

LIVING THE WORD

- ❖ The 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as 'Gaudete Sunday' because a joyful first reading always points to the joy of Christmas about to arrive. The Prophet Isaiah has images of people being returned home. Isaiah 35 paints a picture of exiles being returned back to Jerusalem. But they were a little scared of all the hard work ahead of rebuilding homes and growing crops. Do you look into the future feeling afraid? Have you been able to see 'parched land' this year change to 'abundant flowers'?
- ❖ God saving his people is prophesied to take place with wonderful signs. The blind see, the deaf hear, the lame leap and mutes sing. Can you imagine these are the most life-changing events that could take place for someone? What would need to happen to cause you to leap and shout for joy? Does Jesus bring this experience into your life? How? Why not? Share this conversation with God for an Advent prayer. There are many tragedies in our world. How do you live in the hope and joy of Christ's return in glory, while caring for and sharing solidarity with the suffering?
- ❖ Patience is needed when you wait for someone or something that does not come at the expected time. You quickly realise you need to hold on to a positive attitude, or frustration – and even anger – will creep in. Trusting in the faithfulness of a friend, or remembering their strong relationship with you, allows you to endure the hardship and maintain hope that they will arrive. Can you remember an experience of waiting for a friend to arrive? What happened? In your life, what gives you confidence and trust in God? What does God's future coming mean for you?
- ❖ John the Baptist has a special friendship with Jesus. Yet, John is confused. Jesus is not fighting the military powers of Rome. And, certainly not breaking John out of his imprisonment. He asks painfully: '*Are you really the one we are waiting for?*' Jesus refers to the prophesy of Isaiah (see 1st bullet point above). Special signs are being shown, but they are different from what people wanted or expected. Do you sit back waiting for God, or do you get involved in completing the work of God ... helping people regain their life, sight, mobility, ... cleanse people's lives of a leprous state? Stand by or *stand in* for God?
- ❖ When people were normally expected to go to the Temple, many walked in another direction out to the desert to hear a different message. How could you prepare for Jesus at Christmas, differently than you have ever done before? Reconciliation? Shopping? Fasting? Slowing down? Sharing with your children? ... ? ... ? ... ?

*I recently quoted Pope Leo on unity, from his **In Unitate Fidei**, written for the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. He is speaking of the unity of humanity and all Christian Churches, under the One God. Here is the context for my quote.*

12. The Council of Nicaea is relevant today because of its great ecumenical value. Indeed, the achievement of unity among all Christians was one of the main objectives of the Second Vatican Council. With Nicaea, we celebrate the anniversary of the first ecumenical Encyclical.

It is true that full visible unity with the Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Churches, and with the ecclesial communities born of the Reformation, has not yet been reached. Nevertheless, ecumenical dialogue, founded on one baptism and the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, has led us to recognise the members of other Churches and ecclesial communities as our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, and to rediscover the one universal community of Christ's disciples throughout the world. We share the same faith in the one and only God, the Father of all people; we confess together the one Lord and true Son of God, Jesus Christ, and the one Holy Spirit, who inspires us and impels us toward full unity and the common witness to the Gospel. Truly, what unites us is much greater than what divides us!

In a world that is divided and torn apart by many conflicts, the one universal Christian community can be a sign of peace and an instrument of reconciliation, playing a decisive role in the global commitment to peace.

In order to carry out this ministry credibly, we must walk together to reach unity and reconciliation among all Christians. The Nicene Creed can be the basis and reference point for this journey. It offers us a model of true unity in legitimate diversity. Unity in the Trinity, Trinity in Unity, because unity without multiplicity is tyranny, multiplicity without unity is fragmentation. The Trinitarian dynamic is a decisive bond, "both/and." The Holy Spirit is the bond of unity whom we worship together with the Father and the Son. We must therefore develop a common understanding and a common prayer to the Holy Spirit, so that he may gather us all together in one faith and one love.

This implies an ecumenism that looks to the future, that seeks reconciliation through dialogue as we share our gifts and spiritual heritage. The restoration of unity among Christians does not make us poorer; on the contrary, it enriches us. As at Nicaea, this goal will only be possible through a patient, long and sometimes difficult journey of mutual listening and acceptance, requiring repentance and conversion on the part of all.



CALENDAR

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

TUESDAY
December 16
Advent Weekday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Mt 21:28-32

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY
December 21
Fourth Sunday
of Advent
Is 7:10-14
Rom 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24

Schedule for Christmas 2025 and New Year 2026

Wednesday, 24th December 2025 (Christmas Eve)

9:00 pm. Confession
10:00 pm. Mass
(The Mass will be in Thai with English booklets for foreigners.)

Around 6:00 pm. onwards, there will be Christmas Market, games, etc. All proceeds will be for charity activities.
Please use public transportation or park your vehicles at Assumption College.

Thursday, 25th December 2025 (The Nativity of the Lord)

8:30 am. Thai Mass
10:30 am. ENGLISH MASS

Sunday, 28th December 2025 (Closing ceremony of the Jubilee Year)

5:00 pm. Thai Mass

Wednesday, 31st December 2025 (New Year's Eve)

9:30 pm. Eucharistic Adoration
10:00 pm. Thai Mass

Thursday, 1st January 2026 (Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God)

8:30 am. Thai Mass
10:30 am. ENGLISH MASS

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 6:00 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

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. Peter Withawat Kaewwaen

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.

CONFESION:

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		

PRAYER SEEKING THE INTERCESSION OF THE EIGHT BLESSED MARTYRS OF THAILAND AND THEIR CANONISATION

Almighty God, You called the eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, as priest, religious and lay people, laity leading as young disciples, and as a catechist. These eight Blessed Martyrs responded faithfully to Your call, dedicating themselves to Your redemptive mission for all. For the sake of this mission and their faith in You, they followed Your Son, Jesus Christ, in sacrificing their lives.

May the example of these eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand inspire us to live our Christian faith today in the Catholic Church, ever giving witness to that faith in our daily life.

According to Your will, we pray that Your servants, the eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand, may be canonised. We ask this as we seek to strengthen our own faith. So, if it is Your will, bless us with their canonisation, thus giving glory to Your Name.

Through the intercession of the eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand, grant what we now humbly request in prayer (*take a silent moment*). **Amen.**

Leader: The eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand

Response: Pray for us

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: MARANATHA, LORD MESSIAH (No. 397)**FINAL: COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS (PLEASE SEE INSERTION)**

PLEASE STAND

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

Sunday, 14 December 2025

ENTRANCE: O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH (No. 401) 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).

PLEASE BE SEATED**FIRST READING: Is 35:1-6, 10**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 146: LORD, COME AND SAVE US

1. The LORD God keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free. (R)
2. The LORD gives sight to the blind; the LORD raises up those who were bowed down. The LORD loves the just; the LORD protects strangers. (R)
3. The fatherless and the widow he sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts. The LORD shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations. (R)

SECOND READING: Jas 5:7-10**A reading from the Letter of Saint James:**

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA: PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

GOSPEL: Mt 11:2-11

Priest: The Lord be with you.

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

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Priest: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED**HOMILY****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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:
"Come, Jesus, come."**

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

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-expect-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-rael'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-ri-ous 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-expect-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-rael'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-ri-ous throne.