



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia
St Mary's Cathedral
Making disciples of Jesus Christ

2024 EDITION

MINISTRY PARTNERS NEWS



For Private Circulation

2023 IN REVIEW



JAN

- Stephanie Ong appointed Kids' Church Superintendent
- Darren Lee continued his two-year programme in the Ministry Training Scheme (MTS).
- Esther Liew from English Liturgical, Christopher Tay and Christina Tay from Mandarin joined the MTS.

FEB

- Parady Chaiphakdi from English Liturgical, and Nicholas Sinju from Iban & BM joined the MTS.
- Youth and University Students' Ministry revitalised



5
Languages



1204
Average Weekly
Attendance

Council Members

Dean Andrew Cheah | Dean

Tan Sri Dr James Alfred | Dean's Warden

Jennifer Cowling | People's Warden /
Hon Secretary

Dr Chong Su-Lin | Synod Rep / Hon
Treasurer

Patrick Joseph | Synod Rep

Dick Jebamany | Synod Rep

Stanley Lee | Synod Rep

Ramesh Sankey | Council Member

Kevin Wong | Council Member

Vicky Wong | Council Member

Leanne Lau | Council Member

Kathleen Nandong | Council Member

Joyce-Yu Cheah | CWF President

Lee Jian Xian | Stewardship Chairman

Jasmine Khoo | Social Concern Rep

Thilly Abraham | Golden Circle Rep

Jolene Leow | Young Adults President

Mitchel Linak | Co-opted Member (BM
Ministry)

Lina | Co-opted Member (Iban Ministry)

JUN

- Daniel Woon appointed as Youth Pastor

OCT

- New 8.30am BM service
- New Saturday 8pm Nepali service

DEC

- Various building renovation and repair projects began.

 64
Baptisms

 81
Confirmations

Admin Staff

Wong Yoke Ling | Administrative Officer

Kington Lee | Administrative Officer

Nesamani Alexandor | Administrative Assistant

Belula Mula | Administrative Assistant

Olivia Chan | Finance Officer

S. Joseph | Senior Verger

Jessica Hoh | General Assistant

English

By Tim Cheang, Dinesh Natorajan and Dean Andrew Cheah

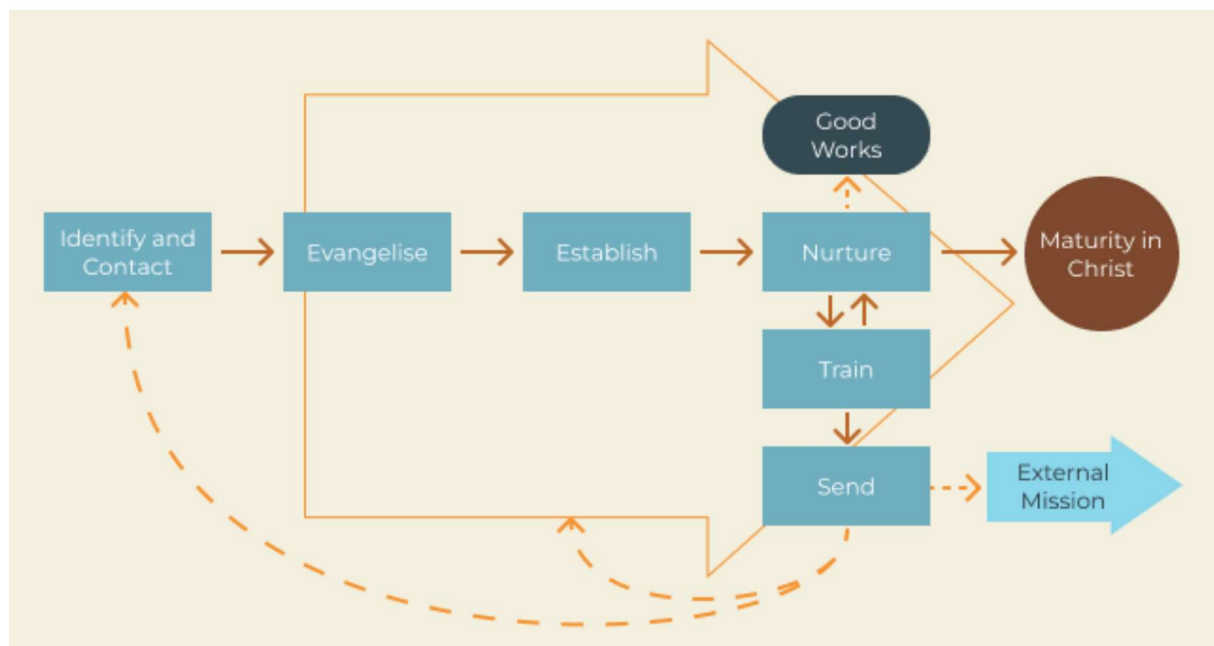
We are thankful to God for the growth of our English congregations in numbers and in spiritual maturity in 2023.

We saw our congregations grow back numerically to pre-pandemic levels with an average attendance of 750 people in English congregations. However, we also note that there was an average of 436 people who followed our 9am Liturgical service online each week. They are not counted in our attendance but we pray, do benefit from the ministry.



Average Attendance

- 7am Liturgical - 75
- 9am Liturgical - 172
- 11am Liturgical - 180
- 11am SMACC 1 - 214
- 5pm SMACC 2 - 109



We continued to **evangelise** through personal evangelism. We ran Christianity Explored and Hope Explored online and some of our growth groups ran their own Guest Events. Many newcomers also attended our evangelistic 9 Lessons and Carols service. We continued to see people meet Christ through coming to church and hearing the Gospel.

Our **establishing** processes continued as God brought in people - 30 people were formally followed up on a one-to-one basis using Just for Starters, although there would have been more who did it informally. We thank God for the 19 adults and 7 children who were baptised in our English congregations and the 50 people who were confirmed. We ran "Belonging" in March and August as an orientation program to help 56 newcomers get settled in our church.

Our Sunday services remain the hub of our **nurturing** process with Gospel-centred expository preaching, Christ-glorifying singing, intercessory prayer, the Lord's Supper, and Biblical Anglican liturgy – both formally at liturgical services and relatively informally at SMACC. We are thankful for the many individuals and teams who serve to enable these to happen and above all for the transforming work of God's Spirit through His Word. A Question-and-Answer time was added in the SMACC services to enable people to seek clarification on matters that were raised in the sermon, and this was generally well received. We also held an ethics forum following the 10 commandments series to help people apply them.

Growth Groups

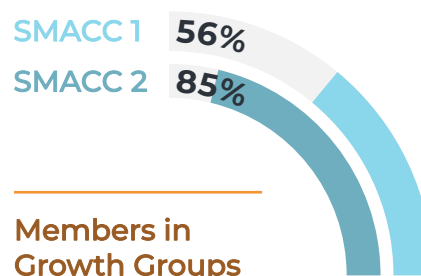
We are thankful for the growth of our small groups' ministry. However, Growth Groups penetration is much smaller in our Liturgical congregations, and this is a matter for prayer and effort for 2024. We also had a great camp – SMAGLOW where 321 people from across the English congregations gathered around God's Word in a time of great fellowship with one another.

We sought to **train** people in our congregation in the Bible, theology, and ministry skills over the course of the year. Our online Tuesday Night Training did some of that, but there were also specific trainings to raise up new Growth Group Leaders, Lay Readers, Pre-Marital Counsellors, and other ministers. 20 of our Young Adults were trained for word ministry with KVBC NextGen.

More than 50 people attended a seminar in Biblical Theology which was run over 2 weekends. We also continued to train apprentices and theological students for future ministry in our MTS and MTS Plus programs.

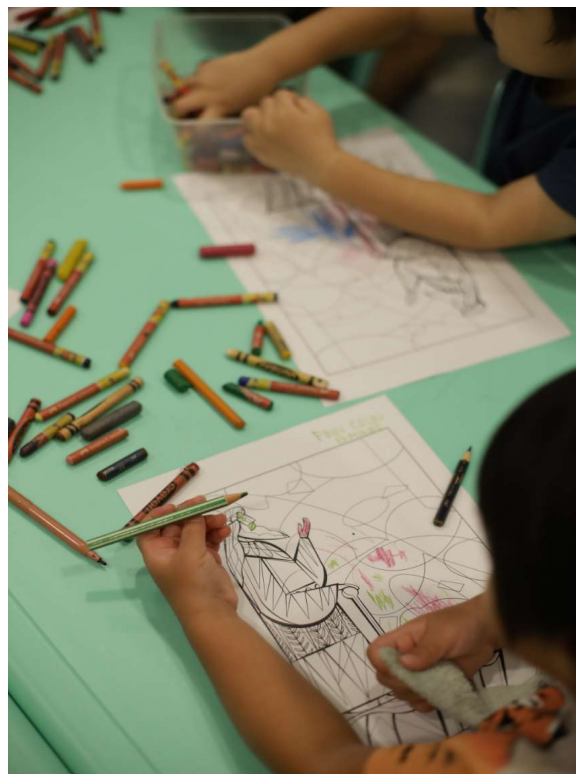


4 Liturgical	9 SMACC 1
8 SMACC 2	4 Women's group





Our people continued to **serve** Christ within the Cathedral and in the world. Many did 'Ministry of the Pew' each week and continued to help make disciples of their peers at church, in small groups and in one-to-one ministry. Much ministry was informal as people spoke the truth of God's Word and displayed God's love to one another and to others. There was also much formal ministry. Many served in auxiliary bodies and ministries including Kids church, CWF, Golden Circle, Agape Refugee School and Social Concerns. Much effort was put into reviving both our University and Colleges Fellowship (UCF) and our Youth Fellowship to good effect. Others served in formal Sunday ministries like Welcoming, Music, Logistics, Bible Reading, Prayer, Refreshments etc. Others worked hard to maintain and improve the Trellis in various ways for the sake of the Vine. Several of our people also served the Lord in the wider Diocese and in extra-denominational ministries to support the wider church. We continued to financially support the wider Cathedral including her missionaries.



Rev Gordon Kong retired from the pastoral team in 2023 after many years of faithful service. He remains an active member of the congregation and continues to help lead services from time to time when his presence is especially needed. Stephanie Ong and Daniel Woon joined our staff team, primarily to oversee the Children's Ministry and the Youth Ministry respectively, although their ministries are broader than that. We are thankful to God for all of them.



By God's grace, the SMACCI congregation has outgrown the Multi-Purpose Hall and needs to mitose if it is to faithfully continue the mission of bringing new people to Christ and growing them to maturity in Him. In 2024, we plan therefore, God willing, for SMACCI to develop into 2 new congregations to enable the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ to continue to expand though that ministry. One of those congregations will meet in a different site.

Please pray that this will happen, and that these congregations will flourish and reproduce in due course. Our prayer is that God would be pleased to bless us with small groups and congregations that grow in faith and love, which multiply to form new small groups and congregations that do the same, as the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen goes forth from among them, and the Spirit does His work to the glory of God the Father.



Playing a part in the body of Christ towards Maturity in Him

By Melissa Tiong

Have you noticed the connect cards at services, and wonder if people fill them out or are they just merely recycled at every service?

However, without it, we would not have met people like Menaka, who five years ago would not have imagined that she would one day be a baptised Christian and attending church.

Even though she had been introduced to Christianity when she was younger, it wasn't until about two years ago when she began to rediscover the Christian faith while being part of a Christian friend's wedding. This brought her to a service at St Mary's, where she filled out a connect card and began a Just For Starter's course not long after.



“

My mentor, Mary, brought me through and explained Bible verses to me. She continued to support me and through her, I joined a GG who is always there to support me as a friend, as a family in Christ and also to grow my faith.

Today, she has been baptised, regularly studies the Word of God with a Growth Group which has been faithfully praying alongside her and providing emotional and social support through her ups and downs.

“When I study the Bible by myself, I don't interpret the meaning as we would in the GG discussions. It's a deep study - even in one verse, there are a lot of things that we can learn. It's not just any book you can just read and understand. The GG is helping me to understand the biblical context and the Word of God better,” Menaka said.



Servant-leadership and growth

Menaka's Growth Group leader, Kenneth Ho, first visited St Mary's for a seminar in December 2018, when he was looking for a new church to be plugged into. He spoke to various church leaders as he decided on a church to commit to, and was impressed by the centrality of Scriptures in the conversations he had at St Mary's. In January 2020, just before the Covid-19 pandemic, he began officially attending services at St Mary's.



But what sealed the deal for me in deciding to come over was not the resources or connections that St Mary's had or how much I fit in with the crowd but how servant-leadership was exemplified in the leaders of the church.

Since then, Kenneth has served in various capacities, and found that he took great joy in learning and teaching. He now serves as a Growth Group leader for SMACC1, and has witnessed people growing more and more in the Word of God.

"As Christians who profess God's truth to be the standard we live by, growing in conformity to His Son as we know from Scripture is the direction we need to take. The Scripture-centred culture of the preaching, teaching and conversations that happen in St Mary's has borne fruit; one conversation I fondly remember was with a particular member whom I have followed up with for some time and have seen that person grow from asking "What do I think about this?" to "What does the Bible say about this?"



"I cannot take credit for any of that growth as it was God working through His Spirit and His people in shaping that person and I thank God that isn't an isolated case here. I am also encouraged by those who previously were unsure of their ability to lead others to Christ who have now taken on journeying with them in their own capacity."

A scriptural foundation in every aspect

Adherence to Scripture at St Mary's extends beyond studying the Bible - it permeates every part of our church. Have you ever sat in a Liturgical service and wondered how the music all comes together? That would be the work of Christine Rajaratnam. Influenced by her mother who was a pipe organist for St Mary's, Christine plays a pivotal role as the music coordinator for the Liturgical services. She works with the pastoral team to carefully curate the music at each service and ensures that the hymn not only complements the sermon, but points towards Christ and God's character.



Every lyric must always point to God's Word to God's glory.



When you come into church, you want to be able to sing something that is welcoming, inviting you into the fellowship and then as you leave church also, I think it's important that you sing something that is joyful and encouraging. So we try to make the first and the last one a bit more familiar. And then during communion, that's the time we sing hymns that are meditative. That's the time people will be able to reflect on the message."

Having attended St Mary's for the last 56 years, Christine has been through various phases of her life with members of the congregation whom she views as her extended family. "There has been a lot of support in those who know me, who have been walking alongside me. Knowing that you have people who are walking alongside you makes it a joy to serve."

Besides serving in the music ministry, Christine is also part of an informal counselling ministry, providing premarital counselling to couples preparing for marriage. Being a cancer patient herself, she also walks alongside some members of the church who are going through cancer.



Nurturing the next generation in the Word

“We actually came to St Mary’s because the boys loved the Kids’ Church,” Austin and Ashton’s mother, Anne, says. The boys, now 12, were introduced to St Mary’s Kids’ Church during the Covid-19 pandemic, just as they were beginning to feel like they were outgrowing the Sunday school at the church they used to attend. When physical meetings returned after the pandemic, the boys and their family made the decision to move to St Mary’s so the children would be able to attend Kids’ Church.

“We read the Bible on a daily basis and we do devotions every day. Kids’ Church goes more into detail about the stuff,” the boys say.

Anne says attending Kids’ Church has deepened their understanding of the Word, such that they are able to contribute to discussions when they follow their parents to GG meetings and during devotions at home.

“

It’s quite fun for the adults because they are like, “oh we know about this, we’ve learned it at Kids’ Church already, we know which passage you are talking about,” Anne says.



Growing together towards maturity in Christ

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12



Through the experiences above, we see 1 Corinthians 12:12 embodied at St Mary’s as each and every one of us exercises our gift in the church with Christ as our head. By extension, this also reflects respective roles to meet the cathedral vision of maturing and helping each other mature in Christ, through identifying and contacting, evangelising, establishing and nurturing one another in the Word of God and in good works. May servant leadership, faithfulness to Scripture and unwavering community support among God’s people continue to prevail at St Mary’s in 2024 to spur one another towards spiritual growth.

BM (Pelayanan Bahasa Malaysia)

By Rev Iben Arang

The BM ministry began in July 1996, marking its 27th anniversary in 2023. Our members are mostly East Malaysians who have come to the Peninsular to study or work either in the private sector or the government, West Malaysians whose spouses are East Malaysians, and some Indonesians.

As a result, our membership is transient. As soon as their studies are completed, they will return home or move to another state for work, and this applies to working adults too who will be transferred from Klang Valley after three to five years of work.

Our ministry focus is to reach BM-speaking Christians, especially those who are vulnerable to converting to another faith. With this challenge in mind, our focal point is on discipleship in every area of our ministry. We train the next generation of leaders in every age group; our young adults and teens meet every Saturday and Sunday respectively to study the Bible together; and we participate in courses offered by the Anglican Institute of Ministry (A.I.M) and Equip Gospel Ministries.



Our main event of the year is the annual Bible camp.

Each year we concentrate on a different theological theme, including issues about Christian living, and apologetics, or the New Testament epistles. This event attracts ninety percent of our congregation who will spend the weekend away together. Last year, we held our camp at Golden Sands Baptist Assembly, Port Dickson. It was an event for all ages and interests: barbeque, singing, dancing, games, group discussions, all of which are centred around God's Word and the theme of 'Christian Spiritual Battle' from Ephesians 6:10-18.

Other annual events include young adults, men and women (family) seminars.

We had two new starts in 2023. The first is an Outreach / Cell group in

Bentong, Pahang that meets monthly every first Saturday evening. This group aims to reach out to Sabahans and Sarawakians who are working there as prison and police personnel.

The second is a new 8.30am Sunday service in the Lady Chapel before our usual 11am service.

We are also thankful to God for the first-time visitors in 2023, 24 of whom are now enrolled as members.

Average Attendance

108

11am Service

27

8.30am Service

First-time Visitors

124

Adults

20

Children



PBM Men and Women Ministry

As told to Anita Stephen

There has been a consistent coming together of faithful men over the year as they sought to grow in God's Word as well as deepen their friendships with each other and across our congregation.

A seminar for fathers (Seminar Bapa-Bapa PBM) was the highlight of the year. A deeper dive into Christlike fatherhood took place through this seminar. These men not only took their own growth in Christ seriously, but they were also keen for the gospel to go out. They participated in a Guest Night organized by the youth.

It was especially encouraging to see how the men turned all their activities over to God through regular prayer meeting. In addition to this, a couple of friendship-building engagement activities took place outdoors, such as badminton. There was a chance for quieter fellowship in calm surroundings through a fishing outing. There's even evidence of fish caught!



Not only did they work on strengthening fellowship amongst each other, these faithful brothers-in-Christ also served their congregation in several other ways. Every fourth Sunday of the month, they helped with the ushering ministry to welcome newcomers and help deepen ties amongst regulars. One of the cross-ministry initiatives was where the men's ministry assisted the women's ministry in organizing and serving refreshments after service on Sunday.

Additionally, the men's ministry served their sisters-in-Christ (wives and mothers) by organizing Mothers' Day celebrations. They ended the year by joining the carolling initiative and sang with cheer and hope about the birth of the Christ child and all it brings for humanity.

There was also a consistent effort made by these sisters-in-Christ to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus through His Word. They especially worked on building hearts of service, and this was nurtured through a seminar entitled 'Ku kasihi kau, sisku sayau' (Loving each other as sisters-in-Christ). Women came together to consider the implications of 1 John 4:20-21, and to work out how loving God could be reflected in loving one another and others.

As they grew in Christ, they sought to grow in friendship with one another. They kept a look out for new faces in their congregation, without forgetting existing friendships amongst members of the congregation.

There was sterling participation in the BM AGAPE kitchen through elaborate lunch preparations for the 11am congregation; four groups served the congregation once a month in this capacity. A Women's Day celebration and welcoming party was organized to welcome newcomers and celebrate regulars. Additionally, the women's ministry played a very active role in the Guest Night through their gifts of dance (performance of a Hawaiian dance). Their willingness to put their gift of dance to use was seen again in their display of the Borneo Traditional Dance performance during the Gawai Kaamatan Celebration.

All glory be to God for His faithfulness and how he has grown the men and women from this congregation in His Word throughout the year. It is exciting to see how God works in His people through their diversity. We pray for continued growth in Christ that is displayed in personal growth amongst individuals and acts of service towards their members as well as the wider church.



Iban

By Rev John Layang

Shalom. When the world was brought to a halt by COVID-19 and our country by the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO), we couldn't gather as a congregation except via live stream. This greatly affected our attendance when we resumed in-person services as many were still afraid to gather.

So, at the end of 2022, I called the congregation to return to services in church through a unique ministry called Micro Ministry. This ministry includes Ministry of Police, Ministry of Army, Ministry of Nursing, Ministry of Fire, Ministry of Teachers, Ministry of Civil Servants and of Private Sector. I appointed leaders from each ministry as an agent to bring their respective members to church and utilised WhatsApp group as a channel to broadcast information related to church activities. We celebrated the anniversary of each ministry during our Sunday service.

Through these ministries, many more attended our services in 2023, including those who have never attended a church service before. When they learned about the gospel and what it means for their lives, they ask to be baptised. Many of them also bring their children to be baptised and join our congregation as members.



The heads of each ministry carry out pastoral care by leading cell groups in various congregation member's houses. At these meetings, they also invite their neighbours to come and enjoy fellowship together.

Further to these fellowship in the homes, our leaders also hold other social activities such sports, picnic by the river and BBQ. We found these activities to be very effective in establishing relationships and inviting non-Christians to church.

For the gospel to be passed on to the congregation, I teach our leaders, young and old, through Zoom. This is one of the many layers of preparation for the time to come.

144
First-time
visitors

207
Average
attendance



Visiting and Caring for the Sick and Needy

As told to Joanne Liaw

When was the last time you visited someone in the hospital? Maybe it was comforting to know that the person you visited would recover soon and his illness would only be for a time. Perhaps you struggled to find the right words to say to a terminally ill patient. Maybe there were awkward moments and you felt you might have done better if only you had said the right words at the right time. You may even have questions such as, "Why is there so much pain in this world? How am I supposed to help and comfort this suffering patient and their loved ones?"

Rev John Layang, the pastor of our Iban congregation, said, "The hospital visitation ministry of our congregation began a few years ago when Rev Tim Nicholls, one of our former pastors, received a call from Institut Jantung Negara (IJN), Kuala Lumpur; a patient from Sarawak needed prayer and support.



So, Tim called me to come along, and we visited the patient and prayed for him. From that moment onwards, whenever there was a patient from Sarawak, I will be called to pay a visit.” It is truly amazing how a flourishing ministry started with just a phone call. Very often, God uses the little things as stepping stones for great things.

Since then, the hospital visitation ministry is in communication with the Jabatan Kebajikan who will contact John and his congregation whenever there is a patient from Sarawak who needs support and prayer. This has enabled many patients from Sarawak to receive the support they need where otherwise their pleas would go unnoticed.

As this ministry can get very tiring and busy, John trains the lay leaders in his congregation to visit and pray for the patients they visit and delegates the work of this ministry to them. John would be accompanied by lay leaders from his congregation (and occasionally a person from our Social Concerns Group and other volunteers such as Linda Crocker and Roselina Sumin (John’s wife)) to visit Sarawakian patients of all races in IJN and occasionally Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL).

Kathleen Nandong, one of our church members, has been helping John with the sourcing, collection, and distribution of food to the needy patients. Olivia Sue, another church member, has been helping with the sourcing of funds needed for this ministry. Financial donations are mainly sourced from church members and from Sarawakians. John is also in partnership with Borneo Unite, an organisation that receives and uses funds from donors to buy basic provisions for needy patients.

Some of the patients that John is helping could only afford to bring RM 50 from Sarawak as that is all they have. As the admission fee to IJN can be high, John appeals to IJN and Rumah Sarawak to help with the subsidies of the patients’ admission and stay in IJN.

Sadly, many patients that John and his team have visited have passed away. Although those patients have gone through much pain and suffering while they were alive, they felt so supported and loved by God and His people. This has opened opportunities to share the hope of Jesus Christ in their most vulnerable moment. Although death tears them away from us, it carries them into the arms of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Most patients are poor, and they are usually from rural places. They have a lot of needs, such as food and a place to stay. So, I look for various ways to help them,” said John.

Mandarin

By Rev Andy Ng

We are thankful to God for his work among us, and that the preaching of the gospel is bearing fruit in us.

2023 was the second year of our expository sermon series on the book of Isaiah. We spent 13 weeks on chapters 13 to 35. This section is all about judgement with the hope of restoration for those who repent. Although the text was difficult for our preachers and Bible study leaders, the focus on God's judgement was much needed for our congregation's spiritual health.

After a sermon entitled "God's Will for the Church", we were challenged by the fact that gospel community is founded not upon similar interests and backgrounds, but upon God's love for us in Jesus that reaches out to those unlike us. This made us strive to care more for others because God has first loved us.

We organised two guest events in the year. The first, which was the first for us, was the Mid-Autumn Festival on 30 September. With games, mooncakes, Chinese tea, and plenty of food, many non-Christians and newcomers who attended had a great fellowship time while listening to the gospel preached. There were also many meaningful conversations between our members and the guests.

The second, for the second year, was a choir performance during our Christmas service. The choir singing familiar Christmas tunes edified our congregation members and entertained our guests.



The year also saw a change to our Growth Group structure; we now have a women's group, another group that meets on Friday evening, and University-College Fellowship on Saturday afternoon before our service at 5pm. We were also able to realise our plan for starting a men's group on Saturday afternoons. More of our members have committed to attend Growth Groups regularly.

We were excited to have Christopher and Christina join us as apprentices. They are siblings who grew up in Muar and have zealous hearts to serve the church. Christopher took charge of the University-College Fellowship to strengthen it and help it grow. Christina looks after and supports younger women in our congregation. They are a blessing to me as a pastor. They also help with events, organisational tasks, and administrative works.

I am grateful for the gathering of brothers and sisters in Christ who strive to serve each other and grow together in the unity of the knowledge of Christ



Women's Bible Study

By Ho Jia Wen

Come rain or shine on a Saturday afternoon, a group of women can be found in an air-conditioned room engrossed in a discussion about the Bible.

Women's Bible study is one of the four Bible study groups in Wang Dao Tang (the Mandarin congregation). They gather every Saturday at 2:30pm to study a Bible passage before service starts later in the evening. The main aim of the group is to create a supportive group of Christian women and nurture them in God's word.

In 2023, women's Bible study met a total of 40 times. Each session starts with a song of praise, followed by Bible study, and ends with prayer for one another. Throughout the session, there are snacks shared and jokes cracked.

Each study is structured with thoughtful questions and members are prompted to understand the passage within God's salvation plan and reflect on its application in their lives. The closing prayer session provides a space for members to share their struggles and pray together.

Women's Bible study helps women in the congregation grow closer and foster community in a smaller group. Activities are hosted once every few months for better fellowship.

The group met three times for fellowship in 2023:

The first was a Chinese New Year gathering in two different homes to eat together, have a good time of fellowship, and get to know each other better. The second was meeting up in a cafe before Bible study for nice coffee and pastries and a fun photo session. Finally, Mid-autumn festival celebration, where the group had lunch together at a Yong Tau Foo restaurant and continued for round two at a dessert cafe. It was an opportunity for members to bring non-Christian friends to join the meetup and the service afterwards.





“ I get to learn Scripture more in depth with women's Bible study. It prepares me very well for the sermon afterwards, and I understand the sermon better. The women in the group have also helped me have a more Biblical mindset to face different challenges in my life. I am thankful to grow in Christ together with other sisters in the group.”

Joey Lee

“ Learning to lead Bible study is a transformative experience for me and has helped me gain a deeper understanding of the Scripture in its context. It's really inspiring to see genuine hunger for God's Word within the group and sisters willing to share and learn from each other. It's remarkable how God's Word speaks to each individual in unique ways. This sense of community and mutual encouragement has been a source of great joy and growth for me personally.”

Ruth Sim

“ It is a joy and privilege to lead Bible study, especially seeing members learn and grow in Christ. I have grown spiritually because I have to understand and be impacted by the material before sharing it with the group. I have definitely seen members grow, and many have shared their struggles. Although they are aware of their weaknesses, they also know what the Bible says and want to live according to His Word. Leading Bible study is not about me or how well I lead it; instead, God's Word is enough to impact lives.”

Tan Lee Chin

“ Women's Bible study made me feel more comfortable actively participating in group discussion because I feel closer and more familiar with the group. It has definitely helped me grow closer to the women in my group because I can connect better with one or two people. I really appreciate that I can hear different perspectives about the Bible passage.”

Chua En Hui

Nepali

By John Siwakoti

The Nepali ministry in our Cathedral began about twenty years ago. Our Sunday service used to be held in Puchong until our relocation to Shah Alam Seksyen 15 in May 2022. This is a strategic location as it's located close to factories, and many foreigners, including Nepalese, stay nearby.

After our move, five brothers and sisters from Puchong continued to attend services in Shah Alam with us. We started with an average attendance of 10.

In September 2022, one of the brothers requested for a Saturday service as he and his friends work on Sunday. Soon after in October, we began a Saturday evening service with this brother and his friends. After attending a few services, another one of our brothers, Yugal, accepted Christ!

Last year, we had new brothers join us for our Sunday service, bringing our average attendance to 15. Sadly, more than half of them were transferred to other places or had to return to Nepal after the end of their work contracts. By the end of the year, the average attendance at our Sunday service was 5 while the Saturday service had grown to an average of 13.

51
First-time
visitors

19
Average
attendance

It's one of the main challenges of our ministry, that new brothers and sisters join us every two to three years, but due to work shifts, completed contracts or transfer, would not be able to attend our service for the long term. Even so, we continue to praise God for bringing many Nepalese to worship Him through our ministry.

One of the ways we continue to reach out to them is by sharing gospel tracts in Shah Alam nearby our church, once or twice a month. Many Nepalese in this area are Hindu and are not keen to hear the gospel. Even so we continue to trust God and His timing of intervention, even when only a small percentage of them respond to our sharing. Participants of Engage KL (an annual event for university students overseas) also encourage our members when they visit the hostels and distribute tracts together.



We also believe that God's grace and mercy are upon these migrant workers for them to know Him, to be equipped while they are here and to return to Nepal as His witnesses.

For this reason, we hold evangelistic events in church on major festivals like Deepavali and Christmas, where we would host fellowship over food and share a special message.

On a long break on festival days, we will organise our annual church camp at Port Dickson for a time of learning and fun together. For many of our members, it is their first seaside experience! Bible studies, topical discussions, and trainings are also conducted on Sundays. These times together are crucial to equip and prepare them before they return to Nepal.

The most challenging aspect of ministry is having to preach, teach, train and equip with no other leadership support due to language constraints. However, God has blessed me with Yvonne, a servant-hearted wife, who is also my ministry partner. I am also thankful for the support of the St Mary's pastoral team and congregation for their generous support for the Nepalese ministry in financing and many other ways. We rejoice because God's love is manifested through them to make this ministry possible.

Despite our challenges, God is graciously gathering Christians and growing our numbers, whether in Shah Alam or in Nepal. As we continue to reach out to unbelievers by sharing the gospel, we trust that God will bless our work and effort. We are grateful to God for His amazing grace and love through Jesus Christ All glory and honour to Him alone.



Finances

The heart of what we do at the Cathedral is to glorify God together, in response to His grace, by making disciples of Jesus Christ We are thankful to God for His work among us as we carried out this mission last year, and we look forward to another year of sharing the wonderful news of Jesus as our Saviour and Lord to those who do not yet know Him, to grow in knowledge of His Word, and to strengthen the fellowship that we have with each other, that we may grow towards maturity in Christ

We ask that you continue to partner with us in ministry. You can do this by praying for us and with us, by volunteering to serve in various areas of ministry in your respective congregations, and through financial giving.

Last year, through your pledges and donations, we collected RM2,468,896 which was RM153,046 short of our budget.

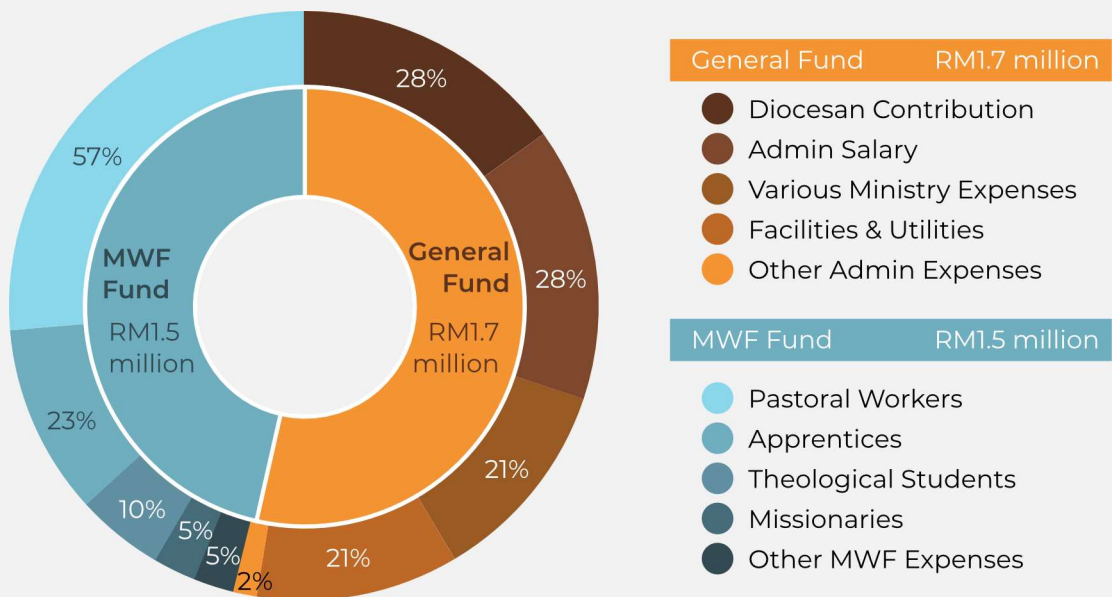
This year, due to increased needs in both the Ministry Workers Fund and General Fund, we estimate needing RM3.2 million.

The following section explains how our collections are allocated, and how your giving supports our ministries to the glory of God.

2023 OVERVIEW



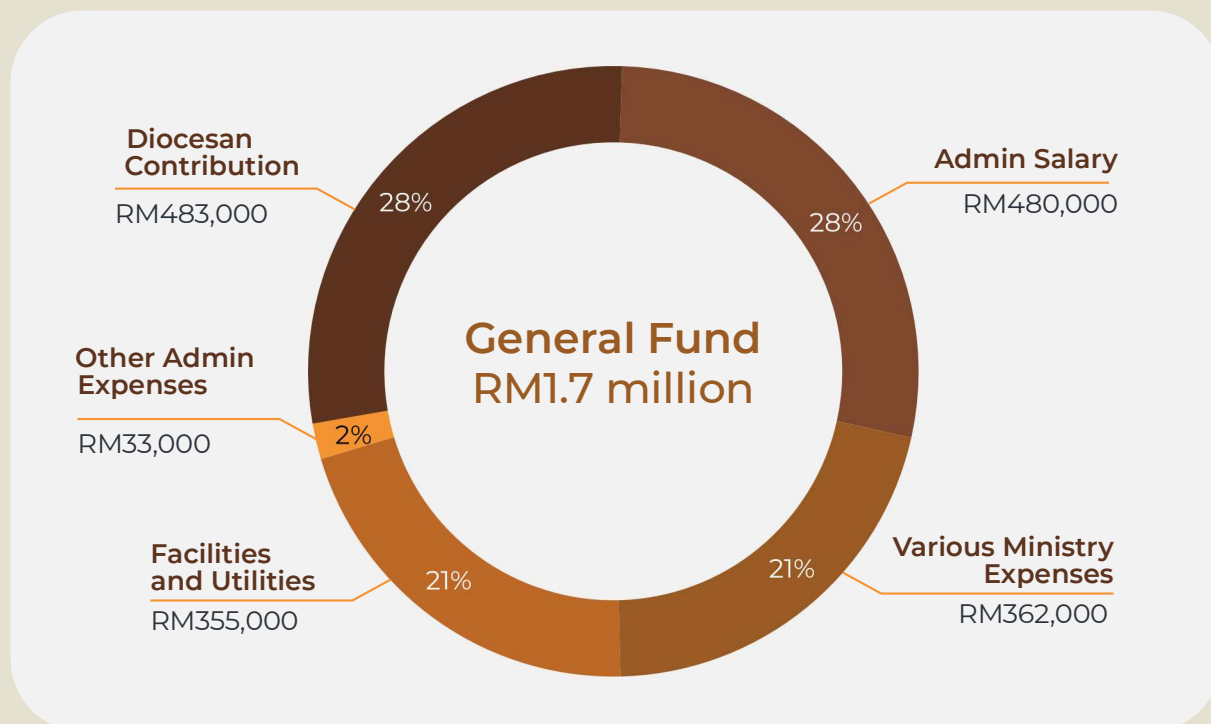
PROVISIONAL BUDGET 2024



Understanding the Funds

General Fund

Our provisional budget for the 2024 General Fund is RM1.7 million to cover the costs of daily operations and upkeep of our Cathedral building.



- As part of the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia, our **Diocesan Contribution** funds diocesan expenses towards other churches and ministries across Peninsular Malaysia.
- **Admin Salary** is for our dedicated administrative team who is tasked with managing our finances, records, communications, and operations.
- Evangelistic events, community meals, annual camp, and other ministry resources are covered by **Various Ministry Expenses**.
- Our Cathedral is a heritage building and requires special care. **Facilities and Utilities** tracks funds available towards this task.
- All our services and ministry programmes involve **Other Admin Expenses** including printing, audit, and banking charges.



To designate your giving to the General Fund, write 'GF' in the reference section, or choose 'General Fund' on the pledge form. By default, any contributions without instructions will be directed to the General Fund.

Facilities and Utilities

We thank God for this wonderful heritage building in the centre of the city that we can gather in weekly. Maintaining this historical building requires regular maintenance and occasional projects to repair and upgrade the building.

Some of the projects undertaken in 2023 and early 2024 include:

- Pastoral offices repair and upgrade
- Installation of new WiFi system
- Fencing repair and roads resurfacing
- Air conditioners repair and replacement
- Wall paintings and light fittings at various locations
- Ceiling and leaks repair
- Kitchen remodelling
- Pipe organ servicing.

We are thankful that we have been able to proceed with these major projects, having been blessed with financial contributions from two grants, donations from the church community, and an individual benefactor.

Looking ahead, we aim to complete ongoing projects and embark on new ones. These include repairing the fountain, refurbishing toilets, and painting external walls in the newer section of the Cathedral. However, the major concern will be repairing the roof trusses in the heritage Cathedral to enable us to open the church safely. This is expected to be an expensive task requiring further significant grants and donations as the General Fund does not provide for major maintenance and repairs.

Would you prayerfully consider your financial contribution towards this fund if you are able? We would also appreciate your time and contribution if you have the skills or technical expertise that may be of use in this area.

As a church community, let's recognise our role in maintaining the building and equipment that facilitates our gathering and ministry.



To give to the building fund, write 'Building Repairs' in the reference section. This is a separate fund from the General Fund as the GF does not provide for major maintenance and repairs.

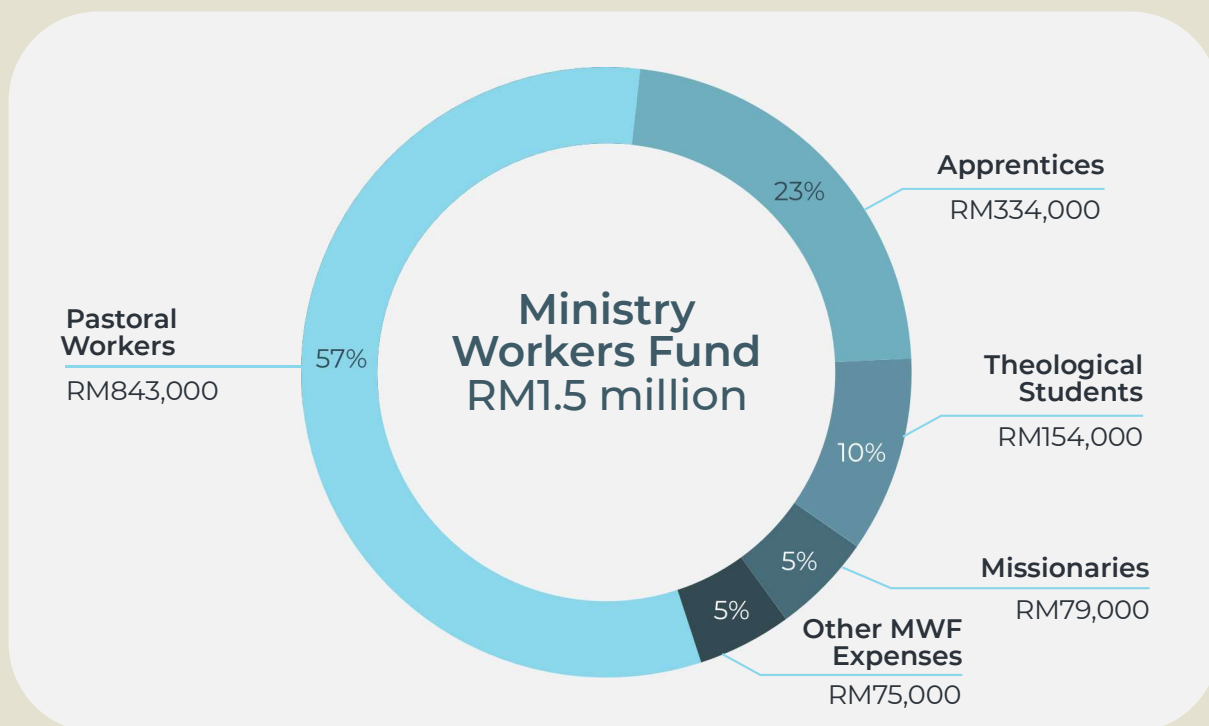


Updates on this project are on our webpage: stmarys.my/building

Ministry Workers' Fund

We are thankful for our ministry workers who drive our ministries and support our congregation members as we serve our living God together. This fund supports all our ministry workers, namely, to pay the salaries and allowances of our Pastoral Workers and Apprentices, the scholarships of our Theological Students, and to underwrite the support of our Missionaries.

RM1.5 million of our provisional budget for this year will be allocated to this fund.



Meet Our Team

▼ Pastoral Workers



Iben Arang



John Layang



Andy Ng



John
Siwakoti



Dinesh
Natorajan



Timothy
Cheang



Stephanie
Ong



Daniel Woon

▼ Theological Students

We provide an allowance and scholarship for theological students who have completed our Ministry Apprentice Programme. Those who are on this scholarship will return and serve with us after their graduation.



Darren



Danielle



Michael



Jef Fri



To contribute to this fund, please write 'MWF' in the reference section, or choose 'MWF' on the pledge form.

▼ Apprentices

We run a two-year Ministry Apprentice Programme where we give theological and ministry training to suitable candidates with the view of future full-time ministry.



Christina Tay
Congregation: Mandarin

Christina seeks to serve and support the church's mission to grow the body of believers by organizing events such as evangelistic dinner and training conferences, following up and welcoming newcomers, leading Bible reading and prayer meeting, and song leading. In future, Christina would like to pursue biblical counselling, guiding individuals through life's challenges using biblical principles, with the possibility of becoming a women's pastor.



Christopher Tay
Congregation: Mandarin, Liturgical

Christopher's heart for sharing the gospel has seen him evangelising and reaching out to non-Christians, as well as running group bible study sessions and one-to-one ministry to help believers grow in maturity towards Christ. In future, Christopher plans to pursue a theological course. He hopes to eventually return with his wife, Angeline, to serve his hometown church, Gereja Emmanuel Muar.



Esther Liew
Congregation: Liturgical 7am & 9am, SMACC 2

Esther is involved in pastoral visitation ministry, particularly caring for housebound members of the liturgical congregation. This she accomplishes through pastoral home visitation with our lay readers and encouraging the elderly housebound members in the gospel. In future she would like to complete her Certificate of Theology and Biblical counselling courses. She hopes to be more proactive in evangelising and connecting with others through one-to-one ministry.



Parady Chaiphakdi
Congregation: Liturgical 9am & 11am, SMACC 2

Parady helps in the Daily Office and prepares service orders for special occasions, planning hymns, assists in writing bible studies and assists in growth groups. Her desire is to hone her knowledge in classical theology, liturgics and church history and use this knowledge to help guide others to understanding God's word and walk with others through life.

**Nicholas Sinju****Congregation:** Iban & Bahasa Malaysia

Nicholas leads a Cell Group among the Dayak families from Sarawak and serves people from Sabah around the Klang Valley, particularly through his involvement in University Students Ministry. He also teaches Baptism and Confirmation classes, and Bible classes for the youth. Currently working towards a Bachelor of Theology at Malaysian Baptist Theology Seminary, he aspires to continue serving in Iban and Bahasa Malaysia Ministry, especially around the Klang Valley.

**Clement Kandau****Congregation:** Iban & Iban ACA

Coming from a career as a soldier, Clement hopes this opportunity will allow him the time to study and deepen his knowledge of theology. Having made the commitment to being a full-time ministry trainee, he hopes to faithfully make disciples of all nations. In future he hopes to reach more people with the good news of the gospel, especially within the Iban community. Clement also seeks to disciple and grow others through cell group ministry to serve together and in turn reach out to others. Through his ministry he hopes to continue spurring others to grow in their knowledge and love for God.

**Tobias Teoh****Congregation:** Mandarin

Tobias would like to explore different ministries and grow his knowledge of various Christian organisations, whilst equipping himself for future ministry through reading theological books. As he considers the different pathways in full-time ministry, he would like to focus on evangelism and discipleship initiatives and explore ways he can use his gifts and experience to advance God's kingdom and to promote solid bible teaching in Malaysia.



Apprentices are required to make their own fund-raising efforts among the members of the Cathedral. To contribute to a specific apprentice, please specify their name, e.g. 'MWF – [name]' in the reference section, and the amount on the pledge form.

▼ Missionaries

We thank God that we were able to send two missionaries to be based in Romania and Japan respectively as they seek to bring the gospel to those who need it.



Amy

Mission Work: Sign Language Bible translation

Mission Agency: SIL Global Sign Languages Team

Amy is part of the SIL Global Sign Languages Team that supports Deaf communities around the world in various capacities, including Bible translation. Her desire is for the Deaf to know and love Christ more, and one of the ways is through having the Bible in a language that they understand and value the most, which is usually a signed language.

She grew up hearing about Jesus but only really came to grow in her understanding of the gospel through reading God's Word. After two years as a ministry intern at St Mary's Cathedral, she moved to Romania in 2022. She now works as a translation-advisor-in-training with the Romanian Sign Language Bible Translation team while taking part-time classes online from Sydney Missionary Bible College.

God is redeeming a people for himself from every nation, tribe, people and language - including Deaf people who use sign languages.



To receive updates from Amy and to pray for the Deaf and Bible translation work, please write to amytingli@wycliffe.my.

**Alexis**

Mission Work: Evangelism & discipleship among East Asian diaspora in Japan

Mission Agency: OMF International

Growing up in a Taoist family, Alexis became the first Christian in her family at age 17. Driven to share her newfound faith with unbelieving family and friends, she was later convicted of the fuller picture of God's commission to His church... That the gospel is for "all nations", not just for people she cared about!

After university, she spent 5 years engaged in evangelism, discipleship and church planting work in an East Asian country. She is presently in Japan pursuing pioneering work amongst an East Asian diaspora. Prayerfully, she hopes to begin with outreach to university students, and later to families and professionals.

Less than 1% of Japan's population are Christians. Your financial partnership to send a worker to Japan will bless our Japanese brothers and sisters as they learn to reach their neighbours cross-culturally, and will enable Alexis to stay on the field long-term (5 years or more).

"...to go out to places beyond Malaysia to bring the gospel to countries where people have little opportunity to hear the message of salvation."



To receive Alexis' newsletter from Japan, subscribe via the Google Form at this link bit.ly/alexisinjapan.



To contribute to a missionary, please specify their name, e.g. 'MWF – [name]' in the reference section, and the amount on the pledge form. All amounts given to them will be directed to the mission agency they are attached with.

Ways to Give

Pledge

A pledge is a commitment to give a fixed amount of money on a regular basis. It helps us budget more accurately so we can avoid significant financial deficit and to look out for potential ministry opportunities.

Members of our Cathedral are encouraged to give by pledging. You can create or update your pledge on our online form at stmarys.my/give.

On the form, you can indicate the frequency of your pledge, the amount you're pledging, and fund(s) you are pledging towards.

Upon receipt of your pledge form by the Stewardship Committee, you will be given a pledge number. This pledge number should be indicated in your giving so we can allocate the amount you have given according to what you have specified on the pledge form.

If you wish to change your pledge allocation, please update your pledge online or through a new pledge form.

One-off

You may give to us on a one-off basis if you are not on our pledge system or would like to give to a different fund.

Please indicate in your giving the specific fund/individual you are giving towards.

If no fund is specified, the full contribution will be allocated to the General Fund by Diocesan convention.

E-wallet

Contributions by e-wallet will be directed to the General Fund. Please do not use this for pledge, or to give to Ministry Workers Fund or towards building repairs. Scan your congregation's QR code below to give:



**St Mary's
Cathedral Main**



SMACC



Mandarin



**Nepali Outreach
Shah Alam**



**Pelayanan Bahasa
Malaysia**

How to Give

For each of the methods below, indicate your pledge number if you have one OR your congregation and the chosen fund. If you would like a receipt, please give us your details on the envelope or send the transfer slip by email to accounts@stmaryscathedral.org.my

- Cash: Please place the cash in a sealed envelope and drop it in the collection box.
- Cheque: Please issue in favour of 'St Mary's Cathedral' and place the cheque in the collection box.
- Bank Transfer:
 - Bank name: Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Bhd
 - Account name: St Mary's Cathedral
 - Account number: 312-1-4233469-1
 - Reference: <Congregation>, <GF/MWF>

Your generous giving whether in a small or large amount is a response to the grace God has first shown us in Jesus Christ, and we are thankful for your partnership in this manner. Kindly note that the Cathedral is not a registered charitable organisation with the Inland Revenue Board (LHDN). Therefore, financial donations and contributions made to us do not qualify you for a tax deduction.



On-site Congregations

3 English Liturgical
2 English Contemporary
2 Bahasa Malaysia
1 Iban
1 Mandarin



Off-site Congregations

Iban ACA @ Jalan Pahang
Iban Outreach @ Mentakab
Nepali @ Shah Alam



Service Times

English Liturgical	7am, 9am, 11am
English Contemporary	11am, 5pm
Bahasa Malaysia	8.30am, 11am
Iban	8am, 10.30am ACA, 10.30am Mentakab
Mandarin	Saturday 5pm
Nepali	Saturday 8pm, Sunday 10am

To glorify God, together, in response to His grace by
making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Contact us

Email: stewardship@stmaryscathedral.org.my

Webpage: stmarys.my/give

Office: +60 11 5760 3484