

# LIVING THE WORD

- Isaiah has a special section in chapters 24-27 known as the 'Isaiah Apocalypse'. A vision is shared of how God will eventually save us. For the many who are poor, rich food and fine wine at a banquet became a symbol of heaven. This will take place through a mountain, 'Jerusalem', where a message of victory over death and tears and shame will be proclaimed. Can you see this message being fulfilled in the Cross on a Jerusalem hill? In the Eucharistic Banquet? In the Church – the 'New Jerusalem'?
- Listen intently to the feelings expressed in the Isaiah text. It is painting a picture of hope for God's people. What image and feeling speaks more deeply to you? Why?
- While still in prison St Paul receives a gift of money from the Christian community at Philippi. He normally discourages gifts to be given to him. But he is thankful of this expression of love and support. Paul shares he has 'learnt a secret'. He lives attached only to Christ. He is free. Have you experienced living 'humbly' and also 'in abundance'? What did the experience teach you?
- The Gospel of Matthew continues with '*judgement parables*' (the two sons, the vineyard, and now the wedding banquet). Even today it is a great honour to receive a wedding invitation. What thoughts and feelings are present when you open a wedding invitation? Why would you 'refuse to come'? Why have the chief priests and elders 'refused'?
- In a shame / honour culture, the King has been highly insulted when those invited refuse to attend. 'Burned their city' could be Matthew's attempt at explaining the fire destroying Jerusalem in 70CE. God's invitation into relationship with Him is thrown open to all – gentiles, sinners, the poor, those living on the streets ... – bad and good alike. Consider the honour of God. Do you painstakingly search and urgently invite people to Mass so '*the hall can be filled with guests*'?
- The invited guests being thrown out challenges our expectations for a 'nice ending' to the story. In the Book of Revelation the 'white wedding garment' is a symbol of the good deeds of the saints who persevered in faith and works of love and service. It seems that all are invited to the eternal wedding, but it is not sufficient to just turn up. To be '*chosen to enter*' requires a life turned around to '*good deeds*'. Can I see the distinction between 'faith' and 'works'?
- A judgement parable forces a crisis. Am I 'in' or 'out'? It shakes the comfortable and those presuming eternal life is theirs 'by right'. How does this parable challenge / judge you?

## **OPENING MASS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS (from Homily of Pope Francis - 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at St Peter's)**

We are at the opening of the General Assembly of the Synod. Here we do not need a purely natural vision, made up of human strategies, political calculations or ideological battles. We are not here to carry out a parliamentary meeting or a plan of reformation. The Synod is not a parliament. The Holy Spirit is the protagonist. We are here to walk together with the gaze of Jesus, who blesses the Father and welcomes those who are weary and oppressed.

Let us look at a gaze that blesses. Though having experienced rejection and having seen around him so much hardness of heart, Christ does not let himself be imprisoned by disappointment, he does not become bitter, he does not cease to praise. His heart, founded on the primacy of the Father, remains serene even in the storm. This gaze of the Lord that blesses also invites us to be a Church that, with a glad heart, contemplates God's action and discerns the present, and which, amid the sometimes agitated waves of our time, does not lose heart.

Jesus' gaze that blesses invites us to be a Church that does not face today's challenges and problems with a divisive and contentious spirit but, on the contrary, turns its eyes to God who is communion and, with awe and humility, blesses and adores him, recognizing him as its only Lord. We belong to him and – let us remember – we exist only to bring him to the world. And this is the primary task of the Synod: to refocus our gaze on God, to be a Church that looks mercifully at humanity.

The welcoming gaze of Jesus invites us to be a welcoming Church, not one with closed doors. A Church "with a gentle yoke" (cf. Mt 11:30), which does not impose burdens and which repeats to everyone: "Come, you who are weary and oppressed, come, you who have lost your way or feel far away, come, you who have closed the doors to hope: the Church is here for you!" The doors of the Church are open to everyone!

In the face of the difficulties and challenges that lie ahead, the blessing and welcoming gaze of Jesus prevents us from falling into some dangerous temptations: of being a rigid Church, arming itself against the world and looking backwards; of being a lukewarm Church, surrendering to the fashions of the world; of being a tired Church, turned in on itself. Let us walk together: humble, fervent and joyful. Let us walk in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi, the saint of poverty and peace, the "fool of God". Let us allow the Holy Spirit to be the protagonist of the Synod! And let us walk with him.



## CALENDAR

### MONDAY

October 16  
Weekday  
Rom 1:1-7  
Lk 11:29-32

### TUESDAY

October 17  
*St. Ignatius  
of Antioch,  
Bishop and Martyr*

Rom 1:16-25  
Lk 11:37-41

### WEDNESDAY

October 18  
*St. Luke,  
Evangelist*  
2 Tm 4:10-17b  
Lk 10:1-9

### THURSDAY

October 19  
*Sts. John de  
Brébeuf and Isaac  
Jogues, Priests,  
and Companions,  
Martyrs*

Rom 3:21-30  
Lk 11:47-54

### FRIDAY

October 20  
Weekday  
Rom 4:1-8  
Lk 12:1-7

### SATURDAY

October 21  
Weekday  
Rom 4:13, 16-18  
Lk 12:8-12

### SUNDAY

October 22  
*Twenty-ninth  
Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*  
Is 45:1, 4-6  
1 Thes 1:1-5b  
Mt 22:15-21

## 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](http://www.assumptioncathedralbkk.org)**

### **ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL**

23 Oriental Avenue (Charoenkrung Soi 40)  
Bangrak, Bangkok 10500  
Thailand  
Tel: 0-2234-4592, 0-2234-8556, 0-2233-7120  
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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

October 15, 2023

***My prayer-group leader is encouraging us to write our own prayers for our meetings. Don't you need some formal religious training to write prayers? Will our prayers count?***

It's given to every human being to be able to pray. On the level of the spiritual life, prayer is as basic as breathing is to physical life. Everyone at every moment has the grace to say a prayer.

Sometimes I ask people, "Do you pray?" At times they tell me they don't. Then I ask them, "Well, do you talk with God?" And most answer, "Of course." That's praying.

When writing your prayers, I suggest you use this ancient definition as inspiration: Prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God. I'm sure your prayers will be that in word and feeling, and they will count.

When writing more formal prayers, it's nice to include the prayer elements the Church considers important: adoration of God, contrition and sorrow for sin, thanksgiving for life and for God's care of us in good times and bad, and petition for what we desperately need in our poverty. And for you, a final word. Remember that no matter how bad things may get, no matter how out of control things feel, you always have the gift and power of saying a prayer. Especially in time of temptation—when things really go bad—ask Mary your Mother to pray with you. ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

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**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**

**HOLY**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. **PLEASE KNEEL**

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

**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**

Amen. Amen. Amen.

**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**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (Repeat)  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. **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: BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN (No. 943)**

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

**28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)**

*Sunday, 15 October 2023*

**ENTRANCE HYMN: WE GATHER TOGETHER (No. 638) **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, ELEISON / LORD, HAVE MERCY**

Kýrie, eléison, (2); Christe, eléison, (2); Kýrie, eléison, (2).

**GLORY TO GOD**

Refrain: Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, on earth peace to people of good will.

1. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
2. Lord, Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us,  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand, the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. (R)

**FIRST READING: Is 25:6-10a**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:**

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked



to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 23: I SHALL LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD**



1. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. (R)
2. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage. (R)
3. You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (R)
4. Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. (R)

**SECOND READING: Phil 4:12-14, 19-20**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:**

Brothers and sisters: I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress.

My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA PLEASE STAND**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

**All: May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.**

**GOSPEL: Mt 22:1-14**

**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.**

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched

his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."

**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:**

**"Be our life and joy, O God."**

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: THE KINGDOM OF GOD (No. 740)**

**PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND**