

LIVINGTHEWORD

- ❖ **Easter Challenge:** The early Christian community described in Acts endures many challenging experiences. Today marks an incredible breakthrough. Greek speaking Christians (Hellenists) complained their widows were not being fed in the daily distribution of food to the poor. Jewish Christians may have been favouring their own kind. The Church was transitioning from a Jewish Christian community to a more Greek speaking and Greek cultured community. Imagine the tensions and arguments! Yet the Apostles creatively responded with wisdom and preserved unity. A new service structure was implemented into the community.
Q: *Who is getting all the attention in your community? Who is not? What culturally creative response is needed to meet the needs of your community today?*
- ❖ **A Living Stone:** This passage is part of an Easter Baptismal Homily. The image is of a Temple built with stones connected with the cornerstone – Jesus – which holds the whole house together.
Q: *Who is a 'living stone' you look up to in your local community reminding you of Jesus? What value or virtue does their life encourage you to live?*
- ❖ **A Holy – Priestly People:** a people bringing the world to God and God to the world, is not to be understood as confined to the Temple. Peter reminds all the baptised they are no longer limited to bringing animal and grain offerings to the Temple. Their lives are to announce God's love and care. Feeding the poor, clothing and care of the sick, prayers for the community, are all part of the great spiritual sacrifices offered to God, to bring God to the world and the world to God.
Q: *Do you glimpse your royal and priestly job description of Baptism into the family of Christ? Can you connect the Sunday altar and your Monday workplace?*
- ❖ **Departing Words:** John 14-17 are Jesus' departing words to his disciples, filled with the language of intimate love.
Q: *Have you ever had someone beautifully prepare a guest room for you? Say they want you to be always with them? How did it feel? How does it feel to know Jesus wants this relationship with you?*
- ❖ **Feeling Lost?** Without Jesus and no longer welcome in the Jewish Temple, the Johannine community felt they were lost. How can we know the 'way'? 'I AM the way' is a theological punch. Jesus uses the divine name – **I AM** – and challenges his followers to live his way – the way of God.
Q: *Our life-style, our time-style, our 'way', is to be a re-presentation of Christ. How does this challenge you?*
- ❖ **Action:** "Going to Church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."
Q: *What works are you called to do?*

THE JOY OF BAPTISM

I had been looking forward, with some level of self-interest and great enthusiasm, to a celebration of baptism that happened in our midst yesterday. It was the baptism of two young, adult males of totally different backgrounds, who are part of who we are as a community of faith. They had come to baptism through knowing and being with us, in the celebration of our faith, at Sunday Eucharist.

But it is not just about us. Rather, it is about who we are in relationship with the Risen Lord, through the working of the Spirit. In some mysterious way, others meet Jesus or are led to Jesus and the truth of God's love through us as church, a community of faith. As I get older, I am coming to appreciate this mystery more and more. It is so true.

When I had asked both parties what was their motivation for seeking baptism, I was struck not by their reasons, but by the strength of their desire for baptism. How could that be denied? From where did such strength originate? It speaks to us so poignantly of the power of the Resurrection, which led to the pouring forth of the Holy Spirit. As Benedict XVI highlighted, this happens through a living relationship with Jesus.

Within the West, notably in countries like France, there is a present and significant increase in adults seeking baptism. This is not only a Western phenomenon, as I see it also here in My Bangkok, focused on our 10am Mass community. What is happening?

In 2024, I heard Bishop Varden talk on this, when I met him in his diocese, in Norway. He noted the trend of many coming the way of the Church there, in their search for meaning in life. He explained it as arising from a general dissatisfaction with decades of secularism in Europe. I do readily concur as, like Norway and Europe, people are also searching in my own part of the world. This reflects the human quest for meaning and purpose in life – a spiritual quest – as described by St Augustine some 1,600 years ago. Pope Leo has spoken about this so passionately more than once, most recently in Equatorial Guinea, on April 21st:

"Saint Augustine interpreted events and history according to the model of two cities: the "City of God," eternal and characterised by God's unconditional love (amor Dei), as well as love for one's neighbour, especially the poor; and the "earthly city," which is a temporary dwelling place, where men and women live until death. According to the Great Father Augustine, the earthly city is centred upon the proud love of self (amor sui), on the lust for power and worldly glory that leads to destruction. By contrast, Augustine holds that Christians are called by God to dwell in the earthly city while keeping their hearts and minds turned toward the heavenly city, their true homeland."

Thus, people are called to the joy of baptism.

– John P Murray osa

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



MONDAY

May 4
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:5-18
Jn 14:21-26

TUESDAY

May 5
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:19-28
Jn 14:27-31a

WEDNESDAY

May 6
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:1-6
Jn 15:1-8

THURSDAY

May 7
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:7-21
Jn 15:9-11

FRIDAY

May 8
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:22-31
Jn 15:12-17

SATURDAY

May 9
Easter Weekday
Acts 16:1-10
Jn 15:18-21

SUNDAY

May 10
Sixth Sunday of
Easter
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Pt 3:15-18
Jn 14:15-21

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

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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

Good News!

May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)
Acts 6:1-7 / 1 Peter 2:4-9 / John 14:1-12

ANN M. GARRIDO

When I was a child, my parents taught me to pray with my hands pressed together, fingers pointed upward toward God. But somewhere along the way, I learned a different posture for prayer: seated, with my palms facing upward on my lap. It's a gesture of openness—an acknowledgment that I come before God in humble need, ready to receive whatever he wants to give.

In today's gospel, Philip approaches Jesus in a similar stance of openness. "Show us the Father," he says, "and that will be enough for us" (John 14:8). Jesus responds that Philip has already seen the Father because Jesus' words and actions are the Father's words and actions. Philip needs no more—he has already received "enough."

Sometimes, I need this reminder myself. I long for a new insight into God that perhaps one more book or one more lecture will give me. Don't get me wrong: lifelong learning is a wonderful thing, and there is always more of God to discover! But it is important to acknowledge that, like Philip, I have already come to know the Father through Jesus, and everything I need to live the Christian life is already in place. Rather than more knowledge, it is a question of putting into action what I've been taught.

Of late, when I pray, I have embraced a new prayer posture: turning my hands downward, resting my palms on my knees. It helps me remember that with Jesus as my shepherd, I "shall not want." I already have all I need. ●

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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: I RECEIVE THE LIVING GOD (No. 916)**FINAL: LEAD ME, LORD PLEASE STAND**

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, longing for their Lord,
for God's coming kingdom shall be theirs.

Blessed are the sorrowing, for they shall be consoled,
and the meek shall come to rule the world.

Refrain: Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth
to seek and to find the narrow way.

Be my way; be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, today.

2. Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs,
and the pure in heart shall see their God.

Blest are they whose hunger only holiness can fill,
for I say they shall be satisfied. (R)

3. Blest are they who through their lifetimes sow the seeds of peace;
all will call them children of the Lord.

Blest are you, though persecuted in your holy life,
for in heaven, great is your reward. (R)

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

Sunday, 3 May 2026

ENTRANCE: I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES! (No. 527) 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: Acts 6:1-7**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:**

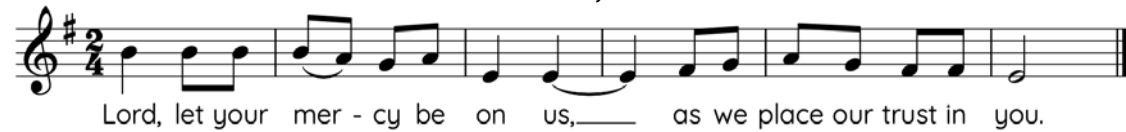
As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented

these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 33: LORD, LET YOUR MERCY BE ON US



1. Exult, you just, in the LORD; praise from the upright is fitting.
Give thanks to the LORD on the harp; with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises. (R)
2. Upright is the word of the LORD, and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full. (R)
3. See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,
To deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine. (R)

SECOND READING: 1 Pt 2:4-9

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter:

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture:

Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,

And

A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall.

They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA: PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**All: I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.**

GOSPEL: Jn 14:1-12

Priest: The Lord be with you.

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

All: And with your spirit.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

Priest: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

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:
"Open your house to us, O God."**

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: THERE ARE MANY ROOMS (No. 867)

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.