And the unborn child in Elizabeth’s womb leaps for joy after Mary’s greetings. This Visitation narrative shows us Mary’s and Elizabeth’s receptivity and generosity to the promptings of the Spirit. Today, the Holy Spirit is inviting us to imitate the faith of these two women as a response to God’s Word.

The first reading of Isaiah 61 is an evergreen message of hope, to every generation who needs to hear that God sees and God cares. As missionary disciples, who are being sent out with joy to heal, may our faith continue to lead us to active service. At this pivotal time, when an invisible enemy continues to threaten mankind, we come together as a community and as individuals, to pray and take actions to alleviate the sufferings of those at the margins of society, like the urban poor and homeless, the migrants and refugees. We can also encourage our youths to care for the elderly in our BECs and seeing to their needs. It could be contributing generously to funds for the poor. When we are in tune with the Spirit, like Mary and Elizabeth, we will be led to respond appropriately. For that to happen, we need therefore to pray unceasingly and quench not the Spirit, as the 2nd reading tells us.

Here are a few lines of a poem by St Teresa of Avila which can spur us on:

*Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks Compassion on this world, Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, and yours are the eyes.*

The mission of Christ continues in us today, and so let us hasten on our way, with our Blessed Mother leading the way.

Rejoice, the Lord is nigh and close at hand!†
ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE 2020 (ONLINE)
In the light of the pandemic, there will be no public gatherings to celebrate the Advent Penitential Service in the Archdiocese of KL. Instead, Archbishop Julian Leow will be celebrating an online penitential service on Friday, 18 December 2020 at 8.00 pm which will be live streamed on the ArchKL Channel (tv.archkl.org). This penitential service will include the Liturgy of the Word and an examination of conscience. In preparation for this service, you are requested to observe penitential acts, such as prayer, fasting and abstinence, performing spiritual or corporal works of mercy, on any three (3) days of Advent. The faithful are invited to repent from their sins out of love of God, who is to be loved above all things, express a sincere request for forgiveness (using one of the formulas for an act of contrition) and make a firm resolution to follow the example of Saints who wish to renew their baptismal promise of faith, hope and charity, and to make acts of penance, such as praying the rosary, the five decades, the devotional chaplet, repeating the name of Jesus, reciting the Hail Mary, the Our Father, the decade, the Examen, going to Confession when possible, saying the Stations of the Cross, observing Lenten fasts and abstinence as required, and performing any other acts of penance.

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH (8 Dec 2020 – 8 Dec 2021)
Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph Tuesday in honour of the 150th anniversary of the saint’s proclamation as patron of the Universal Church. The year begins Dec. 8, 2020, and concludes on Dec. 8, 2021. According to Pope Francis, he established this “special year” so that “every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God’s will.” The Holy Father further reminds us that “each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble”.

PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH
Pope Francis has granted special indulgences to mark the Year of St Joseph. To reaffirm the universality of St. Joseph's patronage in the Church, the Church would grant a plenary indulgence to Catholics who recite any approved prayer or act of piety in honour of St. Joseph, especially on March 19 (Solemnity of St Joseph, Husband of Mary) and May 1 (Feast of St. Joseph the Worker). Other notable days for the plenary indulgence are the Feast of the Holy Family on Dec. 29, as well as the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the saint in the Latin tradition. The three conditions for receiving a plenary indulgence are sacramental confession, the reception of Holy Communion and prayer for the pope’s intentions.

DAILY PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH
Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
In you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

*The prayer above is taken from the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis, Patris Corde (With A Father’s Heart), 8 Dec 2020.

CHRISTMAS RECOLLECT
The Archdiocesan Single Adults and Youth Office is inviting young people to submit videos of individual / group singing Christmas carols to spread some cheer. You are invited to record a Christmas Carol and send it over and it may be featured on Christmas eve on ArchKL channel. To participate, go to: https://bit.ly/ChristmasASAYO

WHY IS THE THIRD CANDLE IN THE ADVENT WREATH PINK?
A pink candle that signifies joy makes sense since it is lit on Gaudete Sunday - named for the entrance antiphon for 3rd Sunday of Advent’s Mass: “Rejoice (gaudeite) in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice.” In the ancient Church on Laetare Sunday in Lent, the Pope gave a citizen a pink rose. Following the papal rose custom, bishops and priests began wearing rose-coloured vestments on Laetare Sunday. The Church then brought the Lenten practice of rose vestments to Advent on Gaudete Sunday. As a result, the pink candle gained a place in the Advent wreath.

HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH GOING
In the absence of weekly Mass collections during this CMCO, our parish needs your help to remain operational. Parishioners who would like to continue giving your weekly Sunday offerings & donations to the Church, can do so in several ways:
1. Online transfer - CIMB 8000833691 (please inform the Parish Office by phone / text message / email).
2. Through your BEC Coordinator / Friend.

MASS OFFERINGS
You can continue the practice of offering Mass intentions as follows:

Bank Details: CIMB
Account Name: Church of Our Lady of Fatima
Account Number: 800 083 3691

Amount and Description
Please indicate in the online transfer the following details so that the Parish Office could record and account for them appropriately:
1. Amount.
2. Purpose (any of the following): Mass Intention (please include your name and the intention, e.g. Thanksgiving / Special Intention / RIP).

Confirmation (Bank-in Slip)
It is important that you send us the transaction confirmation details:
Email: fatimachurch@archkl.org or WhatsApp: 016.6505039

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Kindly note that the Parish Office is closed due to the CMCO until 6 December 2020. If you need to contact the Church urgently:
- Tel: 03.2274 1631 (Mon – Sat, 11am – 3pm)
- Tel / WhatsApp: 016.6505039.
- Email: fatimachurch@archkl.org

CATHOLIC CALENDAR 2021
The Catholic Calendar 2021 in English and Tamil with the daily mass readings are now at the Parish Office at RM7.00 (English) and RM6.00 (Tamil). There are only limited copies available. Please call the office to get your copy as soon as possible.

SVP 'TREE OF HOPE'
The practice of putting up the ‘Christmas Tree of Hope’ every year will not be possible this year but the spirit of helping the needy must not be deterred by the pandemic. The Society of St. Vincent De Paul (SSVP) would like to appeal to your kind generosity to help support 35 school going children from low income families for the new school term.

SSVP ‘TREE OF HOPE’
In the light of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become “almost impossible” for priests to visit public hospitals to administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick or to bring Holy Communion. In situations where hospital admission is not due to an emergency, and you would like to receive the sacraments, please do so before being admitted. Kindly call the parish office to make the arrangements.

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