

# LIVING THE WORD

- ❖ Today is 'Gaudete' Sunday, when the pink candle of the Advent Wreath is lit. The third Sunday of Advent takes its name from the first word of the entrance antiphon – 'Rejoice'. This theme is found in the first two readings. We are reminded that the joyful coming of Christ is drawing nearer. Christmas celebrates presence with presents.
- ❖ Today is the only time in every 3 year cycle we hear this beautiful passage from the Prophet Zephaniah. Zion is the name for Jerusalem, and Christians understand Jerusalem signifies God's people. Replace 'Zion' and 'Jerusalem' prayerfully with your own name. How does this prophecy make you feel? What line strikes you the most? Why?
- ❖ St Paul is writing to the Philippians, trying to resolve an argument between two women, which is destroying the unity of the Christian community. He puts their argument into the 'big picture'. Rejoicing, kindness and tranquility are trademarks of a Christian. Paul reminds the community that each member is to reflect Christ. In the hostile town of Philippi, they are to be shining examples and lead people to Christ – not turn them off. Is your kindness known to all? Do you have anxieties that you refuse to 'make known' and truly hand over to Him?
- ❖ A practice of Advent preparation is celebrating forgiveness. Crowds gathered to be with John the Baptist, not in the Temple, but by the Jordan River. Hungry for God and for the world to experience change, they claimed their own need for conversion: 'what should we do?' John directs their attention toward care of the poor – sharing clothing and food. What do *you* have plenty of? Who has none? Have you ever desired to simplify your life and be more generous? What happened?
- ❖ Tax collectors were present, along with soldiers who protected them. John does not deny their job but reminds them all jobs are to serve the unity of the community. Look deeply into your ordinary tasks of life. Are you doing them well? Enter the Gospel scene in prayer and ask John the question: What should I do? What happened?
- ❖ John baptises and cleanses with water. Jesus baptises and cleanses with the Holy Spirit and fire. Water and fire. What would you choose? Fire purifies through hot temperatures. What have been *hot, purifying* moments for you this year? What wisdom have you been led into? What parts of your life would you like to bring to God for reconciliation at the end of the year?
- ❖ A winnowing fan was used in the barn to throw grain up into the air, so the dust and chaff – seed casings and bits of stalk – drifted away. This stage separated the wheat. How do you relate to the image of judgement and *fire* at the end of time?
- ❖ A common practice in the time of Jesus was for disciples to carry the sandals of their teacher. John shares he is not even worthy to undo the straps of Jesus' sandals, let alone carry them! Whose sandals do *you* carry? Who do you listen to as your teacher? What life lessons or teaching would you like to ask about at this point in your life journey?

*The 2025 Jubilee will officially open on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 7 pm, with the rite of Opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica, in Rome, by the Holy Father. Pope Francis will then preside over the celebration of the Night Mass of the Lord's Nativity, inside the Basilica. The theme for Jubilee 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope", reminding us we are called to be pilgrims of hope. The Opening of the Holy Year in our Archdiocese will occur during 5:30 pm Mass, at the Cathedral, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December. This local Opening of the Holy Year will occur on this same Sunday, in every Diocese throughout the world.*

*The prayer for this Holy Year –*

## The Jubilee Prayer

**Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.**

**May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos, in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.**

**To you, our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. *Amen*.**



## CALENDAR

### MONDAY

December 16  
*Advent Weekday*  
Nm 24:2-7,  
15-17a  
Mt 21:23-27

### TUESDAY

December 17  
*Advent Weekday*  
Gn 49:2, 8-10  
Mt 1:1-17

### WEDNESDAY

December 18  
*Advent Weekday*  
Jer 23:5-8  
Mt 1:18-25

### THURSDAY

December 19  
*Advent Weekday*  
Jgs 13:2-7,  
24-25a  
Lk 1:5-25

### FRIDAY

December 20  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 7:10-14  
Lk 1:26-38

### SATURDAY

December 21  
*Advent Weekday*  
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep  
3:14-18a  
Lk 1:39-45

### SUNDAY

December 22  
*Fourth Sunday  
of Advent*  
Mi 5:1-4a  
Heb 10:5-10  
Lk 1:39-45

## Schedule for Christmas 2024 and New Year 2025

### Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (*Christmas Eve*)

8.30 pm. Confession  
10.00 pm. Mass in Thai. **(English booklets will be made available for the English-speaking community.)**  
From around 5.00 pm., there will be Christmas Market. All proceeds of ticket sales will go toward a range of charities supported by the Church.  
Please use public transportation or park your cars at Assumption College.

### Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (*The Nativity of the Lord*)

9:00 am. Thai Mass  
10.30 am. **ENGLISH MASS**

### Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (*The opening of the Jubilee Year*)

5.30 pm. Thai Mass

### Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (*New Year's Eve*)

9:30 pm. Eucharistic Adoration  
10.00 pm. Thai Mass

### Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 (*Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*)

9:00 am. Thai Mass  
10.30 am. **ENGLISH MASS**

## APPEAL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Assumption Cathedral is organising the 2024 edition of its “**Christmas Market**”. This will take place on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 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](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. 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 15, 2024

**My family, friends, and coworkers seem to be uncomfortable when I tell them that I've been praying for them. Should I just keep it to myself?**

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with telling people you have been praying for them. Most people are probably grateful for such care and support. But it can be a little tricky. If the person believes the praying is actually a judgment and not a blessing, it may provoke a less-than-grateful response. This is where honest discernment on your part is invited. Are you coming across as prayerfully concerned, or is there some criticism or judgment in what seems to be an innocent blessing? People are able to perceive the difference.

Another consideration—and this is not at all unusual as a response in the culture of today—is that some people are very defensive about any religious expressions and do not react favorably. Think, for example, about the different reactions to “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays,” which can often provoke the familiar idiom “them’s fightin’ words.” My best advice is to keep praying for everyone, as no one truly understands or fully appreciates the power of prayer. That being said, temper your announcement when you suspect it will not be well received. This demonstrates a grateful and blessed heart, which is what you intend and hope for, after all. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, 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**

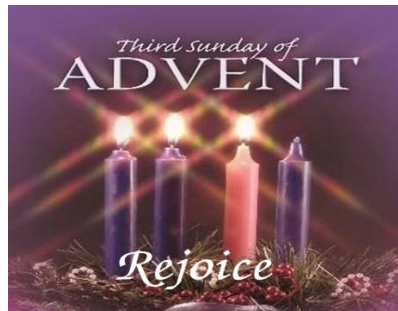
**Priest:** Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**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: MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS (No. 415)**

**FINAL: COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS (PLEASE INSERTION)**

**PLEASE STAND**



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

*Sunday, 15 December 2024*

**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: Zep 3:14-18a**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah:**

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Is 12: CRY OUT WITH JOY AND GLADNESS**

**♩. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you**

**is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

- God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior.  
With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation. (R)

2. Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name. (R)
3. Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel! (R)

**SECOND READING: Phil 4:4-7****A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:**

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA: PLEASE STAND**

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

**All: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.**

**GOSPEL: Lk 3:10-18**

**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.**

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

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

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

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**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:**

***"May we bring the Good News to the world."***

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY: WAIT FOR THE LORD (No. 406)**

**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.**

### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

F C F Gm C7 F C Dm C F C7 F Gm Dm C F

1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child and yet a king,

F C F Gm C7 F C Dm C F C7 F Gm Dm C F

from our fears and sins re-lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for-ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Am Dm7 Gm C7 Dm7 C7 F Dm Am Gm Csus C

Is-ra-el's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;

F Bb C7 F G7 C Bb C7 F F7 Bb F Bb F C7 F

dear De-sire of ev-ery na-tion, Joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.  
by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

F C F Gm C7 F C Dm C F C7 F Gm Dm C F

1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
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