

LIVING THE WORD

- The Prophet Baruch shares a beautiful image for Advent. Have you noticed when you take off old clothes and put on new clothes there is a sense of joy and a new attitude? In ancient times, when a significant transformation happened, a new name was also given. Like last week, Jerusalem – which is us in the Church today – is invited to prepare by shaking off the old and putting on the cloak of justice. And, our new name is to be 'Peace of Justice'. What old ways of mourning and misery would you like to leave behind this Advent Season? How could your life reflect God's hope for you of *peace and justice, glory and worship*?
- The city of Jerusalem is on a hill. The view from the top of the Temple could see all peoples coming from every direction. Can you glimpse God's hope wanting us to stand up and invite everyone 'home' to Church this Christmas? Through us, mountains and gorges – difficult pathways – will be made level ground so people can return easily. Mercy and justice will be our story and song. Do you know anyone who is experiencing an obstacle to returning to God? To the Church? What earthmoving help could you offer to them personally?
- Paul had a special place in his heart for the community at Philippi. Paul wrote this Letter to them while in prison, facing a death sentence. They had provided financial assistance for his missionary journeys and now supported him in prison. He invites them to discern what is of value in their lives. At the end of the year consider evaluating your life in a positive light: what has helped you in purity? What areas of your life are blameless? How have you shown righteousness? How could you develop these experiences and practices more in future?
- Righteousness is an interesting word. In the Old Testament it was a title that was given by the poor to those who lifted up the poor. A rich person could not give this title to him- / herself. Reflecting on the past year, would the poor give *you* the title *righteous*? In what ways have you lifted them up? Was it charity or justice?
- Luke, like St Paul, is aware of a claim by courts and rulers that these Christian disciples are mad. Making up strange stories! Luke insists the evidence and life of Jesus is historical. Christianity started in a particular place and time in history. In the 15th year ... etc. With a great twist, Luke lines up the different rulers of the time. Traditionally, when rulers returned victorious from battle, people would line the streets and shout triumphantly: *'Lord, Saviour!'* Luke is turning attention to the true Saviour – Jesus – whose preparatory voice of victory is John the Baptist. How would you personally describe Jesus as 'Saviour'?
- Celebrating the Advent practice of reconciliation – Confession – encourages us to prepare our hearts. When a great King visited a city, workers were sent to straighten pathways, cut into mountains, and level valleys. Consider the effort involved to welcome the King! Reflect on this image and the famous words of John. What needs to be straightened out and filled in in your life? How much effort will *you* put into Advent?

A Holy Year is about to begin. *Stay Awake!*

Last Sunday, we received Ying into the Church. Primarily, she was drawn to the Catholic Church through the action of the Holy Spirit in her life. As for all of us, the Spirit works through the reality of her life, through her experience of this world, of her community over time, of her family and friends. At this time, the Spirit works through real people and a real community, here and now – **us**. Does that not make us think about who we are?

It was her strong and clear wish that she be received into the Church at this time, so as to be able to receive Eucharist before Christmas. That was her Christmas gift. Ying's step in faith reminds us that our Church is a Eucharistic Church, for we stand together with Jesus, our Lord and friend, as the Body of Christ. St Augustine had no hesitation in stating: *"We are the Body of Christ"*. It is who we are together. This is not an 'I' event. Rather it is a '**We**' event, a '**God**' event. God is with us.

As we stand in Advent, facing the Holy Year of 2025, Pope Francis reminds us of our life-giving identity, with naming ***Pilgrims of Hope*** as the theme for this Year of Jubilee in the Church. Yes, we are pilgrims together on the journey of life. It is a journey; we venture on in faith, sustained by the firm stance that *hope in God is eternal, no matter what in life*.

We are well advised to remind ourselves each day of who we are, for we can far too easily lose sight of God's vision for us and thus forget the plot of the Christian narrative. This happens as the bad in our world ever presents the stronger message in our daily lives, allowing us to overlook far too easily the good that remains ever present in this same world. In this struggle of life, let us never underestimate who we are and what we have to offer the world. By living our faith, we keep the flame of hope alight in people's sight.

The Christian Project is entrusted to us, by our Creator God, who so believes in us that he calls us to be co-Creators, under his loving care. Through our baptism, we have this privilege to live and develop this divine project. So, we are a sign of God's love and hope to our world, thus confirming what belongs to the core of human existence and speaks to the essence of human endeavour – that all of God's creation is good.

John Murray, osa



CALENDAR

MONDAY

December 9
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9-15, 20
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38

TUESDAY

December 10
Advent Weekday
Is 40:1-11
Mt 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY

December 11
Advent Weekday
Is 40:25-31
Mt 11:28-30

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

December 13
St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Is 48:17-19
Mt 11:16-19

SATURDAY

December 14
St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

SUNDAY

December 15
Third Sunday of Advent
Zep 3:14-18a
Phil 4:4-7
Lk 3:10-18

PRAYER SEEKING THE INTERCESSION OF THE EIGHT BLESSED MARTYRS OF THAILAND AND THEIR CANONISATION

Almighty God, You called the eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, as priest, religious and lay people, laity leading as young disciples, and as a catechist. These eight Blessed Martyrs responded faithfully to Your call, dedicating themselves to Your redemptive mission for all. For the sake of this mission and their faith in You, they followed Your Son, Jesus Christ, in sacrificing their lives.

May the example of these eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand inspire us to live our Christian faith today in the Catholic Church, ever giving witness to that faith in our daily life.

According to Your will, we pray that Your servants, the eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand, may be canonised. We ask this as we seek to strengthen our own faith. So, if it is Your will, bless us with their canonisation, thus giving glory to Your Name.

Through the intercession of the eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand, grant what we now humbly request in prayer (... *take a silent moment* ...) **Amen.**

Leader: The eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand

Response: Pray for us

APPEAL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Assumption Cathedral is organising the 2024 edition of its “**Christmas Market**”. This will take place on Christmas Eve, December 24th, from around 5:00 pm, in the front courtyard and surrounding areas of the Cathedral. The event will include many different games and a host of other fun activities.

Tickets for this event will be sold right after Mass this morning at the cost of Bht 200 per booklet – members of our Lay Ministry Team will approach you for your contributions. Money collected from the ticket sales will be used entirely to support the charitable activities of the Church, so please **dig deep** and give **generously** and **joyfully**.

Our website:

www.assumptioncathedralbkk.org

ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL

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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

December 8, 2024

If Christmas is on December 25, why is the Immaculate Conception on December 8, rather than sometime in March?

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception asserts that Mary was free of the stain of original sin from the time she was conceived in her mother’s womb. Jesus was also free of the stain of original sin and his conception by Mary is referred to as the Incarnation of Christ. Mary’s Immaculate Conception is often confused for Christ’s Incarnation.

In the Church’s liturgical calendar, Mary’s conception is celebrated on December 8; her birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on September 8. Likewise, Christ’s conception is celebrated on March 25 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord; his birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on December 25.

Mary’s Immaculate Conception was celebrated many centuries before Pope Pius IX defined it as dogma on December 8, 1854: “The doctrine that maintains that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a unique grace and privilege granted to her by Almighty God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful” (*Ineffabilis Deus*). In fact, eight years before, in 1846, the bishops of the United States had already adopted the Immaculate Conception as the patronal feast for Catholics in this country. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / 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.

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: BEHOLD THE LAMB (No. 939)

FINAL: O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH (No. 401)

PLEASE STAND

POSTLUDE: FUGUE in F Major, Maurice Duruflé

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)**

Sunday, 8 December 2024

PRELUDE: OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN (13th c. Plainsong), John Ness Beck

ENTRANCE: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (No. 395) 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: Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch:

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 126: THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,
we were like men dreaming.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing. (R)

2. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed. (R)
3. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing. (R)
4. Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves. (R)

SECOND READING: Phil 1:4-6, 8-11**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:**

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA: PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

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

GOSPEL: Lk 3:1-6

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Glory to you, Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

Priest: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED**PLEASE STAND****RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

The priest addresses the Elect and the gathered faith community who make their responses together:

Priest: Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children? **All: I do.**

Priest: Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? **All: I do.**

Priest: Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness? **All: I do.**

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **All: I do.**

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried,
rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? **All: I do.**

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion
of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting? **All: I do.**

The priest concludes:

Priest: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.

We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

"Help us prepare the way for you, O God."

PLEASE BE SEATED**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST****PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS**

OFFERTORY: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD (No. 400)

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.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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