Diocese of West Malaysia

Name of the Church

THE GROUNDBREAKING

OF A NEW CHURCH BUILDING

Date:

Picture of the proposed Church

LOCATION /ADDRESS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH, THE DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA

Name of the Church

The Anglican presence in the Malay Peninsula dates back to **1786**, following the establishment of the British settlement in Penang under Captain Sir Francis Light. Early Anglican ministry was provided to British settlers, and the first Anglican chapel was established in **1805**. The first Anglican church building, **St. George's Church Penang**, (now called Pro-Cathedral) was built in 1817 and consecrated in 1819.

A major milestone in Anglican history came on **8 April 1970**, when the **Diocese of West Malaysia** was created as a new and independent Diocese from the Diocese of Singapore and Malaya. The new Diocese became legally incorporated in 1971 by Act 36 of the Malaysian Parliament, giving it a distinct legal identity within Malaysia and providing the statutory framework for its administration and affairs.

The establishment of the Diocese of West Malaysia marked an important step in the development of an indigenous and self-governing Anglican Church in Malaysia. Since its formation, the Diocese has continued its mission through the establishment and strengthening of parishes, churches, schools, theological education, social outreach, evangelism and church planting throughout West Malaysia.

In **1996**, the **Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia** was established as the **37th Province of the Anglican Communion**, comprising the Dioceses of West Malaysia, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak. This development further affirmed the Anglican Church in South East Asia as a **self-governing, self-supporting, self-propagating and indigenous** expression of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The History of the Proposed Church

Rubric:

1. *Procession from the Church to the New Site*
2. *Seating of Guests*
   All guests will be seated at the site of the new church.
3. *Items Required:*
   Holy water and spades will be required for the ceremony.

5. *Meaning of the Groundbreaking Ceremony*

A groundbreaking ceremony for a new church is an occasional service that marks the setting of the land as a place of worship and prayer, and invokes God's blessing upon the work that is about to begin.

Gathering at the Church

St.XXXXXX church members, PCC, Bishop, Vicar and Deaconess will gather in the Church for a time of collective prayers before the procession.

Procession Hymn:

Welcome

By:

Welcome Address
A brief history of the Church.

Stand
Opening Hymn: *The Church's One Foundation*

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word:
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
  Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation,
  One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
  Partakes one holy food,
 And to one hope she presses,
  With every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
  And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
  Of peace for evermore;
Till, with the vision glorious,
  Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
  Shall be the Church at rest.

Sit

Greeting:

Speech by

By any special dignitary

Stand:

By

Opening Sentence: **Psalm 127:1**:

"Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain"

Bishop: *Bishop*

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

All: And also with you.

Introduction:
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ; We are gathered here in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, to set apart this ground for a new house of prayer.

Here, the Word of God will be proclaimed, the Sacraments celebrated, mission to the community undertaken, and the prayers and praises of God's people offered from generation to generation.

Let us, therefore, worship God with reverence and joy, trusting in his presence and seeking his blessing upon this place and all who will worship and serve here.

Prayer: *Bishop*
Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are present wherever your people gather in your Name. We thank you for St. XXXXX congregation and for the vision to build a new house of God in this place.

Be with us now as we set apart this ground for your worship, the proclamation of your Word, and the celebration of your Sacraments. Guide and bless all who will plan, fund, and build this new church, and bring this work to completion for the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WORD OF GOD.
Sit.
Psalm by:

Psalm 84 – How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

Response:
(at the end of the Psalm the people shall say):
People: This is the house of God, the gate of heaven. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever Amen.

Gospel: Matthew16:13–18, by
After the reading- response from the congregation

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to Christ our Lord.

Address: Bishop

Hymn:

GROUNDBREAKING
Explanation of the Rite

Beloved in Christ,
The breaking of ground is a sign that we commit this place to God. It marks the beginning of the work to build a house where God's people will gather for worship, fellowship, teaching, and service, and from which the Gospel will be proclaimed and Christ's mission continued in the community.

We undertake this work in faith, trusting that God will be present here and will bless all who labour on this site, and all who will worship and serve here in the years to come.

May the Lord bless this work, guide those who undertake it, strengthen those who labour here, and prepare this place to be a faithful witness to Christ and a blessing to generations yet to come. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop: The Lord be with you
People: And also with you.

Bishop: Let us pray.

> Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You fill the whole world with your presence; your Name is hallowed throughout all the earth.

Bless all who have worked or contributed to provide this site, which we set apart today ***(with holy water)*** for the building of a church and fellowship hall.

May this be a place where all may come to know the presence of Christ, experience the joy of his friendship, and grow in his love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ALL

May your gracious blessing, O Lord, descend like the dew from heaven upon this place and upon all who shall gather here. You have given us joy in a work begun in your Name; may we soon celebrate your presence in this place and, in the time to come, praise you forever in our eternal home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bishop: Praise the Lord, all you nations!
People: Worship him, all you peoples!

Bishop: For great is his steadfast love toward us,
People: And the faithfulness of the Lord
endures forever.

The Bishop digs up a lump of earth, saying each time.

1. In the Name of the Father, we dedicate this ground to the worship and service of God.

2. In the Name of the Son we sanctify the ground to the worship and service of God.

3. In the Name of the Holy Spirit, we consecrate this ground to the worship and service of God. **Amen.**

   With faith in Jesus Christ, this work is begun and this ground is broken in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

VIPs will be invited to do the same act

Song of praise:

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Work and Workers

Let us pray.

O God our Father, by your mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes and all workers for this new church, knowing that only what you bless will prosper.

Loving Father**,** to your great love and protection we commit all who will design, fund, and build this church, and all who will worship in this place in the years to come. Keep them safe from harm, strengthen them in times of difficulty, and bind them together in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Future Congregation

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised that where two or three are gathered in your Name, you are present among them. Bless this place, that it may truly be a house of prayer, a home for your family, and a light to this neighbourhood.

Gather here many who do not yet know you; heal the broken-hearted, welcome the stranger, and form a people marked by love, justice, and holiness. May this church stand firm on the rock of your Word, and may your Name be honoured here from generation to generation; through you, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving and Commitment

Let us pray:

Ever-living Father, all that we are and all that we have is yours. Accept the work of our hands in this place, now set apart for your worship, the building up of the living, and the remembrance of the dead, to the praise and glory of your Name.

Teach us to be faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us, and to use this building not for our own glory but for your mission in this community.

We offer ourselves anew to your service, that through this church your kingdom may come in Sungei Way and beyond; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All: Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Bishop Stephen

The God of hope, who fills us with all joy and peace in believing, bless you and keep you, this day and always: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Bishop: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: In the Name of Christ. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: *Standing On the Promises*

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:
Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail.
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

Signing of the Plaque:

Group photograph

ALL MEMBERS ARE TO GATHER TOGETHER THEMSELVES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUPS.

After the service, there will be a time of fellowship and refreshments. Please stay around to encourage one another.

A Special Word of Appreciation to

1.

We warmly invite you to consider supporting **St. XXXXXX Church** as we seek to strengthen its ministry and service to the community.

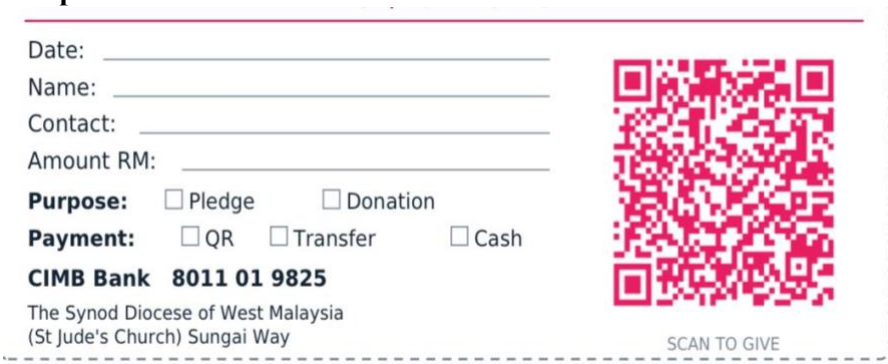
The Church is more than a place of worship. It is a place where people are welcomed, cared for, encouraged, and brought together in the love of Christ. Your support will help St. Jude's continue this ministry and reach out to those in need.

No gift is too small. Every contribution, given in love and generosity, is deeply appreciated.

Together, we can help St. Jude's continue its mission of **worshipping God, building up His people, and serving the community in Christ's name.**

Thank you for prayerfully considering this appeal. **May the Lord bless your generosity and use it to bring hope, help, and blessing to many.**

Sample



For more information
Contact:

Designed by Bishop Charles Samuel