

City WATCH



Volunteer for the Befrienders

THE Kuala Lumpur Befrienders is on a drive to recruit volunteers to beef up their counselling service for the depressed and suicidal. The preview, focusing on the history of the Befrienders, counselling services provided, how Befrienders help, volunteer requirements and training course for volunteers will be held at 8pm on April 13 at the Befrienders centre at 95, Jalan Templer in Petaling Jaya. For details, call 03-7957 1306.

Free seminar for students

KANCIL Education Group is holding a free seminar for UPSR, PMR and SPM 2005 candidates from 11am to 4pm tomorrow at Kolej Bandar Utama (KBU). The seminar will focus on techniques for answering questions and revision. For details, call Deepa/Sulimah/Lakshman at 03-5636 6985.

Bowling tournament

A BOWLING tournament will be organised for members and friends of the Institute of Marketing Malaysia (IMM) on April 2 at the Bangsar Bowl, Bangsar Shopping Centre (Phase II). Those interested in taking part can call 03-7874 3089 (Hasnah/Noralina) or e-mail info@imm.org.my for details. The closing date is tomorrow.

Speakers convention

A ONE-DAY National Speakers Convention entitled "The Power of One Idea - Knowledge Economy" will be held on April 5 from 7.45am to 6pm at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The convention, organised by the Malaysian Association of Professional Speakers (MAPS), will feature speakers such as Tom Antion, Low Pooi Mun, Roger Harrop, Datuk Dr Sheikh Omar A Rahman, Dan Poynter and Rajen Devadason. For details, log on to www.maps.org.my or call 012-320 2711 (Yoga).

What kids eat

TRAINERS and nutrition advisers from the Association of Registered Childcare Providers Malaysia (PPBM) will be conducting a 10-module nutrition programme for kindergarten teachers and caregivers with the assistance of the Health Ministry. The programme runs from April 6 to June 1 once a week. For details, log on to www.childcarepphm.my.diiip.net or call 03-7727 2991.

Prayer Times

| | Subuh | Zohor | Asar | Maghrib | Isyak |
|-----------|-------|-------|------|---------|-------|
| K. LUMPUR | 5.59 | 1.21 | 4.22 | 7.24 | 8.32 |
| SEREMBAN | 5.58 | 1.20 | 4.21 | 7.23 | 8.31 |
| SHAH ALAM | 5.59 | 1.21 | 4.22 | 7.24 | 8.32 |

By CHIN MUI YOON
Photos by ABDUL RAHMAN SENIN
and THE STAR's ARCHIVES

THOUSANDS of Christians worldwide are expecting a busy weekend starting with the observation of Good Friday today and Easter on Sunday.

From midnight mass and Sunday services to lavish plays, prayers, family reunions, brunches and chocolate egg hunts, Easter is well observed even till today.

Churches in KL and the Klang Valley are no different, with many in a flurry to prepare for Easter, which is considered by many Christians as an even more important date than Christmas.

Many churches have already started observing Easter a month before this Sunday with prayers and fasting.

"Easter is a date not found in the Bible, but it is an event Christians observe as the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ," said Reverend Dr Henry Ramaya, senior pastor of Grace Assemblies of God.

"It is a celebration and commemoration of what we believe was God who came into the world as Jesus to die for our sins.

"When Jesus rose from the dead, he conquered death. Christians mark Easter as the day we were given a promise of eternal life for our faith and trust in Jesus, as the Bible stated that whosoever believes in him shall have eternal life."

Dr Henry said although many myths and traditions surrounded Easter including the origins of the date itself, it was nevertheless a celebration of an event that recorded Jesus's death and resurrection that is rooted in the Christian faith.

"Our Klang church will be screening the movie *The Passion of Christ* that clearly illustrated the painful price Jesus has paid for our sins," he said.

"The congregations of Grace Churches in Malaysia are also participating in a 21-day period of fasting and prayer, which ends around Easter.

"There are many reasons for the fasting - such as to pray for God's divine favour and blessings for our nation, and to seek health and wisdom for our Prime Minister and his ministers so that they may lead Malaysia to greater peace and prosperity, as how the Bible commands us to pray for those in authority over us."

"It is also a time for humble self-examination before God, denying our fleshly appetites, and putting aside our money for the poor and the hungry," he said.

While certain churches devote the Easter period as a time of quiet, contemplative prayer and repentance before God, other churches also make it a point to

Easter weekend

In this age of technological advancements, space travel, digital gadgets and fast-paced lives, how relevant is the tradition of Easter that dates back 2,000 years ago? *StarMetro* find out from churches and Christians in the Klang Valley what this important event is all about.



File picture of a typical Easter vigil at a Catholic church in Penang.

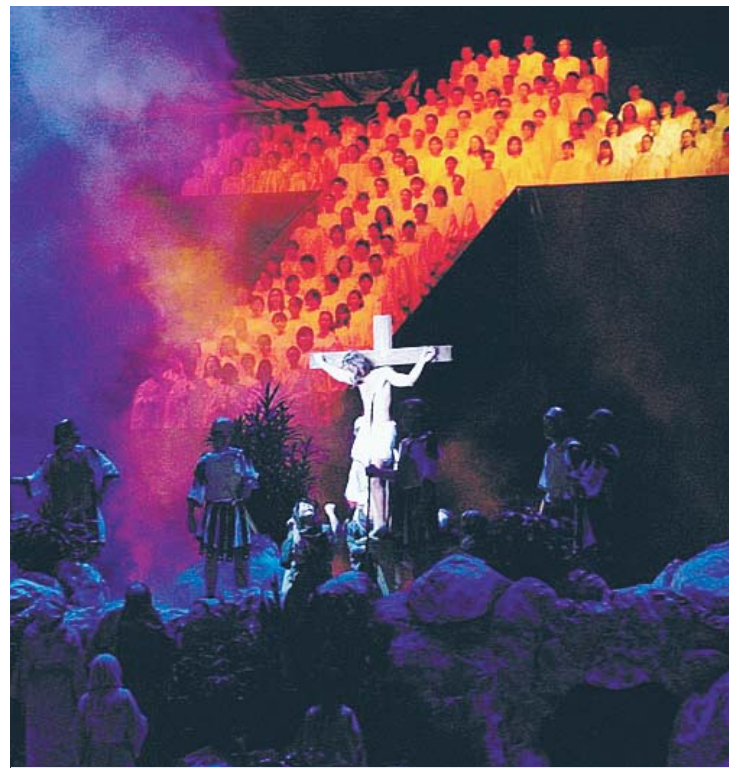


Dr Henry ... 'Christians mark Easter as the day we were given a promise of eternal life for our faith and trust in Jesus'

share and celebrate the occasion.

The Calvary Church of Kuala Lumpur, that is well-known for its colourful and lively celebrations, is once again throwing a lavish musical this weekend. Themed *The Father's Heart*, the musical and pantomime features 280 colourful dancers, choir members, actors and musicians.

St Francis Xavier Church (SFX) in Petaling Jaya is expecting over



A scene from a past Easter musical staged at the Calvary Church.

4,000 people for its Easter Mass and Services over the weekend. It follows a tradition the church has been observing since it was started in 1961.

"Easter celebrates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus and it's the

reason for our faith," said Adrian Ng who is SFX pastoral consultant and youth co-ordinator of the Chapel Kurnia Kristus.

"Easter is a central celebration for the Catholic Church. We observe our Triduum celebration

Cut and stick on your refrigerator

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TIDES

| PORT KLANG | Time | Metres |
|--------------|-------|--------|
| AM | 0:16 | 1.0 |
| | 6:03 | 4.9 |
| PM | 12:17 | 1.0 |
| | 18:18 | 5.4 |
| PORT DICKSON | | |
| AM | 1:31 | 0.3 |
| | 6:45 | 2.4 |
| PM | 13:18 | 0.4 |
| | 19:01 | 2.9 |

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Stay in contact with StarMetro. There is always something interesting happening in your community. If you have a story to tell, call us at:

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| Tel: 03-7967-1388 | Tel: 03-3344-8978 |
| Fax: 03-7847-2807 | PUTRAJAYA |
| SEREMBAN | 5 First Flr Jln P9 G/7, |
| 49 Jalan Yam Tuan, 70000 Seremban | Precinct 9, 62250 Putrajaya |
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