

# LIVING THE WORD

- ❖ The Book of Deuteronomy is a book of long sermons and reflections. It is regarded as the second law ('deutero', from the Greek 'deuteros', meaning 'second'), an insightful reflection on the teachings of Moses. Although considered the 'Great Prophet', Moses did not lead God's people into the Promised Land. Yet the community realised how necessary it was to have someone completely 'in tune' with God who could correct and guide them. Are you frightened to 'hear the voice of God'? Do you resist 'being still' and listening to the deepest voice of God within your spirit? Is there a 'prophet' that God has placed in your life and you know it is important to 'listen to the words of their mouth'?
- ❖ A true prophet speaks what God has spoken. It is not made up wisdom. Have you 'presumed to speak in my name'? Consider praying to God for particular wisdom and insight for people whom you guide with your words and witness. Do any images, words or ideas come to mind? Write them down and continue to ask God for guidance.
- ❖ St Paul's writings teach of equality of men and women in marriage. Putting the Letter to the Corinthians in context, Paul's early writings presume Jesus' return is to happen so soon that it is best to let nothing distract us from being ready. What makes you anxious? Distracted from God?
- ❖ The Gospel of Mark immediately shows Jesus overcoming the forces of Evil. Check out a typical day of Jesus in Mark chapters 1-3! The battle between Good and Evil is striking. Unclean spirits are taunted and afraid and, surprisingly, acknowledge Jesus' identity before anyone else. Jesus is experienced differently from the scribes who taught legal rules. Jesus, in his words and actions, brought healing and liberation. Are you a person of 'word' and 'action'? Is your word filled with commitment to bring about what you have said?
- ❖ Exorcisms done by Jesus symbolise and reveal the ultimate struggle between Good and Evil that Jesus is involved with. To bring the Kingdom of God into reality involves 'fighting against evil'. Is there anything that you are doing in your life that Jesus would *not* do? If Jesus were to be in your home or workplace, what would he resist? Fight? Seek to change?
- ❖ Jesus is shown to be the true prophet, fulfilling the prophecy of Moses (first reading), whose word is the Word of God. Yet he breaks the Sabbath Law by 'working a healing'. He does this in the synagogue, in front of the scribes (*Church leaders who teach the Law*). He creates a disturbance, with the man convulsing and shaking in front of a crowd as he is released from domination by an evil spirit. Jesus as a prophet makes people uncomfortable. *'Prophets make lovely additions to the Bible, but you certainly don't want one in your neighbourhood. No Sir! Prophets wreak havoc on the status quo...'* Can you identify anyone who is prophetic? Whose presence brings God into your life, and causes havoc in re-establishing God's Order? What prophetic word or act could you do this week?

## POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS TO THE HOLY SEE'S DIPLOMATIC CORPS

***At the start of every year, the Pope, as Head of State, addresses the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See. For 2024, this happened on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Each year, I read this address of Pope Francis and I never cease to be impressed. It is like a Presidential Address on the "State of The World". Therefore, over this Sunday and next, I share some of the Pope's address, as it is both enlightening and hopeful, both of which our world needs – Enlightenment and Hope.***

The path to peace calls for respect for life, for every human life, starting with the life of the unborn child in the mother's womb, which cannot be suppressed or turned into an object of trafficking. In this regard, I deem deplorable the practice of so-called surrogate motherhood, which represents a grave violation of the dignity of the woman and the child, based on the exploitation of situations of the mother's material needs. A child is always a gift and never the basis of a commercial contract. I note with regret, especially in the West, the continued spread of a culture of death, which in the name of a false compassion discards children, the elderly and the sick. The path to peace calls for respect for human rights, in accordance with the simple yet clear formulation contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These principles are self-evident and commonly accepted.

Dialogue, on the other hand, must be the soul of the international community. The current situation is also the result of the weakening of structures of multilateral diplomacy that arose after the Second World War. Organisations established to foster security, peace and cooperation are no longer capable of uniting all their members around one table. There is the risk of a "monadology" and of splitting into "clubs" that only admit states deemed ideologically compatible. Even agencies devoted to the common good and to technical questions, which have thus far proved effective, risk paralysis due to ideological polarisation and exploitation by individual states. To be sure, dialogue requires patience, perseverance and an ability to listen, yet when sincere attempts are made to put an end to disagreements, significant results can be achieved. The way to peace is through political and social dialogue.

The path to peace also passes through interreligious dialogue, which before all else requires the protection of religious freedom and respect for minorities. It is painful to note that an increasing number of countries are adopting models of centralised control over religious freedom, especially by the massive use of technology. In other places, minority religious communities often find themselves in increasingly precarious situations.

*To be continued.....*



## CALENDAR

### MONDAY

January 29  
*Weekday*  
2 Sm 15:13-14,  
30; 16:5-13  
Mk 5:1-20

### TUESDAY

January 30  
*Weekday*  
2 Sm 18:9-10,  
14b, 24-25a,  
30-19:3  
Mk 5:21-43

### WeDNESDAY

January 31  
*St. John Bosco,  
Priest*  
2 Sm 24:2, 9-17  
Mk 6:1-6

### THURSDAY

February 1  
*Weekday*  
1 Kgs 2:1-4,  
10-12  
Mk 6:7-13

### FRIDAY

February 2  
*Presentation  
of the Lord*  
Mal 3:1-4  
Heb 2:14-18  
Lk 2:22-40 or  
2:22-32

### SATURDAY

February 3  
*Weekday*  
1 Kgs 3:4-13  
Mk 6:30-34

### SUNDAY

February 4  
*Fifth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*  
Jb 7:1-4, 6-7  
1 Cor 9:16-19,  
22-23  
Mk 1:29-39

## 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

January 28, 2024

***Why is the Old Testament part of Christian  
worship? Parts of the Old Testament seem to  
be opposed to the teachings of Christ.***

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says it best:  
“The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sa-  
cred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and re-  
tain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never  
been revoked” (CCC 121).

The Old Testament, also referred to as the Hebrew  
Scriptures, is the only Bible Jesus ever knew. That is  
an important reason to try to understand these Scrip-  
tures. The Pentateuch (first five books), the prophets,  
the Book of Psalms, and the wisdom writings all had  
a profound impact on Jesus. His image of God as Fa-  
ther, his preaching, his parables, and his proclamation  
of the reign of God were all influenced by the Hebrew  
Scriptures.

It is true that Jesus' preaching also goes beyond  
the Old Testament. At times he substitutes what the  
law has to say with an even more demanding require-  
ment (see, for example, the Sermon on the Mount). In  
general, however, the Old Testament forms a context  
for understanding what Jesus was doing. His passion  
and death made no sense to his first followers except  
in light of the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament  
(Isaiah 52:13—53:12). There are many more examples  
like this one. Thus, the *Catechism* says “the Old Tes-  
tament bears witness to the whole divine pedagogy  
of God's saving love” (CCC 122). ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

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**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.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

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: MANY AND GREAT (No. 911)**

**FINAL HYMN: LEAD ME, LORD PLEASE STAND**

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, longing for their Lord, for God's coming kingdom shall be theirs. Blessed are the sorrowing, for they shall be consoled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.  
(R) Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to seek and to find the narrow way. Be my way; be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, today.
2. Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God. Blest are they whose hunger only holiness can fill, for I say they shall be satisfied. (R)
3. Blest are they who through their lifetimes sow the seeds of peace; all will call them children of the Lord. Blest are you, though persecuted in your holy life, for in heaven, great is your reward. (R)

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**  
*Sunday, 28 January 2024*

**ENTRANCE: 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, 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: Dt 18:15-20**

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

Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.' And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'"

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

[ 2 ]

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 95: IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE**



If to-day you hear his voice, hard-en not your hearts.

1. Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him. (R)
2. Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides. (R)
3. Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works." (R)

**SECOND READING: 1 Cor 7:32-35**

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

Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA PLEASE STAND**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)**

**All: The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen.**

**GOSPEL: Mk 1:21-28**

**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.**

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

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

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

[ 3 ]

**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:**

**“Compassionate God, hear us.”**

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY: THE SUMMONS (No. 790)**

**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, 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.**

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

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