

St. John the Apostle Catholic Church

Siem Reap, Cambodia

CALLED TO LOVE AND SERVE



Sunday Mass in Main Church

Saturday 06.30 p.m., in English

Sunday 07.30 a.m., in Khmer

Sunday Mass in Satellite and Floating Churches

Sunday late morning and afternoon, in Khmer

Weekday Masses in Main Church, in Khmer

Monday-Thursday 06.15 a.m.

Friday 06.30 p.m. Rosary and Mass

For further information, please contact:

+855 63 965280 or +855 92 820528

WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SIEM REAP

St. John the Apostle Catholic Church is the only Catholic parish in Siem Reap. It is the center for various parish activities that serve the needs not only of Siem Reap town, but also of communities all over and near Siem Reap province. St. John is a recent parish established in 1997, but some of its communities trace back to more than hundred years.

St. John's Church (Main), Siem Reap Town

The simple wooden church of St. John the Apostle

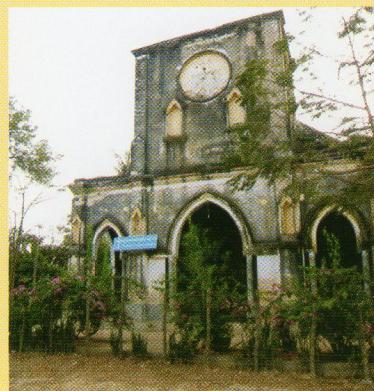


was built in 2004. Aside from offering daily liturgies and weekend catechism, St. John offers free computer lessons to the youth, runs regular charities such as a rice-soup program, visits to the local hospital and

prison and other activities in the surrounding catholic communities.

St. Mary's Church, Taom

Taom is a small village in Banteay Meanchey province about 70 km southwest of Siem Reap town. It boasts of a large old church built in 1910. Through decades of unrest in both Vietnam and Cambodia, the huge Catholic community disappeared and the church was abandoned in 1970. However, in 2004



the village returned the ruins of the old church to the Catholic diocese (apostolic prefecture) of Battambang. Since then, regular liturgies and catechism have been restored, a learning center has been built behind the church, a kindergarten and a rice-soup program has been established and the number of Catholics has increased.

St. Peter's Church, Chong Khnies

St. Peter's Church tends primarily to the landless Vietnamese immigrants of one of the floating villages, among which are a number of Catholics. It is located 18 km south of Siem Reap. This floating church, which is also known as the Karaoke church because it was formerly a Karaoke parlor, is next to the learning center for Vietnamese and Khmer literacy classes. A rice-soup program provides the children with much needed nutrition.



St. Joseph's Church, Prek Toal

Prek Toal is another floating village on Tonle Sap Lake. Located in the northeastern tip of Battambang Province, the village is home to a Catholic community that began by gathering only at Christmas (earning them the name "Christmas Group") and was established by a village woman, a housewife whose joyful and faithful life attracted many people. The floating church and learning center were built in 2006. St. Joseph's offers liturgies, catechism, rice-soup program, supports education, and offers Khmer literacy classes.



The Catholic Community in Kampong Khleang

A third village on the Tonle Sap Lake that the parish serves is Kampong Khleang, about 60 km southeast of Siem Reap town. When a more regular schedule of masses, catechism, rice-soup program, and literacy



classes took shape in 2008, there were about 50 Catholics, mostly Vietnamese. Since then, almost all of them have moved, but the parish continues to provide its services to the many needy non-Catholic children. In fact, in 2013 a new learning center is being built, on 10 meter-high columns, designed to withstand the notorious floods of the region.

LEARNING CENTERS FOR CHILDREN

One of the priorities of the Church's mission in Siem Reap is to help the youth, on who the future of the country depends. The parish serves the poor youth through learning centers in several villages. These centers provide Khmer and English literacy classes, support education, instruction in basic hygiene, a rice-soup



(feeding) program, scholarships for selected students, and even assistance for house repairs and emergency support for the sick among the families in the village. Aside from the villages where the parish has a more established presence (Taom, Chong Khnies, Prek Toal, and Kampong Khleang), the parish runs learning centers in Khna Thmai and Old Piek Snaing villages. Through all these learning centers, the parish reaches out to more than one thousand children.



FARM OF JESUS (Chomka Preah Yesu)

In 2007, by God's providence through generous friends, the parish bought land in New Piek Snaing village and started a farm in order to train poor farmers in efficient land use and farming techniques and in order to generate a modest income for the parish. Known simply to the people as the "Farm of Jesus" (just as the parish vehicle is the "car of Jesus" and Christianity is the "religion of Jesus"), the farm now has a reservoir-cum-fishpond for irrigation, a greenhouse to grow various vegetables and fruit seedlings, many fruit-bearing trees, rice fields, a cow shed for a number of cows, accommodation for the staff, and a wooden chapel and hall for community activities. But surely, its potential is far from being reached.

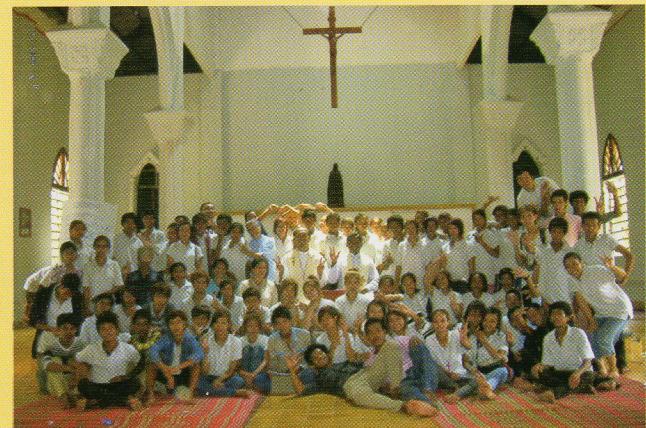


OUR MISSION

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord" (Lk 4:18-19).

The mission of Jesus, shared with all Christians, is particularly crucial for us here in Cambodia, a country devastated by over 20 years of civil war, where people are still grappling with deeply wounded hearts. As a result of the severe and prolonged violence, social institutions were torn apart, trust and confidence were lost, land mines continue to claim new casualties, and suffering and poverty persist.

We are here, united with all men and women of goodwill, to help restore life and to witness that the force of love and life is stronger than the force of hatred and death, that God loves everyone in spite of, and because of, our sins, our wounds, our sufferings, and our broken hearts. We are here to proclaim this good news essentially by our lives, our attitude, our service, our caring for the poor and the disabled, and our prayers. By our presence and activity, we hope to nurture people with the experience of the love of Jesus, Lord and Savior of all.



We are small in number. Our service is tiny compared to the enormous problems in Cambodia. Yet, in cooperation with so many people of good will, we become God's instruments in bringing his healing love, joy, and peace to the people of this beautiful country. Join us!

Twinning Between Battambang and East Anglia

The diocese (apostolic prefecture) of Battambang in Cambodia, to which St. John the Apostle parish belongs, is twinned with the Catholic diocese of East Anglia in the United Kingdom. Likewise, St. John the Apostle parish is twinned with the deanery of Bury Saint Edmunds in East Anglia. We have agreed to pray for and to help each other in our mission to bring the love of Jesus to others. We will

visit and welcome each other to strengthen the bond of friendship and partnership between us.



The late bishop of East Anglia, upper right: Reverend Michael Evans, joined the priests' meeting in Battambang, Cambodia (2005). This photo was taken under a twinning tree in Prey Kuk, Kampong Thom Province. Insert: Fr. Stepanus Winarto, SJ.

Religious communities in Siem Reap:

Missionaries of Charity

Sisters of the Infant-Jesus of Chaufailles

Sisters of Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament

Sister Servants of Immaculate Heart of Mary

Society of Jesus

Catholic NGOs in Siem Reap:

CARITAS Cambodia

Jesuit Service Cambodia

Thank you for your visit, your support, and your prayers.

"The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and bring you peace!" Amen.

(Num 6:24-26)

For your taxi driver:

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Road map to the Catholic Church:



Main Church street address:

East Riverside Road

Slokram Village, Group 1, # 027,

Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia

Phone: +855 63 965 280

Web: <http://siemreapcatholic.wordpress.com/>

Postal address:

Catholic Church

P.O. Box 93036 Siem Reap, CAMBODIA

Parish Priest:

Fr. Stepanus Winarto, SJ

Email: stepanusw@gmail.com

Mobile: +855 92 820528

For your taxi driver:

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