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Witnesses to Jesus. The Lord asks: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” The answers evoke figures of the past: “John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets”. Remarkable people but all of them are dead. Peter instead replies: “You are the Christ” (Mt 16:13-14.16). The Christ, the Messiah, is a word that points not to the past, but to the future for the Messiah is the one who is awaited. He is newness, bringing God’s anointing to the world. Jesus is not the past, but the present and the future. He is not a distant personage to be remembered, but the one to whom Peter can speak intimately: *You are the Christ.*

For those who are his witnesses, Jesus is more than a historical personage. He is a living person. He is newness, not things we have already seen, the newness of the future and not a memory from the past. The witness, then, is not someone who knows the story of Jesus, but someone who has experienced a love story with Jesus. The witness, in the end, proclaims only this: that Jesus is alive and that he is the secret of life. Witness arises from an encounter with the living Jesus.

At the centre of Paul’s life too, we find that same word that rises up from Peter’s heart: *Christ*. Paul repeats this name constantly, almost four hundred times in his letters! For him, Christ is not only a model, an example, a point of reference: he is life itself. Paul writes: “For me to live is Christ” (Phil 1:21). Jesus is Paul’s present and his future, so much so that he considers the past as *refuse* in comparison to the surpassing knowledge of Christ (cf. Phil 3:7-8).

Brothers and sisters, in the presence of these witnesses, let us ask: “Do I renew daily my own encounter with Jesus?” Having met Jesus and experienced his forgiveness, the Apostles bore witness to him by living a new life. They no longer held back, but gave themselves over completely. They were no longer content with half measures, but embraced the only measure possible for those who follow Jesus: that of boundless love. Let us ask for the grace not to be lukewarm Christians living by half measures, allowing our love to grow cold. Let us rediscover who we truly are through a daily relationship with Jesus and through the power of his forgiveness. Just as he asked Peter, Jesus is now asking us: “Who do you say that I am?”, “Do you love me?” Let us allow these words to penetrate our hearts and inspire us to aim for the heights, so that we too can become *living witnesses to Jesus.*

(Taken from Pope Francis’ Homily for Solemnity of Peter and Paul at St Peter’s Basilica, Rome, on 29th June 2019.)

Saints Peter and Paul

The Apostles Peter and Paul stand before us as witnesses through their missionary lives of preaching and by giving their ultimate witness, in offering their lives as martyrs. If we go to the heart of that testimony, we can see them as *witnesses to life, witnesses to forgiveness and witnesses to Jesus.*

Witnesses to life. Their lives, though, were not neat and linear. Both were deeply religious. Peter was one of the very first disciples, while Paul was “zealous for the traditions of [his] ancestors” (Gal 1:14). Yet they also made great mistakes. Peter denied the Lord, while Paul persecuted the Church of God. Both were cut to the core by questions asked by Jesus: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” (Jn 21:15); “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” (Acts 9:4). Peter was grieved by Jesus’ questions, while Paul was blinded by his words. Jesus called them by name and changed their lives. After all that happened, he put his trust in them, in one who denied him and one who persecuted his followers, in two repentant sinners.

There is a great teaching here. The starting point of the Christian life is not our worthiness. In fact, the Lord was able to accomplish little with those who thought they were good and decent. Whenever we consider ourselves smarter or better than others, that is the beginning of the end. The Lord does not work miracles with those who consider themselves righteous, but with those who know themselves needy. He is not attracted by our goodness; that is not why he loves us. He loves us just as we are. He is looking for people who are not self-sufficient, but ready to open their hearts to him. Throughout life, they preserved this humility. Both understood that holiness consists in humbling oneself. Holiness is a question of entrusting our own poverty each day to the Lord, who does great things for those who are lowly. What was the secret that made them persevere amid weakness? It was the Lord’s forgiveness.

Witnesses to forgiveness. In their failings, they encountered the powerful mercy of the Lord, who gave them rebirth. In his forgiveness, they encountered irrepressible peace and joy. Thinking back to their failures, they might have experienced feelings of guilt. How many times might Peter have thought back to his denial! How many scruples might Paul have felt at having hurt so many innocent people! Humanly, they had failed. Yet they encountered a love greater than their failures, a forgiveness strong enough to heal even their feelings of guilt. Only when we experience God’s forgiveness do we truly experience rebirth. From there we start over, from forgiveness; there we rediscover who we really are: in the confession of our sins.

(Continued on back page...)



CALENDAR

Monday

July 3
St. Thomas,
Apostle
Eph 2:19-22
Jn 20:24-29

Tuesday

July 4
Weekday
Gn 19:15-29
Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday

July 5
Weekday
Gn 21:5, 8-20a
Mt 8:28-34

Thursday

July 6
Weekday
Gn 22:1b-19
Mt 9:1-8

Friday

July 7
Weekday
Gn 23:1-4, 19;
24:1-8, 62-67
Mt 9:9-13

Saturday

July 8
Weekday
Gn 27:1-5, 15-29
Mt 9:14-17

Sunday

July 9
Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Zec 9:9-10
Rom 8:9, 11-13
Mt 11:25-30

HOSPITALITY

Communion

We are the Body of Christ. This is who we are as Church. It is our profound mystery that we take and eat, take and drink at Communion. In doing so, we give expression to our identity.

If we are not in communion with the Catholic Church, it makes no logical sense for those to receive because simply, it is not their identity.

If you are Buddhist, from another Christian tradition or just our welcome guest, please feel free to come forward, not to receive communion but to ask for a blessing.

The simple practice of asking for a blessing is through the bodily posture of bowing one's head and crossing one's arms across one's chest when before the minister distributing communion.

If you are a parent with a child not receiving Communion, please take personal responsibility in asking the minister for a blessing for your child.

John P. Murray osa
Pastoral Leader, 10 am Mass Community

Our website:

www.assumptioncathedralbkk.org

PLEASE REGISTER!

For general or pastoral enquiries, please email:
enquiries@assumptioncathedralbkk.org

ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL

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PASTOR:

Rev. Ignatius Adisak Somsaengsuang

ASSISTANTS:

Rev. Peter Booncharat Suksawang
Rev. Peter Withawat Kaewwaen

MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon-Fri : Thai 06:00 hrs.
Sat : Thai 06:00; 17:00 novena followed by
mass
Sun : Thai 07:00; 08:30 and 17:00 hrs.
English 10:00 hrs.

BAPTISM:

Thai : **First Sunday** during 8:30 am mass.
English : **Second Sunday** during 10:00 am
mass.

CONFESSION:

Sundays : Before all masses (Thai).
English before 10:00 am mass.

CATHOLIC CENTER:

For religious articles, please visit the center opposite
the entrance of the Cathedral.

Opening Hours:

Mon-Fri : 08:30 – 17:00 hrs.
Sat, Sun : Closed
& public holidays

Dear Padre

July 2, 2023

How do we serve everyone in a culturally diverse parish?

In the past it was common to have parishes dedicated to different ethnic groups where such populations were concentrated. In 2010, the US bishops found that 33 percent of all US parishes were culturally diverse, and that's perhaps using a narrow understanding of diversity. Then in 2014, they published *Best Practices for Shared Parishes: So That They May All Be One*, in which they outline a nine-movement process for creating an inclusive parish. The term "shared parishes" describes parish communities in which two or more languages or cultural contexts are present in the ministerial life of a parish. The fact that there are nine movements is notable. It means that we slowly move toward inclusiveness; we don't simply present a Mass in Spanish and think the job is done.

This brings to mind a parishioner in a parish I served in the Mississippi Delta. This was indeed a "shared parish," with a large African-American population, a significant Spanish-speaking population, and an elderly population of white Americans who expected a more "traditional" Mass with familiar hymns. Rosemary was an Italian-American whose family had lived in the area since the beginning of the nineteenth century. She served as the parish's director of education. Rosemary made it her practice to attend every Mass to welcome people and make them feel at home. She was the perfect example of the first movement toward serving everyone in a shared parish: hospitality. ●

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY – Belmont Mass
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION – Belmont Mass
(PLEASE SEE INSERT)

DOXOLOGY **PLEASE STAND**

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

GREAT AMEN – Belmont Mass (PLEASE SEE INSERT)

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (No. 387)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil; graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

LAMB OF GOD – Belmont Mass (PLEASE SEE INSERT)

****PLEASE KNEEL****

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION HYMN: ON EAGLE'S WINGS (No. 691)

FINAL HYMN: LEAD ME, LORD **PLEASE STAND**

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, longing for their Lord, for God's coming kingdom shall be theirs. Blessed are the sorrowing, for they shall be consoled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
- (R) Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to seek and to find the narrow way. Be my way; be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, today.
2. Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God. Blest are they whose hunger only holiness can fill, for I say they shall be satisfied. (R)
3. Blessed are they who through their lifetimes sow the seeds of peace; all will call them children of the Lord.
Blest are you, though persecuted in your holy life, for in heaven, great is your reward. (R)

SOLEMNITY OF STS. PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Sunday, 2 July 2023

ENTRANCE HYMN: FOR ALL THE SAINTS (No. 884) **PLEASE STAND**

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Priest: I confess to almighty God,

All: and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;

– and, striking their breast, they say –

Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

Therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

KYRIE / LORD HAVE MERCY – Belmont Mass

GLORY TO GOD – Belmont Mass

(PLEASE SEE INSERT)

FIRST READING: Acts 12:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

In those days, King Herod laid hands upon some members of the Church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also. –It was the feast of Unleavened Bread.– He had him taken into custody and put in prison under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. He intended to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter thus was being kept in prison, but prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on his behalf.

On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter, secured by double chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while outside the door guards kept watch on the prison. Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, "Get up quickly." The chains fell from his wrists. The angel said to him, "Put on your belt and your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Put on your cloak and follow me." So he followed him out, not realizing that what was happening through the angel was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first guard, then the second, and came to the iron gate leading out to the city, which opened for them by itself. They emerged and made their way down an alley, and suddenly the angel left him.

Then Peter recovered his senses and said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting."

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 34: THE ANGEL OF THE LORD



1. I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad. (R)
2. Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. (R)
3. Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him. (R)
4. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.
Taste and see how good the LORD is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him. (R)

SECOND READING: 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

I, Paul, am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly Kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA – Belmont Mass
(PLEASE SEE INSERT)

PLEASE STAND

**All: You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.**

GOSPEL: Mt 16:13-19

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the Good News according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Priest: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

THE APOSTLES' CREED PLEASE STAND

Priest: I believe in God,

All: the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:
"Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN: ONLY THIS I WANT (No. 782)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND

Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.