

LIVINGTHEWORD

- ❖ **Fire or Water?:** The book of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) was a collection of wisdom sayings, attempting to show the beauty and depth of Jewish wisdom. Try and visualise the scene of water and fire before you. What do these symbols represent in your personal life? In what ways do you stretch out your hand toward water? Toward fire? What joy have you found in reaching toward water? What wisdom have you found in being burnt by fire?
- ❖ **From Laws to Love:** *'If you choose you can keep the commandments'* is pointing to human free will and capacity of each of us to follow the ways of God. The meaning of the word commandment means 'something placed into your hand.' Do you see the guidance of laws and teachings of Jesus and the Church as 'a message of love placed into your hands' by someone who loves you, or as a 'stick'? What is the consequence of viewing laws as a stick?
- ❖ **A Different Wisdom:** St Paul had many people in the Corinthian community turn against him. One particular group within that community claimed to be more spiritual and knowledgeable. St Paul humbly points out that academic and worldly debate is not the sign of true wisdom from God. Knowledge and wisdom are different. Wisdom is found in love, and often through suffering. And the Spirit is present especially in those who love God. Who is a wisdom figure for you? How do you see love present in their life?
- ❖ **Be-attitudes — Living Deeper:** The Gospel of Matthew is unique in that the community began with Jewish Christians and, subsequently, Greek converts to Christianity became increasingly prominent. Jewish Christians had grown up keeping all 613 laws of the Old Testament. Scribes (scripture scholars) and Pharisees (lay men determined to precisely observe all the Jewish laws) prided themselves on being righteous, and yet Jesus says their living is shallow. Jesus invites followers to live much more deeply. Murder is healed when people resolve their anger. Adultery is healed when people can live and look upon each other without lust. Easy divorce is not a positive option. Let your word be always true in 'yes' and 'no'. Anger. Lust. Relationships. Lies. What area(s) do you need to work on to transform your life so you are living in 'right relationship' with God and others?
- ❖ **Anyone Upset with You?:** Recall if any brother or sister has anything against you. What would the invitation 'go first and be reconciled' before coming to Sunday Mass personally mean for you?

** Pray, Reflect, Grow with the Sunday Readings at www.livingtheword.org.nz



LENT 2026

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Even now, at the age of 69, I can remember a great icon of my life, Sr Maria Goretti, preparing us in Grade Two for Lent, which was the annual time for self-sacrifice. So, she shared all the ways we could make sacrifice and help other poor children in the missions. For a six-year-old boy, giving up ice-creams and sweets for six weeks was a daunting task, but there was a reward for this super effort – one could have all the chocolate they wanted at Easter and those poor children in Papua New Guinea would be better off.

It all sounds simplistic, but Sr Maria Goretti was never wrong and, to this day, I know she is the one who taught me about practical charity. As always, she was right. She just did not have the whole message, but who does? Truth is Lent is a time of great opportunity for us to pray, reflect, deepen our faith together, and make this world a bit of a better place. Sounds like a mammoth programme? Well, why not? After all, God invites us to such an intimate friendship that the possibilities for life are endless. Why limit God's love for us? His belief in us is beyond human comprehension, engaging us to be builders of his Kingdom, here and now; co-creators of his love poured out for all humanity. Think about it. It is mind blowing! At regular times, it is good to sit and wonder, pray and reflect.

My dear friend, St Teresa of Avila, would show us the way to go within and spend time sitting with our friend, the Lord, thus enriching our life in the world. A formidable saint of the 20th century, Charles de Foucauld, lived Lent 24/7. He was a hermit in the Sahara, living the 40 days of Lent continuously, seeing the desert as a place to encounter God through silence and solitude. He viewed Lent as an extension of his daily life: a "desert" experience focused on imitating the hidden and poor life of Jesus in Nazareth. He emphasised abandonment to God's will, silence, prayer, and penance as the core of spiritual renewal.

As with Sr Maria Goretti, for a young boy, there is here an exceptional message and lesson for us in the Christian life, as we follow the way of Jesus and deepen our friendship with him. We are all on the way to God. On this journey, we all need Lent, time in the desert for wonder at the Mystery that is God and life, for prayer and reflection, for sacrifice and giving to the poor.

Erik Varden, the Bishop of Trondheim, insightfully alerts Christians to how we limit religion. Lent is the time to remedy this cancer, a time of conversion. Let us remember always that the gospel transforms us. In Fr Erik's words: "To be human is to be prepared to set out ever anew, to learn to embrace the terrible in order, thereby, in Christ's name, to be renewed in the core of our being, to glimpse the new heaven and the new earth towards which we're drawn".

I wish all of us a nourishing Lent – John P Murray osa

MONDAY

February 16
Weekday
Jas 1:1-11
Mk 8:11-13

TUESDAY

February 17
Weekday
Jas 1:12-18
Mk 8:14-21

WEDNESDAY

February 18
Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12-18
2 Cor 5:20-6:2
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

THURSDAY

February 19
*Thursday after
Ash Wednesday*

Dt 30:15-20
Lk 9:22-25

FRIDAY

February 20
*Friday after
Ash Wednesday*

Is 58:1-9a
Mt 9:14-15

SATURDAY

February 21
*Saturday after
Ash Wednesday*

Is 58:9b-14
Lk 5:27-32

SUNDAY

February 22
*First Sunday
of Lent*
Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Rom 5:12-19 or
5:12, 17-19
Mt 4:1-11

FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday (18/2/2026) and Good Friday (3/4/2026) are days of fast and abstinence.

In current Catholic practice, fasting means having only one full meal on a day. Smaller quantities of food may be eaten at two other meals but no food should be consumed at any other time during the day.

Abstinence is the practice of abstaining from meat. The use of other forms of penance, particularly works of charity or piety, are encouraged.

The law of fasting applies to people from 18 to 59 years old. Everyone aged 14 years and older is bound by the law of abstinence from meat.

The spirit of the law may invite us to extend the fast to things other than food - television or computer games, gambling or gossiping. The minimum fasting requirements make most sense when they are combined with prayer and almsgiving. These age-old disciplines reflect our most fundamental concerns: our relationship with God (prayer), with our bodies (fasting) and with others (almsgiving).

The purpose of fasting and abstinence is not to punish but to teach us a detachment from whatever may keep us from God.

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

Good News!

February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 15:15-20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 /
Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No’” (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, “And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be” (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

Do you want to say more than a simple “Yes” or “No”? Do you want to say, “Yes, but... I can’t do it now.” Or “I can’t forgive this particular person.” Or “I can’t welcome this particular stranger.” Or “I can’t love him or her or them.”

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? ●

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PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

**Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God. May I be like You. (Repeat)
You are the potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.**

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 (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) **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: EYE HAS NOT SEEN (No. 728)

FINAL: MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE (No. 828) **PLEASE STAND**

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Sunday, 15 February 2026

ENTRANCE: GLORY AND PRAISE TO OUR GOD (No. 606) **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 15:15-20

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him. Immense is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power, and all-seeing. The eyes of God are on those who fear him; he understands man's every deed. No one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 119: BLESSED ARE THEY WHO FOLLOW

R. Bless - ed are they who fol - low the law of the Lord!

1. Blessed are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.
Blessed are they who observe his decrees, who seek him with all their heart. (R)
2. You have commanded that your precepts be diligently kept.
Oh, that I might be firm in the ways of keeping your statutes! (R)
3. Be good to your servant, that I may live and keep your words.
Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law. (R)
4. Instruct me, O LORD, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them.
Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart. (R)

SECOND READING: 1 Cor 2:6-10**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:**

Brothers and sisters: We speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for, if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written:

*What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,
and what has not entered the human heart,
what God has prepared for those who love him,
this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.*

For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA: PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**All: Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.**

GOSPEL: Mt 5:17-37

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.* But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to his brother, 'Raca,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, *You shall not commit adultery.* But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.

"It was also said, *Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.* But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife - unless the marriage is unlawful - causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.* But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one."

Priest: The Gospel 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:
"Lord, open our eyes to your glory."**