

LIVINGTHEWORD

- The writer of Ecclesiasticus is a writer by the name Ben Sirach. He was the headmaster of an Academy in Jerusalem that mentored Jewish students in the art of living well. His writings are a collection of the best of Jewish thought and philosophy. It contrasts with Greek culture and thought, which accepted a huge gap between the rich and poor, those who were free and those who were slaves. Why do you think 'the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds'?
- Paul is writing from prison in Rome. In his pre-trial hearing, Paul shares that there was no one who came to support him in court. Imagine his loneliness and sense of betrayal! And yet he does not choose to blame or get angry. Scholars suggest Christians in Rome were afraid of persecution if they came to support Paul. Have you experienced being hurt by those you thought would support and protect you? Can you say, like Paul: 'may it not be held against them!' Paul's attention continued to focus on imitating the life of Jesus, 'being poured out like a libation (offering)'. In your struggles, is your attention on your enemy or Jesus? Do you think Paul is being self-righteous or humbly trusting in God?
- Jesus teaches about prayer and righteousness in the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. What do the words of the Pharisee's prayer reveal about his attitude toward God and sinners? What does it mean to be self-righteous?
- A Pharisee was a strict observer of the Law. Going beyond what was required, they fasted 2 days per week (Jews were only required to fast on 1 day a year) and tithed on everything they received (even the goods that had already been tithed). They were extremely observant. They enjoyed their holy and righteous reputation. Deuteronomy 26 taught Jews to bring a tenth of their produce to the temple, thanking God and asking for God's blessing, and giving to the Levites (priests), foreigners, orphans and widows. What has the Pharisee failed to understand about the Law and about God? Is the Pharisee righteous? Listen attentively and observe around you: who is talked about in disparaging ways, excluded, despised, looked down on? How do you react? Humility is recognising the truth about yourself, God and others. What are some ways we are tempted to self-righteousness in our culture?
- Tax collectors (often Jewish) worked with the Roman authorities to collect road charges and goods & sales tax. They made significant profits above their contracted price. They were despised by Jews for being in partnership with the occupying forces. For a tax collector to make amends, he had to pay back overcharged taxes plus an additional 1/5th. They could never know everyone they had cheated, so could never repair their wrong. They often felt their religious situation was hopeless. They could never be forgiven! Name some of the feelings experienced by the tax collector. What is it about the tax collector that you can relate to? How would the Sacrament of Reconciliation help?
- The Pharisee only encountered himself in prayer. He was extremely self-satisfied. Is this prayer? The tax collector humbly seeks God's mercy. Why does God listen to the tax collector?

1,700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (*refer to Churches Together*)

This year, 2025, marks 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea convened in 325 to discuss the Person and nature of our Lord Jesus Christ. The then Roman emperor Constantine's empire was fractured and divided. To shore up his empire, he called church leaders together to discuss what the Church should believe about Jesus.

So, bishops came from across the known world to defend and proclaim the truth of Christ's divinity. Their deliberations extended between May and July, resulting in a statement, known today as the Nicene Creed. Their decisions continue to shape our faith, our worship, our mission.

This First Ecumenical Council was convened in response to the crisis of the Arian heresy, which threatened to divide the Church. Arius denied that Christ was fully divine, claiming instead that He was a created being, subordinate to the Father. In response, the bishops proclaimed that Christ is '*consubstantial* with the Father', fully God and co-eternal with Him.

In a world where truth is often questioned, the clarity of the Nicene Creed remains a source of strength and unity for the Church. Pope Francis reminded us that "the truth of Christ is not a model that changes with passing fads, but the truth that sets us free" (Christus Vivit). As Catholics, we continue to proclaim this truth, confident that it is a living reality, found in the person of Jesus Christ.

The Council of Nicaea reminds us of the importance of unity in the Church. The bishops, gathered in 325, understood that division in doctrine leads to division in the Body of Christ, recognising that fidelity to the truth is the foundation of authentic Christian communion.

The example of the bishops at Nicaea challenges us to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel in our own time. As they defended the truth against error, we too are called to stand firm in our faith and to live it out in love and service. The faith we profess in the Creed must be reflected in our actions—defending the dignity of all people, caring for the poor, and working for justice. Pope Francis reminded us: "A faith that does not lead to solidarity is a faith that is dead" (Fratelli Tutti).

We will hear more of Nicaea in the coming month, as the Ecumenical Patriarch and Pope Leo will meet there toward the end of November – around the Feast of Saint Andrew – in order to commemorate the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea together. Both world leaders of the Christian faith are committed to seeking unity – unity in faith and in action, mutually resolving to work together to defend those who are weak and in need, and to promote peace worldwide.



CALENDAR

MONDAY

October 27
Weekday
Rom 8:12-17
Lk 13:10-17

TUESDAY

October 28
Sts. Simon and
Jude, Apostles
Eph 2:19-22
Lk 6:12-16

WEDNESDAY

October 29
Weekday
Rom 8:26-30
Lk 13:22-30

THURSDAY

October 30
Weekday
Rom 8:31b-39
Lk 13:31-35

FRIDAY

October 31
Weekday
Rom 9:1-5
Lk 14:1-6

SATURDAY

November 1
All Saints
Rv 7:2-4, 9-14
1 Jn 3:1-3
Mt 5:1-12a

SUNDAY

November 2
Commemoration
of All the Faithful
Departed
(All Souls' Day)
Wis 3:1-9
Rom 5:5-11 or
Rom 6:3-9
Jn 6:37-40

SAVE THE DATE — SAT 29 NOV

We will be going on our final pilgrimage of this Jubilee Year, to the Immaculate Conception Church (Samsen, Dusit), one of the 4 designated pilgrimage churches in the Archdiocese of Bangkok.

Preliminary itinerary:

- 09:15: arrival at Immaculate Conception
- 09:30 - 09:45: introduction to the pilgrimage site
- 09:45 - 10:45: visit the area around the church (including the original church); confessions; quiet time for prayer
- 10:45 - 11:30: Mass, celebrated by Fr John
- 11:30: end; no lunch will be organised this time, but we encourage everyone to be creative and head for an impromptu meal with fellow pilgrims
- Register your initial interest at:
assumptionpilgrimage@gmail.com

****More detailed information to follow in coming weeks****

Our website:

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 : 08:30 – noon
Public holidays : Closed

Dear Padre

October 26, 2025

Is it wrong for children to dress up as zombies and devils and other evil creatures for Halloween?

No. It is perfectly acceptable to choose these kinds of costumes and to participate in the festivities of Halloween. Halloween is primarily a secular celebration. Although it is true that the original celebration is deeply rooted in the Christian tradition, that tradition is more properly celebrated during the great feast days of the Church that follow Halloween: All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Mythological representations, and the costumes that remind us of these kind of characters, are to be understood with a sense of fun and mischief. There is no difference between a ghost, a goblin, a zombie, Captain America, Superman, or one of the Mario Brothers. They are all fictional characters in the very human stories we share with each other. The meaning we assign to them must be proportional to what they represent. On Halloween, they represent nothing more than a person in costume. It could be an entirely different story under different circumstances in which there might be the possibility of a misunderstanding about the meaning of such a costume. Halloween pretty much blurs that distinction and takes away the misunderstanding. It is meant to be entertaining and fun. That is all. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / 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 (No. 263) PLEASE KNEEL

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (No. 264)

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: AMAZING GRACE (No. 645)

DRAW NEAR (No. 935)

FINAL: SALVE REGÍNA (No. 880) PLEASE STAND

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

Sunday, 26 October 2025

ENTRANCE: GATHER US IN (No. 848) 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: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

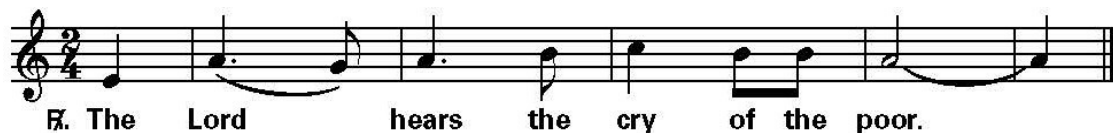
The LORD is a God of justice, who knows no favorites. Though not unduly partial toward the weak, yet he hears the cry of the oppressed. The Lord is not deaf to the wail of the orphan, nor to the widow when she pours out her complaint. The one who serves God willingly is

heard; his petition reaches the heavens. The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest till it reaches its goal, nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds, judges justly and affirms the right, and the Lord will not delay.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 34: THE LORD HEARS THE CRY OF THE POOR



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. The LORD confronts the evildoers, to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.
When the just cry out, the LORD hears them,
and from all their distress he rescues them. (R)
3. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;
and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.
The LORD redeems the lives of his servants;
no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him. (R)

SECOND READING: 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

Beloved: I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance. At my first defense no one appeared on my behalf, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (No. 326) PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

**All: God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,
and entrusting to us the message of salvation.**

GOSPEL: Lk 18:9-14

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 addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. "Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity -- greedy, dishonest, adulterous -- or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

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:
"Lord, hear your people."**

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER (No. 666)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND