

# LIVING THE WORD

- ❖ The continuing theme of being ‘fed by God’ is developed further in the readings this week. Elijah sits exhausted under a tree in the desert. He is being hunted down by Princess Jezebel who was married to the King of Israel. She tried to replace all prophets and temples of Yahweh by importing 450 prophets and followers of B’aal from her homeland in Sidon. Elijah has just killed them all and is now on the run! (see 1Kings 18, 19-46) Have you ever got into difficulty as a result of obedience to God? Have you ever said to God: *‘this is enough’*? Is there any painful purifying of the Church that you find particularly difficult to participate in and endure?
- ❖ God encourages Elijah not to focus on his own pain and fear. God wants to offer food and strength for the 40-day journey ahead. Do you tend to focus on your own pain, and mumble and groan? How could you develop a habit of being open to help and ‘being fed’? God wishes us to move from simply ‘surviving’ to ‘thriving’. If you were to ask God or someone for help, what would be your question in one sentence? How could you grow your hunger so you experience ‘being fed’ with Scripture and the Eucharist?
- ❖ St Paul teaches that we were ‘sealed’ at our Baptism. A seal was a special jewel or stone, or metal cylinder, marked with a ‘sign’ and pressed upon clay or wax or object. The mark / seal indicated the owner’s signature, ownership, authority on a legal document or object. The link between the person and/or object was now displayed to the world. As ‘sealed’ people we are to witness to whom we belong. Paul inserts attributes displaying God: kindness, compassion, forgiveness. Are you conscious of being ‘sealed’? Is there any anger or bitterness the Spirit would like you to let go of so as not to ‘grieve the Spirit dwelling in you’?
- ❖ Jewish people often referred to their laws as ‘bread from heaven’. Their laws and teachings from Moses gave them life and revealed God to them. They grumble and murmur at Jesus’ claim *‘I am the bread that comes down from Heaven’*. Hidden within this phrase, Jesus is claiming the Divine Name ‘**I AM**’, and to replace the law. He teaches further that he is true life-giving bread, but that bread will now be replaced with ‘flesh’. John presents clearly the levels of meaning — Bread ... Jesus ... Flesh. Can you see in this text of John 6 the threads of our belief that in the Eucharist / Mass it is truly the ‘flesh’ of Jesus we receive? Do you recognise the invitation, following receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, to now *become ‘life-for-the-world’*?
- ❖ The only way God can be truly revealed is for someone to come from God and to live among us. This is indeed the great religious hope of the Jewish people. However, they become satisfied with the *laws* of God and were not ready to accept the *person* of God. Jesus claims he is this person: truly ‘from’ God and having ‘seen’ God. This is the claim of Christianity that sets us apart from other world religions. Because Jesus is divine — God among us — what he promises to give us, his Flesh and Blood, he *can* and *will* do. As we approach the end of 5 weeks of teaching on the Eucharist, consider prayerfully reading John 6. How would you explain the Eucharist now, in your own words?

If you had been listening carefully to the Commentator at Mass recently, he or she — when reading an announcement before Communion — would have read the words:

***“If you are a Catholic in good standing ... ”*** What, exactly, does this mean?

These words were not aimed at laying judgement on anyone. They were simply meant to present an easy and non-threatening reminder that the reception of Communion is for baptised Catholics, who have made their First Communion. Let me approach this from a logical stance, not an ethical one.

Firstly, everyone, who so chooses, is welcome to come to church and to Mass, for church is a public forum. Of course, it is a unique public forum, for it is about giving people sacred space in a busy and noisy world — space to pray, space to reflect, space to join with others in worship and prayer, space to celebrate the sacraments. This reminds us of a core value of church, which is that we are a welcoming, inclusive church, offering hospitality. Let us never forget that.

Secondly, let us ever acknowledge who we are and be proud of who we are. As Church, we are the Body of Christ. We are a Eucharistic Church. *This* is who we are. This is clearly reflected in the theology of the Fathers of the Church. This is our identity in the world, that comes to us through the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. We are never to make light of who we are, nor of what makes us who we are. Our identity as Church is a call from God. It is not just about us.

Thirdly, then it makes no logical sense for ones who are not fully initiated members of the Church or who do not believe in or know the Church’s teachings to receive communion. Everyone is welcome to be with us, to pray with us. Receiving Communion is another matter, for Communion lies at the heart of who we are as members of the Catholic Church. It is to do with our identity. Every person is truly welcome in our midst. However, not all of us gathered may be a baptised, fully-initiated member of our Universal Church. That is quite okay. The point regarding the reception of Communion is a separate matter. It becomes a question of what sense does it make for one who is *not* in communion with the Church to receive Communion?

Pope Francis has given us a great prayer for a Eucharistic Church. It was written for Grandparents’ Day.

*Lord, faithful God, renew our hearts with your Word.*

*and do not allow anyone to be cast aside.*

*May your Spirit of love fill us with your tenderness and teach us to say:*

***“I will not abandon you!”*** to those we meet on our journey.

– John P Murray osa



## CALENDAR

### MONDAY

August 12  
Weekday  
Ez 1:2-5, 24-28c  
Mt 17:22-27

### TUESDAY

August 13  
Weekday  
Ez 2:8-3:4  
Mt 18:1-5,  
10, 12-14

### WEDNESDAY

August 14  
St. Maximilian  
Kolbe, Priest  
and Martyr  
Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22  
Mt 18:15-20

### THURSDAY

August 15  
Assumption of  
the Blessed  
Virgin Mary  
Rv 11:19a;  
12:1-6a, 10ab  
1 Cor 15:20-27  
Lk 1:39-56

### FRIDAY

August 16  
Weekday  
Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63  
or 16:59-63  
Mt 19:3-12

### SATURDAY

August 17  
Weekday  
Ez 18:1-10,  
13b, 30-32  
Mt 19:13-15

### SUNDAY

August 18  
Twentieth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Prv 9:1-6  
Eph 5:15-20  
Jn 6:51-58

## 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

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Bangrak, Bangkok 10500  
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### PASTOR:

Rev. Ignatius Adisak Somsaengsuang

### ASSISTANTS:

Rev. Peter Booncharat Suksawang  
Rev. Francis Xavier Akranon Kitcharoen

### 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

August 11, 2024

***I miss the use of incense. Is it forbidden  
or out of style?***

Incense is not out of style, nor is it forbidden. It is still burned to signify that Christ's sacrifice ascends to God as an odor of sweetness and as a sign of people's prayers rising to the throne of God. In the Book of Revelation, we read: "Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer. He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones, on the gold altar that was before the throne. The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel" (Revelation 8:3-4).

Incense is a resinous substance obtained by cutting into the bark of a fir or pine tree. The original meaning of the Hebrew word for incense was "fragrant smoke." Ancient Jews burned incense as an act of worship in the tabernacle and temple. Scripture mentions incense often (Ephesians 5:2 and Philippians 4:18, for instance).

Today, incense is often used at the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, at funerals, and during other special liturgical celebrations to highlight the festivity of a particular occasion. Celebrants may also use incense in any liturgy to bless the congregation, the altar, the book of the Gospels, and the gifts of bread and wine. ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

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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.**

**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. (2)

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: WE REMEMBER (No. 681)**

**TAKE AND EAT (No. 950)**

**FINAL: LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING (No. 635) PLEASE STAND**

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

Sunday, 11 August 2024

**ENTRANCE: ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING (No. 611) 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: 1 Kgs 19:4-8**

**A reading from the first Book of Kings:**

Elijah went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death saying: "This is enough, O LORD! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat. Elijah looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water. After he ate and drank, he lay down again, but the angel of the LORD came back a second time, touched him, and ordered, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" He got up, ate, and

drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 34: TASTE AND SEE**



1. I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad. (R)
2. Glorify the LORD with me, Let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me And delivered me from all my fears. (R)
3. Look to him that you may be radiant with joy. And your faces may not blush with shame. When the afflicted man called out, the LORD heard, And from all his distress he saved him. (R)
4. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him and delivers them. Taste and see how good the LORD is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him. (R)

**SECOND READING: Eph 4:30—5:2**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:**

Brothers and sisters: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.

So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA: PLEASE STAND**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

**All: I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever.**

**GOSPEL: Jn 6:41-51**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**Priest:** A reading from the Good News according to John.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**All: Glory to you, Lord.**

The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: *They shall all be taught by God.* Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

**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 our refuge and strength, O God."**

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS**

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

**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.**