

# LIVING THE WORD

- The Book of Leviticus is a set of legal instructions (code) for priests to ensure proper worship. Priests had the job of judging if someone was suffering – among many other things – from a skin condition (blotch, leprosy), which would make them contagious and, therefore, *unclean*. In close living conditions this would have ensured disease did not spread. Unfortunately, when labelled ‘unclean’, a person had to leave family and friends, and was excluded from society and worship in the Temple. It was psychologically and physically *‘death by exclusion’*. Imagine having to shout to everyone that you were ‘unclean’! Who do you label as ‘unclean’? Who is ‘living outside the Church camp’, feeling unable to be with the community, as they feel and perceive to be judged ‘unclean’? What could you do?
- Paul seeks to address another problem in the town of Corinth. Some Christians were upset that fellow Christians were buying food from the local butcher that had been sacrificed in pagan temples. Some were firm in their belief that there were no other gods so it was irrelevant. Others were afraid. Paul encourages an approach of *‘avoid giving offence and try to please everyone’*. Is there anything in your life which is offending another? How could you more closely imitate Christ?
- Healing is costly for the leper and the Healer (Jesus). The leper has put himself in danger by being in the crowd. They could have been violent, outraged that his closeness to them made them ‘ritually unclean’ and possibly contaminating them with his skin disease. Is there something in your life causing you great sadness. Can you find the willingness to suffer the cost of seeking healing? What obstacles do you need to break through?
- Jesus is full of emotion toward the leper. *‘Moved with pity’* does not translate the original Greek accurately. It is literally *‘having one’s intestines in an uproar!’* Some translations write ‘moved with anger’. Jesus is angry at the sad state of the leper, the exclusion, the pain. God’s heart is wrenched with compassion and pain. If Jesus heals, he knows this will further increase his popularity and possibly misidentify him as *only* a ‘wonder worker’. He heals him but commands him to be quiet. He insists he go to get a certificate of cleanliness from the Temple. He wants him to be included back into society and made ‘whole’ again. Are your intestines in an uproar about injustice, people caught in the bondage of sin, unjust exclusion? If not, why not?
- Jesus’ popularity increases to such an extent that he is now forced into ‘deserted places’, unable to enter a town openly. His life has now taken on the lived experience of those who were labelled ‘unclean’. Have you experienced the ‘cost’ of helping someone and living with the consequences of upsetting community and religious boundaries? Has it made you more or less willing to ‘heal’ again? What happened ...?

***Pope Francis wanted to share with all of us on the liturgy. To this end, he wrote an Apostolic Letter, DESIDERIO DESIDERAVI (Feast of Peter and Paul, 2022).  
Let us read and learn from him.***

My dearest brothers and sisters,

With this letter I desire to reach you all, to share with you some reflections on the liturgy, a dimension fundamental for the life of the Church. I offer reflections that can aid in the contemplation of the beauty and truth of Christian celebration.

No one had earned a place at that Supper. All had been invited. All had been drawn there by the burning desire that Jesus had to eat that Passover with them. He knows that he is the Lamb of that Passover meal; he knows that he is the Passover. This is the absolute newness, the absolute originality, of that Supper, the only truly new thing in history, which renders that Supper unique and for this reason “the Last Supper,” unrepeatable.

The world still does not know it, but everyone is invited to the supper of the wedding of the Lamb (Rev 19: 9). To be admitted to the feast all that is required is the wedding garment of faith which comes from the hearing of his Word. The Church tailors such a garment to fit each one with the whiteness of a garment bathed in the blood of the Lamb (Rev 7:14). We must not allow ourselves even a moment of rest, knowing that still not everyone has received an invitation to this Supper or knowing that others have forgotten it or have got lost along the way in the twists and turns of human living. This is what I spoke of when I said, *“I dream of a ‘missionary option’, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.”* (Evangelii Gaudium, n. 27). I want this so that all can be seated at the Supper of the sacrifice of the Lamb and live from Him.

Well before our response to his invitation, there is his desire for us. We may not even be aware of it, but every time we go to Mass, the first reason is that we are drawn there by his desire for us. For our part, the possible response is, as always, that surrender to this love, that letting ourselves be drawn by him. Indeed, every reception of communion of the Body and Blood of Christ was already desired by him in the Last Supper.

***To be continued ....***



## CALENDAR

### MONDAY

February 12  
Weekday  
Jas 1:1-11  
Mk 8:11-13

### TUESDAY

February 13  
Weekday  
Jas 1:12-18  
Mk 8:14-21

### WEDNESDAY

February 14  
Ash Wednesday  
Jl 2:12-18  
2 Cor 5:20-6:2  
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

### THURSDAY

February 15  
Thursday after  
Ash Wednesday  
Dt 30:15-20  
Lk 9:22-25

### FRIDAY

February 16  
Friday after  
Ash Wednesday  
Is 58:1-9a  
Mt 9:14-15

### SATURDAY

February 17  
Saturday after  
Ash Wednesday  
Is 58:9b-14  
Lk 5:27-32

### SUNDAY

February 18  
First Sunday  
of Lent  
Gn 9:8-15  
1 Pt 3:18-22  
Mk 1:12-15

## 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

February 11, 2024

***I am having a difficult time receiving Communion from a eucharistic minister who has been behaving in a manner that I don't consider moral. When I receive Communion from her, I feel like I am condoning her actions. Would it be wrong of me to go to a different person to receive Communion?***

It seems unlikely that someone would assume you are condoning her actions by receiving Communion from her. We do not sin by receiving a sacrament from an unworthy person. What matters is how worthy we are to receive it. It might be wise to receive Communion from a different person if you are more concerned with this minister's behavior than you are with Jesus when you approach the sacrament.

It is not our task to expose and punish the sinner. If you look at the life of Jesus, you will see that he did everything possible not to condemn sinners but to save them. We should take that as the model for our own lives. Try to find ways to encourage her to live a good life. Perhaps friendship would serve her better than a boycott of her Communion line.

When Jesus was presented with the woman caught in adultery, he did not pretend that it was right. Neither did he rush to condemn her. He looked for his opportunity to forgive and tell her to avoid sin. Use that as your example about how to treat the woman at church. ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

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[ 4 ]

**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.

**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: DRAW NEAR (No. 935)**

**FINAL: PEACE IS FLOWING LIKE A RIVER (No. 819) PLEASE STAND**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

*Sunday, 11 February 2024*

**ENTRANCE: WE PRAISE YOU (No. 617) 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: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46**

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

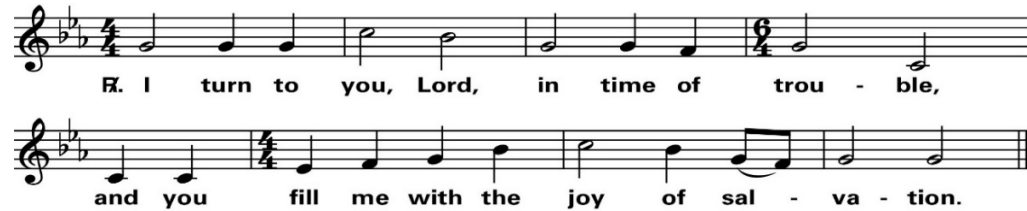
The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head.

“The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean!’ As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp.”

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 32: I TURN TO YOU, LORD**



1. Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered.  
Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt,  
in whose spirit there is no guile. (R)
2. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not.  
I said, “I confess my faults to the LORD,” and you took away the guilt of my sin. (R)
3. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart. (R)

**SECOND READING: 1 Cor 10:31—11:1**

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

Brothers and sisters: Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA PLEASE STAND**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

**All: A great prophet has arisen in our midst, God has visited his people**

**GOSPEL: Mk 1:40-45**

**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.**

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, “See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.”

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

**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:**

**“Compassionate God, hear us!”**

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY: I HAVE LOVED YOU (No. 588)**

**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**