

LIVINGTHEWORD

- ❖ Epiphany is the Greek word meaning to 'show' or 'make manifest'. The Magi from the East (coming from the Greek word for people of special knowledge) pay homage to Jesus. This symbolises all nations recognising Jesus as King and Lord. If you had to write a story to teach the truth about Jesus, what truths would you seek to include? How could the Church make Christ known more creatively today? What is the most creative Christian evangelisation message you have seen lately?
- ❖ Isaiah makes a beautiful prophecy, which is fulfilled in the Gospel of Matthew story and the Magi today. God's chosen people have just returned from exile and their country and beautiful city of Jerusalem and its Temple are in ruins. Isaiah begins with the image of Jerusalem as a woman lying down in defeat. 'Rise up Jerusalem! Your light has come.' As we enter the beginning of the New Year how could you experience 'rising up' to your most beautiful self? How could you help the Church 'rise up' and make Christ known? What would it take for you to be radiant and your heart throb with joy and pride in the Church community? What will you do?
- ❖ Paul states very clearly a mind-shattering truth: *'the Gentiles are coheirs'*. Jewish people thought of and treated Gentiles as 'unclean'. Paul says they are 'clean' and 'co-partners' in the inheritance of God's promises and family. What adjustments in mind, heart, and action would need to take place if God revealed to you that everyone was clean and equal and a 'brother' or 'sister' to you, and you were all part of the same family? Imagine what lifestyle change this would involve. Are you willing to try? Can you glimpse this is the central Gospel message of Jesus?
- ❖ In ancient times a new star was thought to indicate a new leader being born. The Magi are on a journey of seeking God. They have knowledge. Resources. Time. All that the world declares is necessary for fulfilment. Yet they are hungry for something more. What is currently guiding your life? Would you say you are thirsty, hungry, searching? How and where do you find Jesus today?
- ❖ The three gifts presented reveal the identity of Jesus. Gold for a king. Frankincense for a priest whose role is to pray and send prayers to God in heaven. Myrrh pointing toward Jesus' sacrifice and death and future burial. As the new year begins, what personal 'gifts', 'talents', are you willing to give in service to God? Consider the deeper meaning of homage and surrender. How could you express a deeper commitment to following Jesus? What change of direction would you like to make to imitate the Magi?

"Forgive us our trespasses — grant us your peace"

is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's *'Message for the World Day of Peace, 2025'*.

The title of the Message for this 58th World Day of Peace, celebrated on 1 January, corresponds to the biblical and ecclesial understanding of the Jubilee Year. It is inspired in particular by the Encyclical Letters *Laudato si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*, and above all by the concepts of hope and forgiveness – which are at the heart of the Jubilee – a time for conversion that calls us not to condemn, but instead to bring about reconciliation and peace.

When considering the reality of conflicts and social sins afflicting humanity today – in light of the hope inherent in the Jubilee tradition of forgiveness of sins and cancellation of debts, together with the reflections of the Fathers of the Church in this regard – concrete principles emerge that can lead to a much needed spiritual, social, economic, ecological and cultural change.

A Jubilee year is a sign of reconciliation because it establishes a "favourable time" for conversion. We are called to put God at the centre of our lives, growing toward Him and acknowledging His primacy. Even the Biblical call for the restoration of social justice and respect for the earth stems from a theological reality: if God is the Creator of the Universe, He must be given priority over every reality and partisan interest. It is God who makes this year holy by bestowing on us His own holiness.

Pope Francis tells us – *"Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross"*, noting that, in a world seemingly marked by war, divisions, environmental destruction and economic challenges, hope can seem hard to come by. But, *"Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love."*

Only from a genuine conversion on all levels – personal, local and international – will true peace be able to flourish, not only in the cessation of conflicts, but also in a new reality in which wounds are healed and each person's dignity is recognised. This conversion calls us and our world to consider how we use power. Do we use power to build unity and harmony or do we use it to dominate? Do we use power for the sake of the common good? Do we use power to serve with a sense of humility and responsibility? As we forgive, so we are forgiven, being ever mindful of the other? So will peace be built.



CALENDAR

MONDAY

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 3:22-4:6
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

TUESDAY

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:7-10
Mk 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY

January 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:11-18
Mk 6:45-52

THURSDAY

January 9
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19-5:4
Lk 4:14-22a

FRIDAY

January 10
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5-13
Lk 5:12-16

SATURDAY

January 11
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14-21
Jn 3:22-30

SUNDAY

January 12
The Baptism of the Lord
Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or
Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Acts 10:34-38 or
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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 Kaewwaan

MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon-Fri : Thai 06:00 and 17:15 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

January 5, 2025

I'm into horoscopes. A friend told me that astrology is nonsense and against the Catholic faith. What do you say?

Stargazing is as old as the human race. We know with certainty that ancient Chaldea was known for its stargazers. Many of the constellations' names originated during that time. Some scholars believe that the three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the newborn Savior were themselves Chaldean stargazers.

Astrologers believe that the zodiac signs under which we were born largely control our human destiny. The Christian objection to astrology is that it insults almighty God, who alone knows the future. God alone, in cooperation with the free will of humans, controls the future. To suppose that stars, planets, animals, or inanimate objects can, independent of God, direct or influence our lives opposes the first commandment: "I am the LORD your God.... You shall not have other gods beside me" (Exodus 20:2-3).

The Old Testament clearly spells out that it is vain to imagine "either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven" as "the governors of the world" (Wisdom 13:2).

Don't give credit to or blame the stars for what you do and who you are. See past them to the God who made them, and who made us, and who cares for all creation. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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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, 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. **PLEASE KNEEL**

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

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 HYMN: WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE (No. 463)

FINAL HYMN: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN (No. 428) **PLEASE STAND**

POSTLUDE: MARCH OF THE THREE KINGS by Gordon Young

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday, 5th January 2025

PRELUDE: THREE CHRISTMAS CAROLS by Paul Manz

ENTRANCE HYMN: THE FIRST NOEL (No. 460, Last 3 verses) **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 / LORD HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie, eleison, Lord, have mercy on us. Christe, eleison. Christ, have mercy on us.
Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy on us.*

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 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 prayers;
you are seated at 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: Is 60:1-6

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



1. O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. (R)
2. Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. (R)
3. The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. (R)
4. For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

SECOND READING: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

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

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

All: We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

GOSPEL: Mt 2:1-12

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

All: Glory to you, Lord.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Priest: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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:
"Shepherd us on our journey, O God."**

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM

Refrain: What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet, what can I give Him? I will give my heart.

**Love came down at Christmas, love so divine;
Love was born at Christmas, Stars and angels gave the sign.
Love will be my token, love my gift so fine.
Yes, what can I give Him? Love, my gift so fine. (R)**

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND