

## LIVING THE WORD

- ❖ The month of November begins by celebrating All Saints (Nov 1st) and All Souls (Nov 2nd). Be invited to visit a church to pray, in thanks for all those who have brightened our journey with their lives.
- ❖ The Book of Wisdom was written to share the beauty of Jewish 'wisdom', which was different from Greek 'wisdom'. For Greeks, wisdom was the result of intensive human study and work. Jewish people understood wisdom as a feminine aspect of God and a gift 'received'. At dawn was the favoured time for prayer. During the day 'the gate' was a place of gathering for elders making legal decisions and where city trade took place. Do you love, seek, watch, pray into the night for wisdom? v17 continues: wisdom begins with the sincere desire for instruction. What would you like 'instruction' in? Who could you ask for help?
- ❖ Paul's letter to the Thessalonians is one of the earliest letters in the New Testament. In contrast to the belief that death was the very end, our Christian faith rests on a certain hope. Use your imagination to enter Paul's picture of the final day. Why do you think scripture refers to this as a 'great and terrible' day?
- ❖ In the ancient Middle East, the complete wedding celebration would take up several days. The first stage involved the fathers of the couple discussing and arranging the contract and legal matters between the two families. The groom would then arrive to the bride's house to take her home. It was not known how long the various discussions would take. Guests at the groom's house were frequently 'waiting' as a result of delays. You can imagine the surprise with the groom and bride arriving at midnight! Jesus uses this image for his 'return'. The Church celebrates the Feast of Christ the King (November 20) as if it were the 'return'. What would you do if Jesus returned in 2 weeks?
- ❖ The bridesmaids and 'oil for their lamps' is symbolic of 'being ready'. 'Oil' equals readiness. It cannot be 'shared'. Spiritual preparation cannot be done by someone else. There is the striking image of a 'locked door'. Cries to 'open the door'. A negative response. The parable draws us in. We are left with self-accusation: will I be 'ready'? In what way does this parable challenge you?



**The Trinity teaches us that one can never be without the other. We are not islands, we are in the world to live in God's image: open, in need of others and in need of helping others.**

--- Pope Francis---

Mission is about church being church. It impinges on core questions and challenges regarding the identity and active life of the Church in our world which is seeing the impact of Covid-19, rising poverty and social inequalities, the dangers of climate change and rising occurrences of war and conflict. Within such a world scenario, we are facing a rising new order within which Church exists and functions.

This new order is seen in the changing face of the Church, going through Synod, and engaging a fractured world, based on a stance defined by questioning, compassion and solidarity. This calls Church to basic self-criticism of how to operate in our world. This is not a new theme, but one reflected in the calling and living out of the Second Vatican Council. It is not about questioning doctrine but allowing Church to develop so as to live what we believe more efficaciously.

In the midst of life's struggles and strivings, I have become aware that I am caught in a Pauline paradox. On one side, I identify my need for self-transformation as I am weak and sinful, which I too seldom acknowledge about myself, while I am ever out there, criticising and analysing the world. On the other side, our world truly does need transformation as so much is going wrong. It, therefore, rightfully becomes a focus for critical debate, but don't let this lead to self-indulgent discussions. Rather let concerted action, based on the Gospel, arise out of our prayer and reflection, to help build the Kingdom of God here and now. That is our Christian mission.

So what is the answer to this paradox? It lies both *within* self and *without*. The answer is mission – mission to self and to others. St Teresa of Avila had it right in her approach. You go *within* so as to go *out*. Life is neither a political campaign nor a self-help trip. It is an adventure to be lived and shared, a gift from God to all, from which all benefit and in which all participate, encountering the one true God and humanity, through those we encounter along the way and reach out to in love.

As I have been recently quoted – the cry of life is to engage in “*active participation*”. God bless.

– John P Murray osa

## CALENDAR

### Monday

November 13  
St. Frances Xavier  
Cabrini, Virgin  
Wis 1:1-7  
Lk 17:1-6

### Tuesday

November 14  
Weekday  
Wis 2:23-3:9  
Lk 17:7-10

### Wednesday

November 15  
Weekday  
Wis 6:1-11  
Lk 17:11-19

### Thursday

November 16  
Weekday  
Wis 7:22b-8:1  
Lk 17:20-25

### Friday

November 17  
St. Elizabeth  
of Hungary,  
Religious  
Wis 13:1-9  
Lk 17:26-37

### Saturday

November 18  
Weekday  
Wis 18:14-16;  
19:6-9  
Lk 18:1-8

### Sunday

November 19  
Thirty-third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Prv 31:10-13,  
19-20, 30-31  
1 Thes 5:1-6  
Mt 25:14-30 or  
25:14-15, 19-21

## 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  
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

November 12, 2023

***I was taught that Catholic churches are built on consecrated ground. How can a church be torn down and replaced by a shopping mall if it's sacred ground?***

Church buildings are blessed and considered by the Church to be sacred places. But when they're damaged and can no longer be repaired or their repair is impractical or they no longer effectively serve their purpose for the faithful of God, the bishop can remove that blessing. By doing this, the bishop opens them for nonsacred use. Subsequently, they can be torn down or sold, as long as the new purpose is not scandalous to the people of God.

In the end, what is truly sacred is not the brick and mortar or even the soil, but the purpose for which they were built. Churches are blessed and declared sacred because we perform sacred rituals within them. When those rituals are no longer being performed in that location, there is no longer a need for them to be declared sacred.

When a church is closed, it is often a sad event. Many people carry deep emotional ties to their parish churches. But a diocese cannot always maintain all of its churches. Catholic populations shift, local needs change. Money is limited, and good stewardship demands that bishops sometimes make the difficult decision to close or merge parishes. Remember what is truly important and of ultimate and sacred value—our worship and service of God. ●

*Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR / 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

**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: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (No. 945)**

**FINAL HYMN: HOW GREAT THOU ART (No. 578) **PLEASE STAND****

**32<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)**

*Sunday, 12 November 2023*

**ENTRANCE HYMN: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! LORD GOD ALMIGHTY (No. 567) **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: Wis 6:12-16**

**A reading from the Book of Wisdom:**

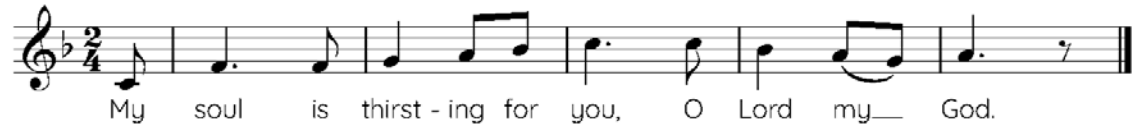
Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire; Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate. For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence, and whoever for her sake keeps vigil

shall quickly be free from care; because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 63: MY SOUL IS THIRSTING FOR YOU**



1. God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. (R)
2. Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you. (R)
3. Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. (R)
4. I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night-watches I will meditate on you: You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. (R)

**SECOND READING: 1 Thes 4:13-18**

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:**

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA PLEASE STAND**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

**All: Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day your Lord will come.**

**GOSPEL: Mt 25:1-13**

**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 told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

**Priest:** The Good News of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES PLEASE STAND**

*The Priest addresses the Community, who make their responses together.*

Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children? **I do.**

Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? **I do.**

Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness? **I do.**

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting? **I do.**

*The priest concludes:*

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.

We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:  
"In your mercy, hear our prayer."**

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: BLESS THE LORD (No. 620)**

**PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND**