

LIVING THE WORD

- ❖ Solomon is not simply 'having a dream'. The last person to possibly take his kingship (Shimei – see 1 Kings 2, 8) has died so Solomon is now truly King. He has also just married the King of Egypt's (Pharaoh's) daughter! Solomon's power and political responsibilities are immense. He makes a special journey to Gibeon, a very special 'high place' and altar. With him he presents 1,000 burnt offerings on the altar! (1 Kings 3,4) The intensity of his prayer is striking and yet, he remains humble. *You have made me. I am your servant. I have the responsibilities of a King. Yet I am young. I don't know what to do. Give me an 'understanding heart'.* What would your deepest and most heart-felt prayer to God be, as God asks you: *'Ask something of me'*.
- ❖ The journey of life involves 'ups and downs'. It takes great faith to trust that 'all things work for good for those who love God'. Consider a difficult life experience. How has it 'worked for your good'? Have you allowed it to mould you closer 'to the image of his Son'?
- ❖ The phrase 'Kingdom of Heaven' is the idea Jesus most talked about in the Gospels. Having a heart for the poor. A desire and commitment to see that all are 'included'. Fighting all systems that exclude and oppress. The compassion and forgiveness offered to us by God. These can be 'ideas' or 'lived realities'. A treasure 'thought about' or a treasure 'possessed'. Being possessed by 'The Kingdom' comes at a cost because it invites us into a complete transformation of our life. Compare your lifestyle with Jesus in the Gospels. What attracts you? What do you need to 'let go'? What risks are you being invited to take?
- ❖ Filled with joy, the person in the parable sells all that he owns to buy the field/pearl. The treasure (the Kingdom) has now possessed him! Have you ever had an experience where something you valued is now considered 'worthless'. How did your heart change 'attachment'? What do you truly 'love' and would be willing to 'sell all that you have' for its possession? Are the top 'values' that steer your life Kingdom values or worldly values?
- ❖ As in previous Matthew Chapter 13's parables, Jesus includes a subversive challenge. There will be a judgment at the end of time based on how we have lived. Have we chosen and lived for the Kingdom and lived 'rightly' (righteously)? Or have we been 'wicked', consciously or unconsciously not contributing to justice and God's plan for all? If the final judgment was to take place within a few months what would this cause you to do?

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

PRIORITIES FROM THE ASIAN RESPONSES (continued)

Missionary Disciples

In the context of Asia, we must learn how to prophetically witness and "whisper" the Gospel to one another, which, first and foremost, entails actively living out one's faith, founded on personal encounters and personal experiences with Jesus, and contributing to the community of the Church as a communion of communities. While recognising that Christians are a minority in Asia, the incomparable witness of Asian martyrs provides a challenge and source of encouragement. We must learn to grow in dialogue, consultation, and communal discernment. At the same time, respecting the sensitivities of other Asian peoples must also be at the heart of the Church. Interfaith families are becoming a common sight and, therefore, how do we bring Christ to others? We need to embrace a culture of encounter and bridge-building to bring Christ to the world.

Accountability and Transparency

The call to be accountable and transparent, not only in financial matters, but also in decision-making processes and governance. This may necessitate the revision of some provisions of Canon Law. Those in leadership roles – whether clergy or lay – are also accountable for the formation of the laity and the youth. A spirit of collaboration and co-responsibility must be promoted, with each embracing the other's vocation and state of life and the manifold charisms in the Church.

Prayer and Worship

Our prayer and worship must reflect and touch the hearts of the Asian people. Liturgical celebrations must be more "synodal" (participatory, inculturated, relatable, and convivial) so that everyone can find a sacred and safe space to worship God. The integration of culture in the life and worship of the Church must also animate the lives of the faithful.

Environment

In the care for the common home, the Church must be at the forefront, not only in protecting Mother Earth, but also healing her. As Jesus came to redeem and reconcile all things, the Church must seek to renew the face of the earth. As members of the one Body of Christ, we are called to become a green Church and live in solidarity, and respect, protect, defend, and nurture the oneness of all of God's Creation. Environmental concern is not merely ecological but also has a spiritual and social dimension as it affects everyone, the poor the most.

A full copy of this FABC document – Final Document of the Asian Continental Assembly – can be downloaded from the FABC website at fabc.org.



CALENDAR

Monday

July 31
St. Ignatius of
Loyola, Priest
Ex 32:15-24,
30-34
Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday

August 1
St. Alphonsus
Liguori, Bishop
and Doctor
of the Church
Ex 33:7-11;
34:5b-9, 28
Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday

August 2
Weekday
Ex 34:29-35
Mt 13:44-46

Thursday

August 3
Weekday
Ex 40:16-21,
34-38
Mt 13:47-53

Friday

August 4
St. John Vianney,
Priest
Lv 23:1, 4-11,
15-16, 27,
34b-37
Mt 13:54-58

Saturday

August 5
Weekday
Lv 25:1, 8-17
Mt 14:1-12

Sunday

August 6
Transfiguration
of the Lord
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14
2 Pt 1:16-19
Mt 17:1-9

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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Fax: 0-2234-3414

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 30, 2023

What is spiritual Communion?

Saint Thomas Aquinas said spiritual Communion is "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament"... and to lovingly embrace "Him as if we had actually received Him." It is the practice of desiring union with Christ in the Eucharist by those who cannot receive holy Communion for valid cause, such as an infirmity or an irregular marriage. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis also said the practice is "highly recommended when it is not possible to receive the sacrament."

A prayer by St. Alphonsus Liguori is ideal for those unable to receive holy Communion:

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Saint John Paul II wrote, "It is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of 'spiritual Communion,' which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints....Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: 'When you do not receive Communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual Communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you'" (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 34). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, 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: DRAW NEAR (No. 935)

FINAL HYMN: LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS (No. 663) (PLEASE STAND)

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Sunday, 30th July 2023

ENTRANCE HYMN: O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING (No. 598) (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: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first Book of Kings:

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Solomon answered: "O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?"

The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: "Because you have asked for this—not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you."

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 119: LORD, I LOVE YOUR COMMANDS



1. I have said, O LORD, that my part is to keep your words.
The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces. (R)
2. Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise to your servants.
Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight. (R)
3. For I love your command more than gold, however fine.
For in all your precepts I go forward; every false way I hate. (R)
4. Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them.
The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple. (R)

SECOND READING: Rom 8:28-30

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

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA – Belmont Mass
(PLEASE SEE INSERT)

PLEASE STAND

**All: Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
for you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.**

GOSPEL: Mt 13:44-46

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

"Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

Priest: The Gospel 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:

“God of 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.