

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR LENT 2024
"THROUGH THE DESERT GOD LEADS US TO FREEDOM"

When God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom. The call to freedom is a demanding one. It is not answered straightaway; it has to mature as part of a journey. God's people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind. We realise how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a fruitless and endless desert. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more the place of our first love, where *God shapes his people* for life.

The exodus from slavery to freedom is no abstract journey. If our celebration of Lent is to be concrete, the first step is to desire to *open our eyes to reality*. The cry of so many of our oppressed brothers and sisters rises to heaven. Let us ask ourselves: *Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us?*

As a way of countering the globalisation of indifference, I asked two questions, which have become more and more pressing: *"Where are you?"* and *"Where is your brother?"* Baptism has begun our process of liberation, yet there remains in us an inexplicable longing for slavery, an attraction to security to the detriment of our freedom. It is God who is moved and brings freedom. *Do I want a new world?*

Let us welcome Lent as *a season of conversion, a time of freedom*. Jesus himself, as we recall each Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. This, however, entails *a struggle*. To be feared are the idols that we too often set up for ourselves. To be all-powerful, to be looked up to by all, to domineer over others: every human being is aware of how deeply seductive that lie can be. We can become attached to money, to certain projects, ideas or goals, to our position, to a tradition, even to certain individuals. Instead of freeing us, they paralyse us, they create conflict. Yet there is a new humanity, a humble people who have not yielded to the allure of the lie.

It is time to act, and in Lent, *to act also means to pause*. To pause *in prayer*, in order to receive the word of God. *Slow down and pause!* The contemplative dimension of life, that Lent helps us to rediscover, will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another; we discover companions and fellow travelers. This is God's dream, the promised land to which we journey once we have left our slavery behind.

The Church's synodal form suggests that Lent is *a time of communitarian decisions*, of decisions, small and large, that are countercurrent. These are decisions capable of altering the daily lives of individuals and neighbourhoods – how we acquire goods, care for creation, and strive to include those excluded. I invite every Christian community to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society and the contribution they make to its betterment.

As I told the young people in Lisbon last summer: "Keep seeking and be ready to take risks. At this moment in time, we face enormous risks. Yet let us find the courage to see our world, not as being in its death throes but in a process of giving birth, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history. We need courage to think like this".

The Plock Cathedral Youth Choir of Poland is with us today to lead us in song.
We warmly welcome them as together we worship and give thanks to our wondrous God,
this First Sunday of Lent

"The choir Pueri et Puellae Cantores Plocenses was created in 1998 by Anna and Wiktor Bramski. It started as a male choir; then, in 2006, a female group joined in. Since its very beginning it has been intimately connected to The Cathedral Church in Plock, Poland. Currently the choir has over one hundred members, who faithfully participate in the cultural life of the city, honour religious ceremonies and national holidays. What's more, the choir takes an active part in Mass at Plock's Cathedral Basilica every Sunday. It is also a promoter of two festivals – choral and organ. The conductor of the choir, Anna Bramska, and its artistic director, Wiktor Bramski, were both awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medals by Pope Francis, in 2018.

The choristers proudly represent Poland. They have won over one hundred national and international awards and prizes in competitions all around the world. The choir performed several times on the stage of The Great Theatre Polish National Opera in Warsaw. It also gave concerts in The Great Hall of The People in Beijing, Saint Anne's Basilica in Jerusalem, Rome's Pantheon, Daichi Seimei Hall in Tokyo, Washington's Basilica of The Nations, Duomo Cathedral Church in Milan, Sagrada Familia Basilica in Barcelona and on the stages of philharmonics in Warsaw, Kiev, Lviv, Berlin and also Bangkok.

The choir's repertoire includes works of almost all ages – from medieval Gregorian chants, through classics of Baroque and Romanticism, to modern, contemporary songs, by both Polish and foreign composers. In addition to mainstream sacred music, they also perform folk and patriotic songs. The group has also recorded 17 albums so far. They include Mozart's *Requiem*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Dworzak's *Stabat Mater*, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Allegri's *Miserere Mei Deus*."

(an introduction provided by the leadership of the choir)

Today, our community of faith is given a great opportunity to experience the wider Church in worship, as the Plock Cathedral Youth Choir joins us to lead us in song. They will lead us, by singing the hymns and parts of the Mass in Latin. The chosen hymns arise from our Church's rich tradition in liturgical music. So our Mass today, in ways new for us, poignantly puts us in touch with the beauty and treasure of our Universal Church.

Let us ever keep our eyes open to the bigger vision of church. On this First Sunday of Lent, let us heartily give thanks and open ourselves up to God's love and vision for us. May our journey towards Easter be a life-giving one.

– John P Murray osa –



CALENDAR

MONDAY

February 19
Lenten Weekday
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18
Mt 25:31-46

TUESDAY

February 20
Lenten Weekday
Is 55:10-11
Mt 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY

February 21
Lenten Weekday
Jon 3:1-10
Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY

February 22
Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
1 Pt 5:1-4
Mt 16:13-19

FRIDAY

February 23
Lenten Weekday
Ez 18:21-28
Mt 5:20-26

SATURDAY

February 24
Lenten Weekday
Dt 26:16-19
Mt 5:43-48

SUNDAY

February 25
Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 22:1-2, 9a,
10-13, 15-18
Rom 8:31b-34
Mk 9:2-10

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

February 18, 2024

We're in the middle of home renovations, and the season of Lent is beginning. Everything is in total disarray. Any ideas to help me "keep my religion" at this time?

"There is...a time to tear down, and a time to build" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3). During the season of Lent—a word meaning "spring"—we are called to put away the "dead" deeds of winter. It's a time of spiritual "spring cleaning" for the individual and for the faith community. As nature renews herself every spring, so do we. The change of season may even prompt a renovation project—the kind you are now undertaking. The structural changes to a home afford many spiritual parallels—the redoing of your physical home can be a challenge to realign your spiritual home during Lent.

In the Genesis story, God is pleased with the handiwork of his creation. Likewise, our stamina, perseverance, and patience to see a work through to its completion are cause for great satisfaction and celebration. This would remind us that we are made in the same image of God, who took delight in his own work. Lent also can become a time of delighting in ourselves as God's special and ongoing creation.

When your home improvement project is completed, arrange for a blessing of your home. Enthroned a special cross or icon to venerate, light a devotional candle, and use holy water in the area of the home that was improved. At that time, remind yourself again that you and your home belong to the Lord—renewed during the spring cleaning of Lent! ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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RECESSIONAL: AVE REGINA CAELORUM - GREGORIAN CHANT PLEASE STAND

Ave, Regina caelorum, Ave, Domina Angelorum:
Salve, radix, salve, porta Ex qua mundo lux est orta:
Gaude, Virgo gloriosa, Super omnes speciosa,
Vale, o valde decora, Et pro nobis Christum exora.

Hail, Queen of heaven, hail Lady of the angels.
Hail root and gate from which the Light of the world was born.
Rejoice glorious Virgin, fairest of all.
Fare thee well, most beautiful, and pray for us to Christ.

STABAT MATER DOLOROSA BY ZOLTAN KODAY

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Stabat Mater dolorosa
luxta crucem lacrimosa
Dum pendeat Filius.</p> <p>2. Cuius animae gementem
Contristatam et dolentem
Pertransivit gladius.</p> <p>3. O quam tristis et afflicta
Fuit illa benedicta
Mater unigeniti!</p> <p>4. Quando corpus morietur,
Fac, ut animae donetur
Paradisi gloria. Amen.</p> | <p>1. The grieving Mother stood
beside the cross weeping
where her Son was hanging.</p> <p>2. Through her weeping soul,
compassionate and grieving,
a sword passed</p> <p>3. O how sad and afflicted
was that blessed
Mother of the Only-begotten!</p> <p>4. My body dies,
grant that to my soul is given
the glory of paradise. Amen.</p> |
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As is our tradition, the ashes, symbolising the start of Lent, will be distributed directly after the end of Mass, on this First Sunday of Lent. You are invited to come forward to one of the ministers distributing the ashes. The minister will apply the ashes to your forehead, while saying the words – “Repent and believe in the Gospel.”

1st Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Sunday, 18 February 2024

ENTRANCE: ATTENDE DOMINE – GREGORIAN CHANT FOR LENT PLEASE STAND

REFRAIN: Attende, Domine, et miserere, quia peccavimus tibi.

1. **Ad te Rex summe, omnium redemptor, oculos nostros sublevamus flentes: exaudi, Christe, supplicatum preces. (R)**
2. **Dextera Patris, lapis angularis, via salutis, ianua caelestis, ablue nostri maculas delicti. (R)**
3. **Rogamus, Deus, tuam maiestatem: auribus sacris gemitus exaudi: crimina nostra placidus indulge. (R)**
4. **Tibi fatemur crimina admissa: contrito corde pandimus occulta: tua Redemptor, pietas ignoscat. (R)**
5. **Innocens captus, nec repugnans ductus, testibus falsis pro impiis damnatus: quos redemisti, tu conserva, Christe. (R)**

REFRAIN: Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you.

1. To You, high King, Redeemer of all, weeping we lift our eyes; hear, Christ, the prayers of Your servants. (R)
2. Right hand of the Father, cornerstone, path of salvation and gate of heaven, cleanse the stains of our sins. (R)
3. We ask, God, your majesty, listen to the groaning with your sacred ears, mercifully forgive our offenses. (R)
4. To You we confess committed sin, with contrite heart we unveil hidden faults; may Your mercy, Redeemer, forgive.. (R)
5. Seized though innocent, led away unresisting, condemned by false witness in place of the guilty, Christ keep those whom You has redeemed.. (R)

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 (MISSA DE ANGELIS)

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

FIRST READING: Gn 9:8-15**A reading from the Book of Genesis:**

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings."

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALMS 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

REFRAIN: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. **Let all them be confounded that act unjust things without cause. shew, O Lord, thy ways to me, and teach me thy paths. Direct me in thy truth, and teach me; for thou art God my Saviour; and on thee have I waited all the day long. (R)**
2. **Remember, O Lord, thy bowels of compassion; and thy mercies that are from the beginning of the world. The sins of my youth and my ignorances do not remember. According to thy mercy remember thou me: for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. (R)**
3. **The Lord is sweet and righteous: therefore he will give a law to sinners in the way. He will guide the mild in judgment: he will teach the meek his ways. (R)**

SECOND READING: 1 Pt 3:18-22**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter:**

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION PLEASE STAND

REFRAIN: Glory to You, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ

**One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**

AGNUS DEI

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.**

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: PANIS ANGELICUS BY CESAR FRANCK

**Panis angelicus fit panis hominum;
Dat panis coelicus figuris terminum:
O res mirabilis! Manducat Dominum
Pauper, pauper, servus et humilis.**

The angel's bread becomes the bread of men

The heavenly bread ends all symbols

Oh, miraculous thing! The body of the Lord will nourish

The poor, poor, and humble servant

AVE VERUM CORPUS BY EDVARD ELGAR

**Ave, verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine:
cuius latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum, in mortis examine.
O Jesu dulcis, O Jesu pie, O Jesu Fili Mariae.**

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,
truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
from whose pierced side flowed water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet] in the trial of death!
O merciful, O pious, O sweet Jesus, Son of Mary.

[4]

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

SANCTUS

**Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.**

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.

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.

AMEN

Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

PATER NOSTER

**Pater noster, qui es in caelis, sanctificetur nomen tuum;
Adveniat regnum tuum. Fiat voluntas tua sicut in caelo et in terra.
Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie,
Et dimitte nobis debita nostra, sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris.
Et ne nos inducas in tentationem; sed libera nos a malo.**

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.**

[3]

GOSPEL: Mk 1:12-15

Priest: The Lord be with you. **All: And with your spirit.**
Priest: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. **All: Glory to you, Lord.**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

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:
"Lead us into the desert, O God."**

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: LOCUS ISTE BY ANTON BRÜCKNER

**Locus iste a Deo factus est,
inaestimabile sacramentum,
irreprehensibilis est.**

This place was made by God,
a priceless sacrament;
it is without reproach.