

## History of Our Lady of Good Health, Kampung Pandan, KUALA LUMPUR

It was in late 1949, when the first few (approximately 17) Catholic families moved into Kampung Pandan to start a new life. At that time Kampung Pandan was only known as a vegetable garden mainly occupied by the Chinese Community. With the communist threat surrounding this area, the British who were ruling Malaya at that time decided to resettle in Kampung Pandan as a multi racial village. Families who were squatting in Kuala Lumpur who were resettled in Kampung Pandan. The Christians who were Catholics had to either walk or cycle about five miles to St. Anthony's Church for their Sunday mass as there was no other Church nearby. This inspired them to build a "place of worship" in Kampung Pandan.



The mission was started by the late Mr. S. R. Peter. He and a few other Catholics met the British Officers and the Penghulus to acquire a piece of land for this purpose. After several visits and appeals, finally in 1952 a piece of land in Lorong Satu, Kampung Pandan was allotted to the Catholics to build their place of worship.



This piece of land was rather uneven and swampy. Mr. Peter and his colleagues formed a working committee among the Catholic families and requested every family to participate in this project. As finance was needed to start the project, the Catholic families contributed monthly towards the building fund. As the families were all low wage earners, the funds were very slow.

Later, Mr. Peter managed to secure a loan from the Lady of Peace Society of St. Anthony's. With the loan and the amount collected from the families, the project got started. As the building began to take shape, Mr. Peter and his colleagues went looking for donations to finance this project.





1960s



Traditional Practice - The Procession



1980s





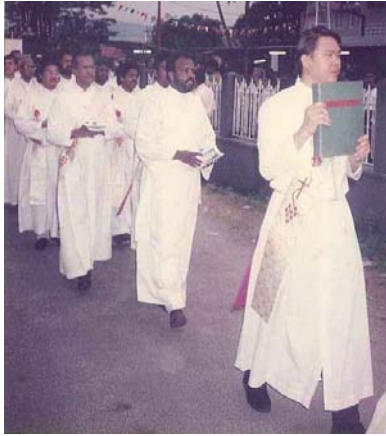
In 1953, the project could not progress due to insufficient funds. As Kampung Pandan was under St. Anthony's Church demarcation, Mr. Peter approached the Parish Pastor, Rev. Fr. Clement to finance this project. The

building was completed in 1954, with the grant received from Rev. Fr. Clement. The building for worship was names as the CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH. The first

mass was celebrated by the late Rev. Fr. Clement. As time went by, the small Chapel could no longer accommodate all the Catholics in Kampung Pandan.

In the early '70s, the Chairman of the Chapel Committee, Mr. Arokiasamy approached our Archbishop Dominic Vendargon to rebuild the Chapel. The Archbishop gave his blessings and the old building was demolished after the feast celebration in 1980. The new building was completed in two years. On 3 September 1982, the new Chapel was officially blessed and opened by Auxiliary Bishop

Anthony Selvanayagam in conjunction with the Feast Celebrations of Our Lady of Good Health.



Ten years later, Mari Arokiam, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Gnanaretnam was ordained a priest on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1992.

