

LIVING THE WORD

- The Book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings for daily living. Today a woman – not necessarily exceptional or beautiful as modern media might portray her – does routine daily chores filled with wisdom and purpose. Her love extends beyond her family to the poor and needy. Her life and good works are spoken of ‘at the city gates’. Have you experienced ‘charm’ as deceptive and ‘beauty’ fleeting? Two quite different lifestyles are presented as a ‘mirror’ to expose the reader. Where do you ‘see’ yourself?
- Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians is the earliest New Testament Letter. They were concerned that ‘the Day of the Lord’ (Jesus’ return) had not happened. St Paul shares with them and us that the exact date of the ‘Day of the Lord’ is not known. But we are all to be ‘living in the light’, following the way of Jesus. What image speaks more to you: not sleeping, staying alert, being sober? How could you apply this ‘image’ to an application in your life?
- The end of the Church’s Year is coming! Next week is the final Sunday of the current liturgical year, when we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. The Judgment Parable of the Talents is given to us today as a way of helping us to reflect seriously on the end of the world and the Lord’s Second Coming. A careful reading of the Parable reveals some disturbing realities –
 - One ‘talent’ is a large weight of metal equivalent to 15 years of an average wage (\$750,000!). Is the Master generous or mean? What image of God do you read into the text?
 - Two different ‘images’ and perceptions of the Master are found. Servants 1 and 2 are spurred into creativity, while servant 3 is filled with fear. He will take no risks, avoid any wrongdoing, and will give back to God ‘*in strict justice*’ what was given. Is servant 3 selfish? His fear of judgment tends to paralyse him. He is not filled with a freedom and love for creative risk-taking in works of mercy. Could this be an image of the Jewish community for Matthew? The Christian Community today?
- Very large amounts of money are being traded. Is this supporting capitalist greed and risk-taking or is it reduced to a ‘small matter’ in comparison to the new ‘great responsibilities’ of the Kingdom of God?
- Reflect personally and name your ‘talents’. From this parable what do you think God asks of you? If you were to be judged on your current use of your talents what might be the conclusion?

Message of Pope Francis for 2023 World Day of the Poor – 19 November 2023

“Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tob 4:7). These words help us to understand the essence of our witness. A father, Tobit, embraces his son, Tobias, who is about to set out on a lengthy journey. The elderly Tobit fears that he will never again see his son, and so leaves him his “spiritual testament”. Tobit had been deported to Nineveh and is now blind, and thus doubly poor. At the same time, he remains always certain of one thing, expressed by his very name: “*The Lord has been my good*”. As a God-fearing man and a good father, he wants to leave his son the witness of the right path to follow in life. He speaks of carrying out good works and practising justice. Faith teaches us to go more deeply.

That of Tobit is a remarkable story. Despite being such a good man, he was put to the test. As Scripture often teaches us, God does not spare trials to those who are righteous. Why? It is not to disgrace us, but to strengthen our faith in Him. Tobit, in his time of trial, discovers his own poverty, which enables him to recognise others who are poor. He is faithful to God’s law and keeps the commandments, but for him this is not enough. He can show practical concern for the poor because he has personally known what it is to be poor.

Everyone is our neighbour. If I myself am poor, I can recognise my brothers or sisters in need of my help. We are called to acknowledge every poor person and every form of poverty, abandoning the indifference and the banal excuses we make to protect our illusory wellbeing.

On this 60th anniversary of the Encyclical ‘Pacem in Terris’, we do well to take to heart the following words of Pope Saint John XXIII: “Every human being enjoys the right to life, to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life”. I think in particular of peoples caught up in situations of war. We should never grow accustomed to such situations. Let us persevere in every effort to foster peace as a gift of the Risen Lord and the fruit of a commitment to justice and dialogue.

The poor are persons; they have faces, stories, hearts and souls. They are our brothers and sisters, and it is important to enter into a personal relation with each of them. This requires us to seek out and find one another. Caring for the poor calls for reestablishing the just interpersonal relationships that poverty harms. What the poor need is certainly our humanity, our hearts open to love. Let us never forget that “*we are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends*” (Evangelii Gaudium). Faith teaches us also that every poor person is a son or daughter of God.



CALENDAR

Monday

November 20

Weekday

1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63

Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday

November 21

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Mc 6:18-31

Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday

November 22

St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

2 Mc 7:1, 20-31

Lk 19:11-28

Thursday

November 23

Weekday

1 Mc 2:15-29

Lk 19:41-44

Thanksgiving Day

Sir 50:22-24

1 Cor 1:3-9

Lk 17:11-19

Friday

November 24

St. Andrew

Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59

Lk 19:45-48

Saturday

November 25

Weekday

1 Mc 6:1-13

Lk 20:27-40

Sunday

November 26

Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17

1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

Mt 25:31-46

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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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 19, 2023

My grandmother says Catholics used to fast from midnight until they received Communion. When did the fasting time change to only one hour, and why?

The ancient discipline of fasting before Communion became a universal practice by the fifth century. Until 1953, those who would receive holy Communion refrained from consuming food, water, and medicine from midnight to the time of Communion. In 1953 and 1957, Pope Pius XII reduced the fast from food to three hours and from water for one hour (*Christus Dominus* and *Sacram Communionem*).

In 1966, Pope St. Paul VI further reduced the fast to one hour and allowed water and medicine at any time (*Paenitemini*). In 1973, he reduced the fast for the sick and elderly to fifteen minutes before Communion when one hour is prohibitive (*Immensae Caritatis*).

The loosening of the restrictions was in no way intended to lessen the reverence for the holy Eucharist. The changes were made to allow as many Catholics as possible to receive the Eucharist, which can be difficult when priests are in short supply. For the same reason, *Immensae Caritatis* also allowed the practice of having extraordinary ministers give Communion. Despite the changes to the Communion fast, unity and uniformity have been maintained. And of course, Catholics are free to fast before Communion beyond the duration and degree currently prescribed. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, 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: TAKE AND EAT THIS BREAD (No. 928)

FINAL HYMN: THERE ARE MANY ROOMS (No. 867) **PLEASE STAND**

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Sunday, 19 November 2023

ENTRANCE HYMN: MAKING THEIR WAY (No. 845) **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: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs:

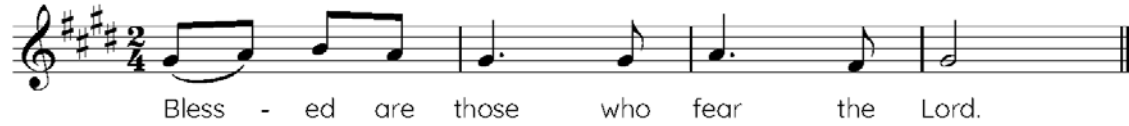
When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailling prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and works with loving hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Charm is

deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 128: BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD



1. Blessed are you who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored. (R)
2. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home;
Your children like olive plants around your table. (R)
3. Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion:
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. (R)

SECOND READING: 1 Thes 5:1-6

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

Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. When people are saying, "Peace and security," then sudden disaster comes upon them, like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

**All: Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me bears much fruit.**

GOSPEL: Mt 25:14-30

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: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one--to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

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:
"Graciously listen to your people, O God."**

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN: I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT (No. 593)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND