrity, transparency, and accountability. Their service supports the mission and ministries of the church by overseeing how financial resources are received, managed, and used for God's work.



Vicariate Finance Council

1. Stewardship and Accountability

- Ensure faithful stewardship of tithes, offerings, and donations.
- Maintain transparency in all financial dealings.
- Provide regular financial reports to the Parish Priest, Parish Council, and congregation.

2. Budgeting and Financial Planning

- Prepare and monitor the annual church budget in line with ministry goals and priorities.
- Forecast and plan for both short-term and long-term financial needs.
- Support decision-making by providing sound financial advice.

3. Financial Operations

- Oversee collection counting, record-keeping, and bank deposits.
- Manage payments, reimbursements, and procurement in accordance with church policies.
- Ensure compliance with diocesan financial guidelines and local regulations.

4. Support for Ministries and Projects

- Allocate funds to support pastoral activities, outreach programs, and church maintenance.
- Evaluate financial feasibility of new initiatives or improvement projects.
- Encourage responsible use of resources to further the church's mission.

**THE FINANCE TEAM
SERVES AS FAITHFUL
STEWARDS OF THE
CHURCH'S BLESSINGS
—ENSURING THAT
EVERY RESOURCE IS
USED WISELY TO
SUPPORT WORSHIP,
MINISTRY, AND
SERVICE TO OTHERS.**



COOL Parish Finance Council

PRAYER GROUPS



Our Lady Statue at the Garden Pond

CHINESE Prayer Group

The Chinese Legion of Mary and COOL Chinese Group were founded by Rev. Fr. Peter Chiang in 1976 and 1982, respectively. The Chinese Group contributed by forming a choir and wardens, and organized a pilgrimage to Miri. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they maintained community through online prayers and started a combined Chinese and English prayer group. By 2022, post-pandemic, they resumed serving in church as prayer leaders and presenters, participated in fundraising, and continued RCIA, now OCIA. The group expresses gratitude for support from other church communities and prays for their parish priest, Rev. Fr. Robert, for his encouragement in fostering a harmonious, multi-racial community.



LEGION OF MARY

Prayer Group

The Legion of Mary is a global lay apostolate organization for Catholic men, women, and youth to sanctify themselves through prayer and apostolic work under a priest's guidance. Founded on September 7, 1921, by Frank Duff, the first praesidium in Brunei, Mother of Christ the King, was established on April 20, 1954, at the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception in Seria.





PRAESIDIA CURRENTLY ACTIVE THE BRUNEI APOSTOLIC VICARIATE

ENGLISH CURIA (formed on 13th May 1990)

1. Mother of Christ The King (COOL English)
2. Queen of the Assumption (COLA English)
3. Queen of Peace (COLA English)
4. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary (COLA Bahasa)
5. Mother of Perpetual Help (COOL Bahasa)
6. Mother of Savior (Filipino-SJC KB)

FILIPINO CURIA (Our Lady of Fatima - formed on 28th January 2001)

1. Our Lady of Visitation
2. Our Mother of Perpetual Succor
3. Mediatrix of All Graces
4. Mother of Mercy
5. Mystical Rose (Junior)
6. Gate of Heaven (Junior)

CHINESE CURIA (Mother of the Church - formed on 20th June 2001)

1. Holy Family (COLA)
2. Morning Star (COLA)
3. Mother of God (COLA)
4. Our Lady of Immaculate Conception (COOL)
5. Queen of Peace (SJC)



IBAN Prayer Group

The COOL Iban Prayer Group was established in 1983, emerging from the English Prayer Group, by a small group of devoted Iban parishioners of the Church of Our Lady Seria. From the very beginning, the group focused on fostering spiritual growth and community among its members, holding regular prayer meetings every Monday evening at the old parish hall. These gatherings included praise and worship, Bible study, and faith sharing, and would always conclude with a simple fellowship over tea and food, lovingly prepared by members on a rotating basis.

As the group grew, they established separate cell groups for men and women, visiting members' homes to pray, study, and share fellowship. During the month of the Rosary, members made special visits to each other's homes, gathering to pray and enjoy fellowship, whether in large or small groups, keeping the spirit of communal prayer alive.





Over the years, the COOL Iban Prayer Group expanded its activities to include a wide range of spiritual enrichment programs. These included annual Life in the Spirit seminars to ignite and deepen faith, healing seminars, programs for newly baptized members, spouse seminars, and retreats for baptized Iban members. The group also frequently invited guest speakers from outside the parish, providing new insights and guidance to encourage spiritual renewal among members. Once in a while, some members have also participated in pilgrimages to Asian and European countries as part of their faith journey. While devoted to their Catholic faith, the Iban members of the group have remained deeply connected to their cultural roots. They continue to celebrate Gawai with a special Mass followed by a community celebration, fostering the values of togetherness and inviting members from other parishes to join in the festivities.

As part of giving back to the church, Iban group members have consistently participated in the parish's breakfast sale events, contributing to church fundraising efforts. During the Lent season, the mothers of Iban group members have actively taken part in bread making for the weekly soup fellowship held every Friday, further strengthening their service and commitment to the parish community.

For over four decades, the COOL Iban Prayer Group has faithfully nurtured both faith and fellowship, preserving cherished traditions while embracing new opportunities to grow spiritually and strengthen their community.

DUSUN Prayer Group

The Dusun Prayer Group (DDS) was founded in 1989 under the spiritual care of the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception (COOL), Seria. It began with a small community of Dusun-speaking Catholic families who shared a deep desire to grow together in prayer, fellowship, and service to the Lord.

Born from the grace of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the early members of DDS had encountered the love and power of the Holy Spirit through the Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS). Moved by faith, they formed a group dedicated to worship, evangelization, and mutual support among the Dusun faithful.

From its humble beginnings, DDS has flourished into a vibrant and steadfast ministry. The group continues to nurture spiritual growth through weekly prayer meetings, choir service during Mass, altar decoration, and community outreach. DDS has also contributed significantly by translating prayer booklets and novenas into Bahasa Melayu, making the Word of God more accessible to local Catholics.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Dusun Prayer Group remains faithful to its mission of unity, prayer, and service, collaborating closely with other ministries under COOL Parish. Today, DDS stands as a living testament to God's enduring faithfulness — a community of believers who pray, serve, and love together in Christ.



DDS GROUP OF
CHURCH OF OUR
LADY OF IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
SERIA



Faith in action



Community Gotong Royong

Every quarter, our parish comes together for gotong-royong to care for and beautify our church surroundings. These gatherings are more than just cleaning sessions – they are moments of shared responsibility, fellowship, and love for our parish home. In preparation for feast days and major celebrations, members turn up for additional clean-ups, ensuring that the church is welcoming and prayerful for all who enter.



Drawn from various prayer groups, parishioners work side by side with cheerful hearts and generous hands. In the spirit of togetherness, parish groups take turns preparing lunch, where simple meals are shared, laughter is exchanged, and friendships are deepened further strengthening the bond of unity among the parishioners.



Annual Living Rosary



Each October, our parish comes together to honour Our Lady through the Living Rosary. Parishioners, young and old, form a circle representing the rosary, each person leading a bead in prayer. The evening is filled with devotion, unity, and heartfelt petitions, reminding us of Mary's intercession and the power of prayer in our community.



Fr. Robert Turns 65 – A Retro Celebration



On 2nd May 2025, Fr. Robert celebrated his 65th birthday in groovy 60s style. With colourful outfits, joyful music, and laughter all around, the celebration brought together parishioners, friends, and well-wishers to honour his years of love, guidance, and dedication. It was a day of fun, nostalgia, and heartfelt appreciation – a true reflection of the vibrant spirit that Fr. Robert brings to our community.



Father Robert's 22nd Sacerdotal Celebration

On 10th August 2025, we celebrated Father Robert's 22nd Sacerdotal Anniversary. For over two decades, he has guided us with a compassionate heart, inspiring faith and hope in every step of our journey. We give thanks for his devoted service and pray that God continues to bless him with joy, strength, and abundant grace as he shepherds His flock.



Migrant Sunday



Every year, our parish takes part in Migrant Sunday, a meaningful initiative dedicated to supporting migrants and those in need within our community. Through this drive, we distribute food rations and essential items, bringing not only sustenance but also hope and compassion to families far from home. This act of charity reflects our commitment to living the Gospel, reminding us that love knows no boundaries and that every small gesture can make a lasting difference in someone's life.



Vocation Bazaar

In celebration of World Mission Sunday, our parish organized a Vocation Bazaar on 19th October 2025. The event brought together parishioners of all ages to enjoy fun games and delicious food in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Laughter, smiles, and the joy of community filled the day, making it a memorable occasion for everyone who joined in the celebration.



Lenten Fridays: Bread and Soup



Every Friday during Lent, a group of bakers prepares an array of fragrant, home-baked breads – from wholemeal and savoury garlic loaves to crusty baguettes – for the soup fellowship after the midday Mass. Paired with hearty soups such as mushroom, corn, chowder, and pumpkin, this simple sharing brings warmth and joy to our Lenten Fridays. More than just food, it is a time of teamwork and togetherness, one loaf and one bowl at a time.



Annual Parish Pilgrimage

Every year, our parish sets off on an exciting journey of faith through our annual pilgrimages, led by our Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr Robert Leong. These trips are not just about visiting holy places – they're about walking together, praying together, and growing together as a parish family. Through Mass, reflections, and fellowship, our faith is refreshed and friendships are strengthened. Each pilgrimage reminds us that when we journey with God and one another, every step becomes a blessing.



Pilgrimage to Kuching



On 27th June 2025, our group, together with parishioners from St. Peter's Church, Temburong, embarked on a pilgrimage to Kuching. We visited several beautiful churches, including Mount Hosanna, St. Anne Church, and St. Joseph's Cathedral. Each place offered us time to pray, reflect, and grow closer to God.

A special highlight of our trip was attending the Consecration Mass at St. Peter's Church on 29th June 2025. It was a joyful and moving experience, and we felt truly blessed to witness such a meaningful event.

Praise & Worship

Held for the first time, the one-hour Praise & Worship Night on 19th July 2025 drew an enthusiastic crowd from various parish groups. The session was filled with joyful singing, heartfelt prayer, and a deep sense of unity among participants. It was a refreshing and uplifting evening that left many renewed in spirit and eager for more such gatherings.



Congratulatory Messages from Former Parishioners



congratulatory messages



ANDY & ROSA MEDIANERO MA
Philippines

On this blessed occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Church of our Lady of Immaculate Conception, celebrated on December 8, we extend our profound and heartfelt congratulations. For seven grace-filled decades, this sacred church has stood as a steadfast pillar of faith, hope and love—guiding the parish community with unwavering devotion, compassion and unity.

This significant milestone is not only a remembrance of the Church's rich history but also a tribute to the countless prayers, sacrifices and acts of service offered by generations of faithful parishioners. Their enduring dedication has strengthened the spiritual life of the community and illuminated the path of all who seek God's presence within these holy walls.

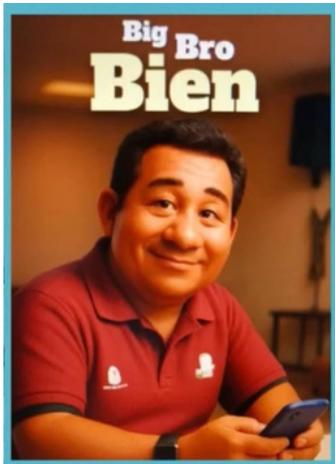
May the Church continue to flourish as a radiant beacon of light, inspiring all who enter its door to deepen their faith, grow in love, and live in harmony with God and with one another. As we honour this remarkable anniversary, we pray that God's abundant blessings continue to guide and sustain the Church in its mission for many years to come.

Congratulations on the 70th anniversary of the Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. What a beautiful milestone! This church holds so many cherished memories—from baptism and confirmation, to Sunday school lessons, youth gatherings, choir practices, and countless moments of faith shared with family and friends. May this sacred place continue to nurture hearts, strengthen spirits, and inspire many more lives in the Catholic faith for generations to come.



**REY, CELIA, NINA,
BETH & MICHELLE SANCHEZ**
Philippines

congratulatory messages



BIEN VIZCARRA
Philippines

As we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, I am deeply honoured and grateful to be part of this joyous occasion.

Having served as a warden for 20 years, I have witnessed how our parish community has grown stronger through faith and love. Over the years, I have seen how we come together as one family – working hand in hand in various church activities, caring for one another regardless of race or status in life. Truly, this is the spirit of Christ at work among us.

Today, we celebrate not only the milestone of 70 years but also the countless blessings God has bestowed upon us. The Lord has gathered us to remind us of His grace and to lead us continually on the path of righteousness and spiritual growth.

May God continue to bless our parish with many more fruitful years ahead. May He strengthen our faith, give us courage to always stand firm in His love, and inspire us to reach out and invite more people to join our church family.

Once again, happy 70th anniversary to COOL! May we continue to build on the foundation of faith and celebrate the legacy of love that binds us together.

Faith is our foundation, and love is the legacy we celebrate today.

On this milestone of the history of COOL, my heartiest congratulations to Fr Robert, the Parish Priest and all the parishioners celebrating the 70th anniversary of COOL. May the Lord Jesus Christ, in His divine benevolence, continue to lead and guide the people of God through this Parish to keep the light of faith ever burning always and everywhere for all generations to come. May Mother Mary, the Immaculate Conception, patron of COOL, always shelter and protect COOL under her mantle.



FRANCIS TEO
Sarawak, Malaysia

congratulatory messages

I served as a teacher in St. Michael's School from 1973 to 1987. From a young age, I had a musical inclination, but I never truly developed an interest in the piano. That changed when Mr. Kim, a Korean gentleman who sold Yamaha organs, introduced me to the Yamaha Electric Organ—a one-man-band instrument that sparked a new passion in me. I learned diligently, completed all the examinations, and eventually brought this gift to our beloved Seria Church, named Church of our Lady.

When I began playing at Mass, the congregation grew beautifully. I still remember having two guitarists accompanying me as I played the organ. Music became my humble offering to Church of our Lady from the late 70s until 1987. During those years, I also trained two students to take up the ministry of music, ensuring the service would continue. I fondly recall leading the carollers as we went from house to house, filling homes with Christmas joy.

I am also grateful for the collaboration with Mr. Leo Abad (father of Joyce, Royston, and Yvonne), who wrote hymns in Bahasa Melayu. I had the privilege of composing the melodies, and together we introduced these songs to Church of our Lady. Through this shared effort, Mass in Bahasa Melayu was eventually celebrated once a month.

I carry countless fond memories of Church of our Lady in my heart. As we celebrate 70 years of God's faithfulness, I offer my deepest congratulations. May our church continue to flourish, and may the younger generation rise to serve with joy, dedication, and love.

Happy 70th Anniversary to our beloved Church of our Lady of Immaculate Conception!



FRANCELINE ALVAREZ
United Kingdom

congratulatory messages



CORA GRAN

Philippines

Happy 70th Anniversary to Church of our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Seria! May our parish continue to be a place where hearts are strengthened, families are formed, and God's love is joyfully lived out.

Congratulations to our Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception on reaching this incredible milestone of 70 years. Our church stands as a testament of God's enduring faithfulness and grace. May His light continue to shine brightly through the church and its congregation for many more generations to come. We are so blessed to celebrate this milestone with you.

GEORGE & ELSIE YUN

Miri, Sarawak



FERMIN JR. DINGALASAN

Philippines

Happy 70th Anniversary!

You have been a meaningful part of our life during our time in Brunei. This church has been where we regularly gathered for Sunday Mass, with Father Paul Shie and Father Robert. It's also the place where the El Shaddai Group prayer meeting met every Sunday. You have been a steady refuge and shelter for our faith during our stay, and we are deeply grateful for the love and support shown us by the people around.

May the Good Lord continue to bless you and all the parishioners.

congratulatory messages

How would my sons and I forget our home away from home for almost 9 years. Nine years of blessed and full of wonderful memories shared with wonderful people in COOL, Seria. My sons growing years in the church and in the community were filled with laughter and a little of challenges. They literally grew up in the church as altar servers. Not known to all but they like Fr Robert especially when he lets the boys stay in the Parish library to watch on the television and read books anytime of the day. As their mother, I only had the church to help me raise my sons of other discipline and learnings which their school (St Angela's Convent School) and I couldn't provide. The Church of Our Lady, its parishioners and community had loved us unconditionally.

We pray that in God's perfect time we will come back and share with you all our success, for now, let us keep praying for one another as we strive to cope with our daily lives and as boys are still attending university.



LEA MONDERIN
Philippines

Rest assured all your kindness and help to us were offered in prayers that may God keep blessing you and all in your family.

Happy 70th anniversary, COOL!

Congratulations upon reaching the milestone of 70 years as a 'beacon of God's light in this community' and thanks for the journey and the many blessings received over the decades.

I was active in this wonderful community from the mid-1980s all the way to the early 2010s. Being at COOL afforded my family, comprising of my husband and 3 children, and I, such a wonderful and heartfelt journey through our Catholic Faith. I was particularly involved in the Legion of Mary. I have experienced such joy and made lifelong friends during my time at COOL.

I am truly thankful to the Lord for allowing me to be placed at COOL during my time there. It has truly been a blessing and has been so formative towards the faith journey of my family and I.

I pray for continued blessings and a bright future for this wonderful church.



MARGARETE @MAGGIE
LUCAS DAIM
Papar, Sabah

congratulatory messages



GERARD & LUCIA YEE
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

The beautiful and quaint church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception has touched many lives. It was definitely a part of my life before my whole family migrated. I had many great and fond memories at this beautiful and faith filling community. Most importantly, my wife and I were married in 1982 at this church by the late Rev. Fr. John McClorey. We were involved with several ministries including conducting the choir and prayer meetings.

We left Seria, Brunei in 1988. But our hearts always felt at home when we returned for visits.

Congratulations on the 70th Years Anniversary of Faith and Blessings to the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Seria. May God continue to shower and enrich the church in all her works in Seria, Brunei.



LISA, KRYSELLE & KRYSANNE MARTIS
India

On the joyful occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Seria, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire parish community. Having been part of this parish seven years ago with my two daughters, we continue to cherish the warmth, faith, and fellowship we experienced. May Our Blessed Mother continue to intercede for the parish, guiding every family into deeper communion with Christ.

Wishing the parish many more years of grace-filled service and vibrant faith.

congratulatory messages



LUDWIG BERTUBIN
Philippines

With a heart filled with gratitude and awe, I thank God for His faithfulness (Matthew 16:18) , blessing us with another milestone in the life of COOL, our beloved parish community.

May this anniversary be a joyful reminder of the generous love of the Father, our Lord's faithful presence, the guiding work of the Holy Spirit, and the countless graces shared through prayer, service, and fellowship.

As we honour the dedication of all who have built, nurtured, and sustained our parish over the years, may our Lord Jesus Christ continue to be the cornerstone of our mission. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, and all the saints, may our parish family grow ever stronger in faith, hope, and love.

Wishing you continued blessings, renewed zeal, and many more fruitful years in the vineyard of the Lord.

Congratulations, and thanks be to God! Blessed be God forever.

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of Hosts!" Psalm 84:1

The Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception in Seria, Brunei is a shining reminder of our Lord's love for the people of GOD. The church is named after Mary, the Mother of our GOD, Mary who was conceived without original sin.

Over the past seventy years, the faithful have drawn strength and inspiration from Mary's life, Mary's humility, Mary's obedience and Mary's unwavering faith in God's will.

Through times of joy and hardship, through moments of success and failures, we have turned to the Immaculate Mother for comfort and hope.

With gratitude we give thanks for the blessings and graces received, the tapestry of Mary's intercession in our prayers.

"Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee... we love you, we honour you, we need you, please always be our Mother."



VICTOR RAEBURN
Singapore

congratulatory messages



MARICRIS GONZALVO-BANAG
British Columbia, Canada

My heart is overjoyed to hear that the church is celebrating its 70th year in strengthening the Catholic faith of the community in Brunei. The Church of Our Lady contributed to building the foundation of my faith in the Lord that blessed me with a family from the community whom I feel genuine love and support even from miles away. God's love is indeed everlasting and has no boundaries.

I wish everyone a very happy and blessed anniversary, with many, many more years of grace.



MAYA STOBO
Canada

Congratulations on the 70th Anniversary of the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Seria! It has been a true blessing to be part of this wonderful community, and I am proud to have served as a member of the Lectors and Commentators and the Filipino Choir for almost eight years. Wishing our church many more joyful, grace-filled years ahead!

congratulatory messages



MICHAEL ANGULO
Philippines

Happy 70th Anniversary to the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Seria, Brunei Darussalam. We thank God for His faithfulness and abundant blessings upon our Church. May the flame of faith that burns in the hearts of our parishioners continue to shine brightly, so that we may share the light of Christ with others.

My father and I are deeply honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve in the various ministries of our Church. The responsibilities were not always easy, but they were truly meaningful, for we experienced the spirit of love, unity, and camaraderie among our parishioners. For both my father and me, COOL Parish became our home away from home. You welcomed us with open arms and made us feel loved, even in a foreign land.

I will always remain grateful to COOL Parish and to the Catholic Church in Brunei as a whole for the prayers, kindness, and support you extended to my father during his illness and upon his passing.

Once again, Happy 70th Anniversary to COOL Seria Parish! May God continue to bless our community.



SUSAN LEDOHOWSKI
British Columbia, Canada

Congratulations to Church of our Lady of Immaculate Conception on your 70th Anniversary. May your community be strong and filled with faith. God bless you all!



MUSA DINOH
Serian, Sarawak

Happy 70th Anniversary to COOL — a remarkable milestone of faith, unity, and growth.

congratulatory messages



RENE & WANDA RIVERA

Philippines

On this joyful occasion, our family extends its warmest and heartfelt congratulations to the Church of our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, on its 70th anniversary.

This blessed church has been more than a place of worship. It has been a home where our family found spiritual strength, faith and unity. It is here that we were brought together with our fellow Filipinos and also promoted interaction and friendship with the local faithful of Seria forming a community grounded in a shared devotion, love and compassion.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we give thanks for the countless blessings, guidance and comfort that our Lady of the Immaculate Conception bestows upon all who seek and receive her care. May this anniversary remind us of God's unending love and grace and inspire us to continue nurturing faith, service and unity among the diverse congregation of Seria, Brunei in the years ahead.

Congratulations! God bless the Church and the flock of Brunei Darussalam for many generations to come.

Congratulations to the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Seria on your 70th Anniversary!

Thank you for the opportunity and blessing to be part of this parish for the past 20 years. Thank you for guiding my path, for the parishioners who became my brothers and sisters, and for being the place I could always turn to whenever I felt lost or burdened. I am grateful, too, for the presence of the priests who have offered guidance, support, and enlightenment along the way.

I pray that the Church of Our Lady will continue to flourish and be a beacon of faith, hope, and love for many more years in this corner of Brunei.

God bless the Church of Our Lady!



RAMON LIWANAG MACAPAGAL

Philippines

congratulatory messages



LUZ & SOC OCAMPO
Philippines

Congratulations on the 70th anniversary the Church of our Lady of Immaculate Conception!

The Ocampo Family joyfully celebrates this milestone of God's faithfulness and the love of our parish community. May this anniversary renew our hope, unity, and gratitude for all God's blessings.

My husband and I we have been blessed to live and work in Brunei for over three decades—gratefully calling it our second home. During these years, we served at COOL as catechists and Eucharistic Ministers: Soc in the Confirmation Class, and I in the First Holy Communion Class. Serving together has been a great blessing, and we thank God for our three wonderful children.

Today, I proclaim with joy: God is loving, merciful, forgiving, and ever faithful. May His blessings remain upon our parish. Truly, with God, all things are possible.

Tahniah ngagai Gerija Our Lady Immaculate Conception ba Ulang Taun Ke-70 kita!

Pengaga ati ulih ngintu pengerami enggau kita. Aku berterima kasih laban udah ny adi sebagai ari pejalai parish, kelebihan agi maya aku meri kelala seminar lban keterubah di Seria. Tu peneleba ti bisi reti ba aku, lalu aku baruh ati laban udah meri bantu, enggau chara ti mit, ngagai penumbuh enggau pengaya semangat komuniti kami.

Awakka Tuhan terus merekatka parish tu enggau penyerakup, pengarap, seret a pengawa ti ransing betaun-taun agi.



THOMAS MUKING
Edmonton, Canada

congratulatory messages

I wholeheartedly congratulate the Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Seria, on its 70th anniversary. I am grateful and proud to have been part of COOL from October 1993 to December 2015 – truly the happiest and most formative years of my church life. From an ordinary Sunday churchgoer, I grew into an assistant catechist and later served in various ministries as a ministry head. Through the community and through the faith formation led by Fr Robert Leong, I learned not only to serve Christ but to know Him more deeply.

I thank God for calling me into a warm and welcoming community that became my family away from home. COOL nurtured me physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually, and prepared me –without my knowing it–for the responsibilities I now hold in my own parish.

My prayer for COOL is that the community continues to radiate God's love, so that many may encounter Jesus and Mary through their witness.

May our Heavenly Father bless you all and keep you under the maternal protection of Our Blessed Lady.

NANCY BILLONES
Philippines

The Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception is part of my childhood and adolescence. It will always have a special place in my heart. There are so many happy memories - Sunday School, Christmas plays, choir practice, Midnight mass etc. Thank you for giving me a strong sense of community and foundation of faith. May the Church continue to shine for another 70 years

PRISCILLA CHONG
Australia

To all parishioners of Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, happy 70th Anniversary! Although my Catholic faith began in Mindanao and grew through the Vincentian Fathers in Manila, it was in Seria Parish that the seed of faith was truly nurtured and allowed to flourish—especially through the Legion of Mary.

The LOM broadened my spiritual life through fellowship with various prayer groups, particularly during Evening Block Rosaries that brought us from Seria to Kuala Belait St. John's Parish and Bandar's Assumption Parish.

Two cherished traditions remain close to my heart:

- The Living Rosary, held in the church garden—each prayer represented by a parishioner holding a candle, forming a beautiful circle of devotion. The Knights of the Altar stood as the Cross, the Parish Council led the Our Fathers, and each prayer group completed the Hail Marys.
- The Fraternal Agape, a joyful gathering of prayer groups on special occasions—filled with laughter, food, music, gifts, and a spirit of unity and love.

May God bless us all.

EMMANUEL CENA
Philippines

In Loving Memory of



Cornelius Cardinal Sim

16 September 1951 - 29 May 2021

