

LIVING THE WORD

- ❖ Isaiah chapters 40-55 are known as the 'Book of Comfort'. The Prophet is speaking encouraging words to the exiles as they return home and seek to rebuild their lives and the Temple in Jerusalem. Isaiah is also known as the 'carrier of the hope of the Messiah', foretelling a time when God will come among his people. Can you see the prediction of John the Baptist and Jesus in the reading from Isaiah? What image speaks personally to you on your Advent journey?
- ❖ The preparation of a straight road or a royal highway was known to happen in ancient times when a very special person was to visit. Physically, valleys were filled and hills were lowered to make the way smooth and easy. At great expense! As Advent invites us to make a clear pathway for the Lord, what roadblocks, ditches and hills require the earthmoving equipment of prayer, spiritual direction and reconciliation?
- ❖ The 2nd Letter of Peter is regarded as possibly the latest of the New Testament Letters. Obviously they are concerned with the delay of Jesus' coming. Peter teaches God's final judgment is not based on human calendars. While Peter uses the popular belief of the time of a final 'fire' at the end of time, he also emphasises the need for good behaviour and righteousness (*whereas gnostics did not consider there would be a future judgment and therefore immorality was irrelevant*). Would Christ's coming find you 'eager to be found without spot'? At peace? What is the source of your 'dis-ease'?
- ❖ Today we hear the beginning of the Gospel of Mark; the Gospel we will listen to for the rest of the Year. Mark immediately shares the 'secret' in the first line. We are about to hear 'gospel' (good news about a victory battle over evil) done by Jesus Christ. He is the one who reveals by words and actions of power that he has all the attributes of God = Son of God. Is your interest raised? Consider spending a few hours to read Mark (the shortest gospel) for Advent.
- ❖ To announce a figure of such great importance requires a voice to 'proclaim' the imminent arrival. This is the role of John the Baptist. Significantly, John does this at the Jordan River – at the same crossing point Israel left the desert and entered the Promised Land. A new rescuing by God is taking place. John is painted to be like the great prophet Elijah who was to return to prepare for 'the great day of the Lord'. Who has been a holy witness and 'prophet', like John the Baptist, on *your* faith journey? Who could you be a holy witness for this advent, calling them back to God?

An Advent Reflection from a fellow traveller – New York Times 5th Dec, 2021

Advent is a season of hope, and part of practicing hope is noticing where we need it. In church, congregants sing a well-known Advent hymn that begins, "O come, o come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel." We recall that we require ransom and rescue. Another year has gone by and we still live in a world in need of mending. We have learned anew through these long years that a virus can suddenly change our lives, that our illusions of control and predictability are fragile and faulty, that lies are often mistaken as truth, that we cannot keep ourselves or those we love from pain, that the wreckage of poverty, injustice and darkness persists. This is the very world of heartbreak, Christians say each year, into which Christ came and will come again.

The sister of hope, which looks forward, is remembering, which looks back. We recall God's faithfulness in the midst of pain or beauty in the past to trust in God's future presence and redemption. In an article for the BBC, Ed Prideaux wrote that part of how we recover from trauma is to remember and reflect. When trauma goes unprocessed, undiscussed, perhaps actively repressed, he wrote, we, as a group, "remain disturbed and unhealed."

"Advent" means arrival or "coming." In this season, the Christian liturgy asks us to imaginatively wait for the first coming of Christ at Christmas and for his promised future return (which is sometimes called the Second Coming). But we also wait for the coming of Christ in our own small lives. The Church marks out this season for reflection, repentance and stillness not only because life is worth paying attention to (which it is), but also because the hope of Christmas cannot simply be a theoretical hope for a theoretical life. We walk into the Christmas season bringing with us all the particular days, minutes, struggles and laughter of this year.

So before we sing "Joy to the World," before we pop open the bubbly, before we ring bells and open gifts on Christmas morning, we recall the actual and ordinary ways we need God's blessings to "flow far as the curse is found." We recall how we await the coming of Christ in the specific pain, disappointments, losses, relationships, work, needs and joys of this very moment in our lives.

"I have learned that in the darkness," I wrote, "I need to intentionally look out for how God is actively noticing and loving us. And I learn to do this through prayer. Prayer adjusts our eyes to notice God in the darkness, just as our pupils dilate to let in more light, to see more than we first thought we could."



CALENDAR

Monday

December 11
Advent Weekday
Is 35:1-10
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday

December 12
Our Lady of
Guadalupe
Zec 2:14-17 or
Rv 11:19a;
12:1-6a, 10ab
Lk 1:26-38 or
Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday

December 13
St. Lucy, Virgin
and Martyr
Is 40:25-31
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

December 14
St. John
of the Cross,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church
Is 41:13-20
Mt 11:11-15

Friday

December 15
Advent Weekday
Is 48:17-19
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday

December 16
Advent Weekday
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday

December 17
Third Sunday
of Advent
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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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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

December 10, 2023

***Do Catholics have to marry in the Church?
If a couple decides to marry outside of the
Church, are they still allowed to receive
Communion and other sacraments?***

Catholics are obligated to follow the laws of the Church, including those laws regarding marriage. If a Catholic marries outside the Church, meaning that they did not follow Church law, then they may not receive the other sacraments until their marriage has been witnessed by the Church.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony for the couple, but it is also a ceremony for the Church. The Christian community is called upon to witness the ceremony, with the bishop, priest, or deacon called upon to bless the union in the name of the Church. The Church can dispense from the form, that is, the place of the wedding, for good cause, and does so when necessary. When a dispensation from the law is granted, then the person has followed the marriage laws of the Church and is free to receive the sacraments.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony in which a sacrament is conferred. While the park may be pretty or the church down the street may be bigger, neither is a sufficient reason to ignore marriage law and marry outside the Church. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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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, 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: YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART (No. 940)

FINAL HYMN: COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS (Please see insertion)

PLEASE STAND



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)

Sunday, 10 December 2023

ENTRANCE HYMN: ON JORDAN'S BANK (No. 418) 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).

FIRST READING: Is 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 85: LORD, LET US SEE YOUR KINDNESS

1. I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land. (R)
2. Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven. (R)
3. The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps. (R)

SECOND READING: 2 Pt 3:8-14**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Peter:**

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

GOSPEL: Mk 1:1-8

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the Good News according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 born in us; be born in our world.”

PLEASE BE SEATED**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST****PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS****OFFERTORY HYMN: WAIT FOR THE LORD (No. 406)****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**HOLY**

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