

## 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?



### Where are we going with the Synod on Synodality?

#### **The Final Document — *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission***

We may have wondered where we are with the ongoing Synod on Synodality, initiated by Pope Francis. As a universal Church, we are now at the start of implementing its **Final Document** (FD), which acts as the guide for beginning our journey to becoming a *synodal church*. Within its introduction, a very brief overview is given of the path to be followed. In sharing this, I appreciate that it may be far too inadequate but, at least, it offers a taste for what is to come.

11. The **Final Document** expresses awareness that the call to mission is, at the same time, the call to the conversion of each local Church and of the whole Church, in line with the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (cf. EG 30). There are five parts to the text. The first, entitled "*The Heart of Synodality*", outlines the theological and spiritual foundations that enlighten and nourish what is to come. It restates the shared understanding of synodality that emerged in the First Session and develops its spiritual and prophetic perspectives. The conversion of the emotions, images and thoughts inhabiting our hearts proceeds together with the conversion of pastoral and missionary action. The second part, entitled "*On the Boat Together*", is dedicated to the conversion of the relationships that are formed in the intertwining of vocations, charisms and ministries, building the Christian community and shaping mission. The third part, "*Cast the Net*," identifies three practices that are intimately connected: ecclesial discernment, decision-making processes, and a culture of transparency, accountability and evaluation. With respect to these, we are also asked to initiate pathways of 'missionary transformation', for which a renewal of participatory bodies is urgently needed. The fourth part, under the title, "*An Abundant Catch*", outlines how we can cultivate new forms of the exchange of gifts and renew the intertwining of the bonds that unite us in the Church at a time when the experience of being rooted in a place is changing profoundly. This is followed by a fifth part, "*So I Send You*," which enables us to look at a particular step we need to take: caring for the formation of all, of the People of God, all as synodal missionaries.

As a synodal Church, we are a church that encounters and listens, a church that journeys together, "*a merciful Church, capable of sharing with everyone the forgiveness and reconciliation that come from God: the pure grace of which we are not masters but only witnesses*" (*Intro to FD* – 6). As Church, let us make this our shared project for 2026.

## CALENDAR

**MONDAY**  
January 5  
St. John  
Neumann, Bishop  
1 Jn 3:22-4:6  
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

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

**WEDNESDAY**  
January 7  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 4:11-18  
Mk 6:45-52

**THURSDAY**  
January 8  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 4:19-5:4  
Lk 4:14-22a

**FRIDAY**  
January 9  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 5:5-13  
Lk 5:12-16

**SATURDAY**  
January 10  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 5:14-21  
Jn 3:22-30

**SUNDAY**  
January 11  
The Baptism  
of the Lord  
Is 42:1-4, 6-7  
Acts 10:34-38  
Mt 3:13-17

## 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

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.

### CONFESION:

Sundays	:	Before all masses (Thai). English before 10:00 am mass.
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### 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

January 4, 2026

*I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?*

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, "Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...") weren't successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

It's because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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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.

**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 (No. 263) 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 (No. 391) 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: WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE (No. 463)  
 WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM (PLEASE SEE OFFERTORY HYMN)**

**FINAL: EPIPHANY CAROL (No. 462) PLEASE STAND**

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Sunday, 4 January 2026

**ENTRANCE: 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**

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 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**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 72: LORD, EVERY NATION ON EARTH**



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. (R)

**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.

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.

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

All: **And with your spirit.**

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.**

**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.

**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.**