

LIVING THE WORD

- ❖ The final chapters of Isaiah are called the 'Book of Consolations', written to comfort and encourage the Israelites in exile. God's people are invited to trust deeply in the power and promises of God. They will return home. The power of God's word to do and bring about what is spoken points also to the Gospel reading and the power of the 'seed' that is sown to be extremely fruitful. The Hebrew 'dabar' is translated as both 'word' and 'deed'. Consider your own word. Do you 'do' as you 'say'? Is your word powerful? Effective? Can people rely on your 'word' and 'what you say you will do'?
- ❖ St Paul uses striking imagery to describe our spiritual journey. We groan within ourselves as we 'wait for adoption' and the ultimate redemption of our bodies. What life experience at present is causing you to 'groan inwardly'? Do you accept or resent your human frailty and weakness? St Paul's words suggest he talked with God about this. What is the experience of 'waiting for adoption'? Can you link this with your discipleship and suffering?
- ❖ Matthew chapter 13 has a series of parables. Today we listen to the first about the 'Sower and the Seed'. The seed is the focus of the parable. It is symbolic of Jesus' 'word' being sown by his preaching. A concern of Jesus' disciples and the early Christian community was why Jesus was apparently so 'unsuccessful'. Many people listened, were healed, but did not believe and 'follow'. This parable may be an attempt by the community of Matthew to explain why this happened.
- ❖ Two points would have astounded the listeners of this parable. The generosity – or foolishness – of the sower: putting seed in places where it will not grow. And the extreme fruitfulness of the seed planted in rich soil. A good crop would have been a yield of 30% of the seed, but this seed also brings 60% and 100% fruitfulness! What does this show about God and the power of His Word? Consider the fruitfulness of the scriptures in your life. Can you identify a time when you responded to the Word asking you to do something incredibly challenging? Life-changing? What passage did this for you?
- ❖ The reader is invited to reflect upon what type of 'soil' is present in their life and if there are any obstacles to the Word (seed)? Things closing my eyes, ears, heart? A question or topic of faith that I have not pursued enough and been satisfied with 'not understanding'? Some trial or tribulation that I have let dominate my life, whose voice I have let be louder than God's voice? Concern and 'anxiety' for money, job, clothing, possessions, relationships that have led me to choose the world over God?

Summary of FABC Final Document to the Church Synod on Synodality, March 2023

THE ASIAN CONTEXT (continued)

6. While Christianity remains a very small minority in most parts of Asia, the vibrancy and richness of the individual cultures bring joy to the life of the Church. The Asian continent is vast and is divided into four recognizable regions, namely Central, East, South and Southeast Asia.
7. Founded on our common baptismal dignity, this synodal journey is indeed an expression of the universal Church and the local Churches walking together as one. The positive effects of bringing people from all walks of life, both within and outside the Church into a process of praying with one another, listening to one another, and discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit bring forth in them a new experience of vitality and dynamism to the life of the Church.
8. Among the 4 billion people living in Asia, the Catholic Church comprises only 3.31% of the total population, yet it contributes greatly to the fields of education, healthcare, social welfare and reaching out to the poor and marginalised groups in society.
9. In a pluralistic Asian society, the Catholic Church continues to spread the message of love by empowering those on the margins through quality education and integrating them into the mainstream of society.
10. Thousands of priests, consecrated men and women, along with lay missionaries and catechists are involved in faith formation and catering to the spiritual and pastoral needs of the Catholic community across Asia.

Having set the context for Church and mission, this document later reflects:

As Catholics in Asia living in diversity, we seek to enhance the quality of our friendship with one another by listening to, respecting, and caring for each other, so that we can be a 'good mother' and an example to bring peace and unity to the world. Faith formation that is founded on the living word of God, is foundational to synodal spirituality.



CALENDAR

Monday

July 17
Weekday
Ex 1:8-14, 22
Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday

July 18
Weekday
Ex 2:1-15a
Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday

July 19
Weekday
Ex 3:1-6, 9-12
Mt 11:25-27

Thursday

July 20
Weekday
Ex 3:13-20
Mt 11:28-30

Friday

July 21
Weekday
Ex 11:10-12:14
Mt 12:1-8

Saturday

July 22
St. Mary
Magdalene
Sg 3:1-4b or
2 Cor 5:14-17
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Sunday

July 23
Sixteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Wis 12:13, 16-19
Rom 8:26-27
Mt 13:24-43 or
Mt 13:24-30

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

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 16, 2023

I have a friend who has been coming to church with me, and he often has questions I can't answer. The big one last week was, "Why don't Catholics have more Bible preaching instead of all this ceremony?" I try to explain, but I don't think I have the right words. Help!

Your friend's question is very common because our Catholic ceremony can be confusing to those of other faiths.

The Catholic Mass comes from two prayer traditions. First, there is the tradition of the Jewish synagogue service where people gather to read and study the word of God. Second, there is the tradition of the early Christians who met in their homes to celebrate the breaking of the bread.

The earliest Christians, Jewish converts, maintained their Sabbath tradition of reading and studying the word of God. They added to that the gift of the Eucharist that Jesus gave them. Our Mass puts these two together in the Liturgy of the Word (readings, preaching, prayers) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (offering, eucharistic prayer, holy Communion).

The homily may not be as long as it is in some other Christian traditions, but the preaching should be solid, based on Scripture, and in line with the teaching of the Church. We are a Church of word and sacrament. We listen to the word of God and we celebrate the breaking of the bread. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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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: MANY AND GREAT (No. 911)

FINAL HYMN: SEEK YE FIRST (No. 658) (PLEASE STAND)

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)
Sunday, 16th July 2023

ENTRANCE HYMN: FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH (No. 633) (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: Is 55:10-11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Thus says the LORD: Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 65: THE SEED THAT FALLS ON GOOD GROUND



1. You have visited the land and watered it; greatly have you enriched it.
God's watercourses are filled; you have prepared the grain. (R)
2. Thus have you prepared the land: drenching its furrows, breaking up its clods,
Softening it with showers, blessing its yield. (R)
3. You have crowned the year with your bounty, and your paths overflow with a rich harvest;
The untilled meadows overflow with it, and rejoicing clothes the hills. (R)
4. The fields are garmented with flocks and the valleys blanketed with grain.
They shout and sing for joy. (R)

SECOND READING: Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA – Belmont Mass
(PLEASE SEE INSERT)

PLEASE STAND

**All: The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower.
All who come to him will have life forever.**

GOSPEL: Mt 13:1-9

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.

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

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, hear us."

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN: OPEN MY EYES (No. 651)

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.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER