

LIVINGTHEWORD

- The 2nd Sunday of Advent points to a promised leader — Christ — with the spirit of the Lord resting on him. Again, we are reminded of a difference between Advent and Christmas. Advent is preparing for a Second Coming 'presence' while Christmas is celebrating the First Coming with 'presents'. As we seek to prepare our lives, what would it mean for you to judge the poor with justice? Do you recognise your brother / sister? Is there any charity or need you could donate to or get involved with this Advent?
- A wolf living with a lamb, a panther and a goat lying down together, a calf and lion feeding together and a cow befriending a bear symbolise a reconciled and repaired world. This vision sees the country Israel full of the knowledge of God. It will be like a light for all nations. Replacing Israel with your local parish family or your own home, how can you seek healing of broken friendships? Reconciliation with an enemy? How could you make your home be a light this Christmas?
- As the end of the year approaches we are encouraged to give glory to God by welcoming each other as Christ has embraced us. Consider someone whom you refuse to give up on. What are attitudes or actions you will continue to show them?
- To announce a figure of such great importance requires a voice to cry out and proclaim the arrival. This is the role of John the Baptist. Significantly, John does this at the Jordan River (at the same crossing point Israel left the desert behind and entered the Promised Land). The scriptures are trying to teach us a new rescuing by God is taking place. A washing and confessing of sins began a process of returning to God. People left Jerusalem and walked over a day's journey to meet and listen to John. What journey will you undertake to draw closer to God this Advent? Would you like to celebrate the forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? How could you celebrate this personally and deeply?
- The preparation of a straight road or a royal highway was known to happen in ancient times when a very special person was to visit. Physically, valleys were filled and hills were lowered to make the way smooth and easy. And it was done at great expense! As Advent invites us to make a clear pathway for the Lord, what roadblocks, ditches and hills require the earthmoving equipment of prayer, spiritual direction and reconciliation?
- Have you ever thought, in a relationship with a friend or family member, that actions speak louder than words? The Gospel shares with us that we cannot presume to rely on Abraham / Baptism — i.e. words alone — for salvation. If you fail to produce good fruit you will be cut down and thrown into the fire. How could your life show the good fruit of justice?
- List the attributes of fire? What does '*baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire*' mean? How '*on fire*' are you for God? Pray for God's renewing fire this week.

Year A: Gospel according to Matthew — Message and Purpose

Matthew longs to have his readers be maturing disciples of Jesus, who is the promised Servant Christ, so that they may enjoy life in His kingdom together forever. The Christ is the Messiah, the Saviour of all. God's Son, Jesus, is the "Servant Christ". Christ or Messiah (1:1, 16:16). Servant (12:17-21 cf. 3:16-17).

As Jesus comes near, so does God's kingdom (4:17), which is God's unopposed, sovereign, saving rule in the world. It may be described as 'God's people in God's place, under God's rule and blessing'.

To be a disciple is summed up in four commands of Christ: **turn, trust, travel** and **tell**.

1. **Turn** to Christ from sin; realign yourself with God's rule — 4:17b
2. **Trust** in Jesus, the Son of God, the Servant Christ — 11:28
3. **Travel** with Jesus Christ along the way of the cross — 16:24
4. **Tell** others the Good News about the crucified and risen Jesus Christ — 28:19a

Only Jesus can make discipleship possible. He must serve us before we can serve him. "*He will save his people from their sins*" (1:21 cf. 9:18, 20:28, 26:28).

Matthew re-presents Mark. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of David, the Servant of God. At the heart of Jesus' ministry and teaching lie three key concepts: Fulfilment of Scripture; God as Father; and the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew is a book for the not-yet-Christian. For the Christian, the way forward is to learn to obey all Jesus' commands and teach others to do the same (28:19-20a). In Matthew, the disciple is called to share the worldview of Jesus; to live a relationship of faith with someone who is more than a teacher; to community; to mission.

Disciples make up the community called Church. Only Matthew, of the four Evangelists, uses the word Church, which is used for the assembly of the children of Israel in the Old Testament. In Matthew, the community of the disciples represents the renewed, restored people of God sharing in his mission.

Matthew and faith into the future —

- Focus is on the person of Jesus as the presence of God
- Focus is on the Kingdom as an expression of God's will
- Focus is on community built on reconciliation and mercy
- Focus is on the connection between faith and life

Moving from simply believing in Jesus to believing as Jesus believed.



CALENDAR

MONDAY

December 8
*The Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin
Mary*
Gn 3:9-15, 20
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38

TUESDAY

December 9
Advent Weekday
Is 40:1-11
Mt 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY

December 10
Advent Weekday
Is 40:25-31
Mt 11:28-30

THURSDAY

December 11
Advent Weekday
Is 41:13-20
Mt 11:11-15

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

December 13
*St. Lucy, Virgin
and Martyr*
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

SUNDAY

December 14
*Third Sunday
of Advent*
Is 35:1-6a, 10
Jas 5:7-10
Mt 11:2-11

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

APPEAL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Assumption Cathedral is organising the 2025 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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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

December 7, 2025

Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a "golden ticket," or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the "sin of Adam" and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as "not one of us" simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

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

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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

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: MARANATHA, LORD MESSIAH (No. 397)**FINAL: PILGRIMS OF HOPE PLEASE STAND**

Refrain: Like a flame my hope is burning, may my song arise to you.
Source of life that has no ending, on life's path I trust in you.

1. Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people, find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and daughters, find a home in your dear Son. (R)
2. God, so tender and so patient, dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav'n and earth are recreated by the Spirit of Life set free. (R)
3. Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing, for our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and many who will find the way in him. (R)

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

Sunday, 7 December 2025

ENTRANCE: ON JORDAN'S BANK (No. 418) 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.

KÝRIE, ELÉISON

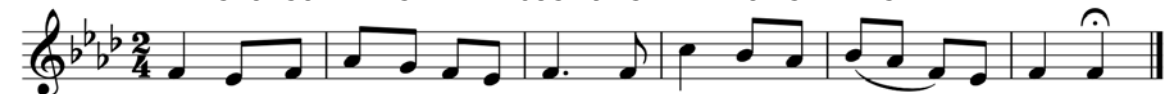
Kýrie, eléison, (2); Christe, eléison, (2); Kýrie, eléison, (2).

FIRST READING: Is 11:1-10**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:**

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 72: JUSTICE SHALL FLORISH IN HIS TIME

Jus-tice shall flour-ish in this time, and full-ness of peace_ for ev - er.

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. 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. (R)

SECOND READING: Rom 15:4-9**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:**

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA: PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

GOSPEL: Mt 3:1-12

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.

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Priest: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED**THE NICENE CREED PLEASE STAND**

Priest: I believe in one God,

All: the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

(At the words that follow up to and including "and became man", all bow.)

And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED**PLEASE STAND****PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:
"BE BORN IN US, BE BORN IN OUR WORLD."**

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.