

## LIVINGTHEWORD

- ❖ **Witnesses:** The final chapters of the Book of Isaiah are filled with apocalyptic images of what the 'end of times' will be like. Every nation and language — Tarshish = Spain; Put and Lud = North Africa; Tubal and Javan = Asia Minor — will be gathered to Jerusalem. But this will first require God to 'set a sign among them'. God requires missionaries to witness to God's ways. Do you recognise your call to being God's love and representative among your peers? What would be your biggest challenge? Fear? Who is a good witness / role model (sign) of faith for you? How could you imitate them?
- ❖ **Discipleship and Discipline:** The Letter to the Hebrews was written for and sent to Jewish Christians facing persecution in the years leading up to 70 AD. Many were struggling with persecution and facing trials from Jewish religious leaders, for their belief in Jesus. They were frustrated that Jesus had not 'returned' as quickly as they had hoped. They are downcast with drooping hands and weak knees! They are invited to see struggles and trials as 'discipline' — which comes from the word *disciple* — which in turn comes from the word to learn and be educated. What is one struggle you are having currently? What is it teaching you?
- ❖ **A Few or Many Saved?** Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and he challenges all who have a conversation with him about getting ready for the 'end of time'. Jewish people assumed *they* were the 'few', and sinners, unclean people, unbelievers were the 'many' who would *not* be saved. This sparks the question: will only a few people be saved? Jesus does not answer the question directly but presents an image: a crowd is trying to get into a house but all must go through a narrow door. There will come a time when the door will be closed and people are left outside. If this scene was really going to happen, how could you be prepared? How do you get to the front of the crowd and close to the door?
- ❖ **Shocked and Surprised:** Jewish people believed they had a special status, as chosen by God. They presumed this also meant they had a special 'entry permit' through the door. *'We ate and drank with you, you taught us!'* They are completely surprised at the possibility that other people — *sinners!* — could get into heaven ahead of them. A modern day Catholic response could be: *'But I have listened to the Gospel stories on Sunday and have shared in the Eucharist with you!'* Jesus challenges us: it is not enough to *'be there'* on Sunday; we are called to *'do something'* on Monday ... to be a sign of God's forgiveness ... to become a living image of Jesus, following his lifestyle daily and shaping the world into becoming one family. How could you take further concrete steps from Sunday worship to Monday witness?

### Pilgrims of Hope — A reflection offered by John P Murray osa

On 16<sup>th</sup> August, 88 of our community went on pilgrimage to Ayutthaya, the home of the Kings of Siam and the birthplace of the Catholic Church in Thailand and beyond.

In the 1560s, Portuguese Dominicans were the first to come to these shores, in order to minister to the Portuguese Catholics living in Ayutthaya. 100 years later, French missionaries were sent by Rome to new lands, in China and present-day Vietnam. In Ayutthaya, thanks to a king who offered hospitality, these missionaries to strange and foreign lands found a home and base. Here, they founded the first church of the Siamese Mission, in 1669. This makes Ayutthaya a special place — a holy place — in the history of the Church in this region.

We set off as simple, humble pilgrims, returning enriched and nourished in body, mind and soul. What made this the special day that it was?

- It was not because of any one person. Rather it was because of all of us, because of who we are together. Together we learnt, we prayed, we shared, we enjoyed.
- It was being present to history on holy ground, for here holy men and women came and laboured for the Church and the Gospel.
- It was the simple human experience of the day, seeing people's faces light up with wonder, hearing and feeling the sincere and deep prayers of our fellow pilgrims, enjoying the simple moments of sharing with people together, enjoying the hospitality along the way.
- It was knowing that together we stood as Church, not alone, but with the whole Church, past and present. In Church, we hold a treasure, the treasure of 2,000 years of life and mission, following the Gospel and showing God's love and care. There we could sense this treasure, because of the great men and women of Church, who had gone before us on this very spot.

On a personal note, at times during the day, I did feel somewhat inadequate, thinking *"Who am I?"* Then I reminded myself that this is not about me, but about us together. Here and now, on this journey, we hold each other up in faith, knowing that who we are as pilgrims is defined by us together, before our God.

Is this not a reflection on life? It is made worthwhile by our living together, showing love and care to our world. In such a way, the knowledge of God is deepened in a world that so needs to know God. This is our mission. As **Pilgrims of Hope** in our world, I pray that we ever know as much excitement and joy as that little boy beside me, during lunch that day, whose face lit up when he saw a boat go down the river. His enthusiasm arose at seeing something so simple. His enthusiasm was so natural, so human, so life-giving. *That* was my special gift.



CALENDAR

**MONDAY**  
August 25  
*Weekday*  
1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10  
Mt 23:13-22

**TUESDAY**  
August 26  
*Weekday*  
1 Thes 2:1-8  
Mt 23:23-26

**WEDNESDAY**  
August 27  
*St. Monica*  
1 Thes 2:9-13  
Mt 23:27-32

**THURSDAY**  
August 28  
*St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*  
1 Thes 3:7-13  
Mt 24:42-51

**FRIDAY**  
August 29  
*The Passion of St. John the Baptist*  
1 Thes 4:1-8  
Mk 6:17-29

**SATURDAY**  
August 30  
*Weekday*  
1 Thes 4:9-11  
Mt 25:14-30

**SUNDAY**  
August 31  
*Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29  
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a  
Lk 14:1, 7-14

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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**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 : 08:30 – noon  
Public holidays : Closed

Dear Padre

August 24, 2025

**My wife mentioned that neither the Book of Mormon nor the Catholic Bible mentions purgatory. Please comment.**

A not-uncommon frustration is when a person searches the Bible for a particular word or phrasing. Frankly, it is expecting too much from the religious text to be able to faithfully record a particular word or phrase that originated hundreds of years after the ancient text was composed. Purgatory is one such example of this frustration. The concept of purgatory is referenced in the biblical text, particularly in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 7:1, Hebrews 9:27 and 12:14, and 2 Maccabees 12:46, but the word is never used.

This should come as no real surprise because it was not until the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) that the concept was expanded and formed into a theological statement of belief that has become central to Roman Catholicism. And what is that belief? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is clear: “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned” (CCC, 1030, 1031a). The Book of Mormon never references purgatory, but it does speak about the afterlife and the experience of “waiting” in the spirit world for the completion of earthly time. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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**HOLY (No. 263)**

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 (No. 264)**

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 (No. 374)**

**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 (No. 391)**

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: PAN DE VIDA (No. 920)**

**THE SERVANT SONG (No. 751)**

**FINAL HYMN: LEAD ME, LORD PLEASE STAND**

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, longing for their Lord,  
for God's coming kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blessed are the sorrowing, for they shall be consoled,  
and the meek shall come to rule the world.

**Refrain:** Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to seek and to find the narrow way.  
Be my way; be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, today.

2. Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.  
Blest are they whose hunger only holiness can fill, for I say they shall be satisfied. (R)
3. Blest are they who through their lifetimes sow the seeds of peace;  
all will call them children of the Lord.  
Blest are you, though persecuted in your holy life, for in heaven, great is your reward. (R)

**21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)**

*Sunday, 24 August 2025*

**ENTRANCE: TAKE UP YOUR CROSS (No. 801) 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**

**Kýrie, eléison. Kýrie, eléison. Christe, eléison. Christe, eléison.**

**Kýrie, eléison. Kýrie, eléison.**

**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: Is 66:18-21**

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

Thus says the LORD: I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory. I will set a sign among them; from them I will send fugitives to the nations: to Tarshish, Put and Lud, Mosoch, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have never heard of my fame, or seen my glory; and they shall proclaim my glory among the nations. They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all

the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots, in carts, upon mules and dromedaries, to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their offering to the house of the LORD in clean vessels. Some of these I will take as priests and Levites, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 117: GO OUT TO ALL THE WORLD**



**R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

1. Praise the LORD, all you nations; glorify him, all you peoples! (R)
2. For steadfast is his kindness toward us,  
and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever. (R)

**SECOND READING: Heb 12:5-7, 11-13**

**A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:**

Brothers and sisters, You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children: "My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges." Endure your trials as "discipline"; God treats you as sons. For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline? At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.

So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA (No. 326) PLEASE STAND**

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

**All: I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.**

**GOSPEL: Lk 13:22-30**

**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.**

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to

you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from. And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.' Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!' And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

**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:**

**"God of mercy, hear us."**

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY: ALL THAT WE HAVE**

**Refrain:** All that we have and all that we offer,

Comes from a heart both frightened and free.

Take what we bring now and give what we need, All done in his name.

1. Some would rely on their power, others put trust in their gold.  
Some have only their savior, whose faithfulness never grows old. (R)
2. Sometimes the road may be lonesome, often we may lose our way;  
take courage and always remember; love isn't just for a day. (R)
3. Sometimes when troubles are many, life can seem empty, it's true,  
but look at the life of the Master, who lovingly suffered for you. (R)

**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**