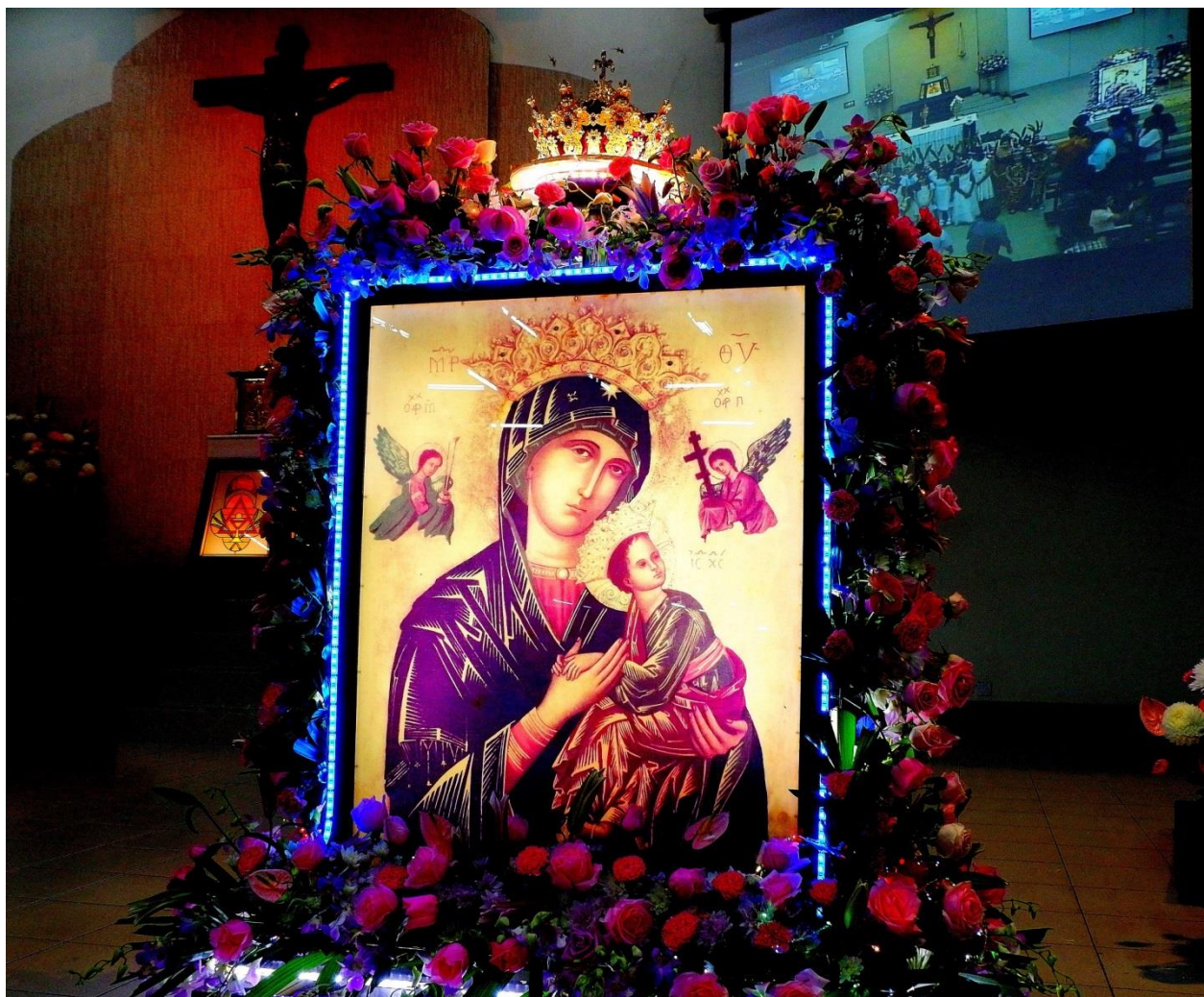


## The OMPH Feast Day, Saved From The Rain With Teamwork And Plan B.

It was the annual Feast day of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Ipoh Garden. The 9-day Novena started on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 with preached Masses in different language groups. This year, we had 2 Redemptorist preachers from India (Fr. Stanley and Fr. Elango) who preached in English and Tamil, and Fr. Vincent Low, Redemptorist from Singapore, who preached in English. Fr. Stanley Antoni preached in Bahasa Malaysia while Fr. Lucas Ng preached in Mandarin. The theme this year was, "Mary, A Model Disciple of Hope." We celebrated our feast day on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018.



The weather had been dicey throughout the week in particular the night before where it rained from evening to the next late morning. Parishioners stormed heaven praying for

good weather. Praise God, the Mass on the feast day was held in its entirety though with some minor adjustments. The main celebrant of the Mass was Rev Fr. Eugene Fernandez, the Vice Provincial of the Redemptorists.

The start of the Mass began with bright sunshine. The homilist was Rev Fr. Paul Kee (Assistant Parish Priest) who gave a beautiful and reflective homily on “Hope”. There was so much reverence throughout the Mass that one could hear a pin drop especially during the homily. However, as the homily was being spoken, the weather slowly began to threaten and the sky became darker. Right after the homily, Fr Joseph Stephen (Parish Priest), expecting the rain to fall anytime, announced that the main portion of the liturgy will be carried out in the main church, and would not be in the usual 4 different languages. It was a right decision. Hence, Plan B being his alternative contingency plan, was kicked into action.







Liturgy of the Eucharist followed the homily. Participants were fed with spiritual food (Eucharist). Different language choirs sang during communion.



















After Communion, the Thanksgiving Letter to Our Mother of Perpetual Help was read followed by the Crowning of the Icon. This year, it was the Bahasa apostolate's turn where 3 young lady parishioners (led by Ms Jacqueline John) from East Malaysia were chosen to crown the Icon. These 3 young ladies wore their traditional costumes.















Next came the Consecration of Families, where 9,083 families were consecrated to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

The Icon was then carried by float bearers (from the different language communities of our parish) from the outdoor shrine into the church.





The regular procession around the neighbourhood of the church was cancelled due to the threatening weather. It was a lovely sight beholding flower girls and page boys strewing petals in welcoming the icon of our Lady into the church. Participants who came from near and far moved into the church and into the hall. All proceedings inside the church were televised to the hall. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was the final event of the evening.









All who attended our feast day celebrations were invited for dinner. Rain had begun, but all who attended were grateful they were not caught in the rain outdoors.

The decision to expedite the Mass was a brave one. All went on well with good teamwork by the various ministries of the parish and, importantly, the graces and blessings of our Almighty God through the intercessions of our Mother of Perpetual Help.

By James (Kinta Chronicles) and Kenna

