

LIVINGTHEWORD

- ❖ **A Promise of the Father:** The writer of the Gospel of Luke is also understood to have written the Acts of the Apostles. In Acts, we learn of the unfolding events after Easter. The Feast of the Ascension is not trying to claim historically Jesus ‘ascended’ after 40 days, but simply reflect on his ‘Ascension’ and His new presence now in Heaven.
[Q]: *Jesus states a promise has been made by the Father to send the Holy Spirit. Have you ever asked someone to make a promise? Was it serious? Why? What does this reveal about Jesus and us?*
- ❖ **Looking Up or Looking Around?** The disciples are almost told off by the Angels. ‘Why are you looking up at the sky?’ Instead of looking up, look around and get to work! The text also encourages a waiting for the Spirit and its power so that each disciple can witness.
[Q]: *Have you waited in prayer, calling for the gift and promise of the Holy Spirit? How could you witness – show ... share – Jesus in your home and workplace this week?*
- ❖ **Gifts of the Spirit:** The Letter to the Ephesians describes what the Spirit can bring about personally in us and in the life of the Church.
[Q]: *What part of the prayer attracts your attention: wisdom, revelation, knowledge, enlighten, hope, call, glory, great might? What do you pray for the Holy Spirit to do in your life this Pentecost?*
- ❖ **All Nations:** Putting things ‘beneath his feet’ is an ancient idea of authority and power. Kings and queens were often raised to a height so that all who would come to visit would approach at the level of their feet. Jesus is claiming all power and authority from God and now giving disciples three tasks:
(1) Gather everyone (not just Jewish people);
(2) Baptise everyone (not just men); and
(3) Teach everyone to follow me (not just those in the Church).
[Q]: *Imagine meeting Jesus and he asks you how you’ve been going with these three jobs. What would you say?*
- ❖ **Some Worshipped and Some Hesitated:** Jesus’ followers have always been a mixed bag. Some worshipped but others doubted – hesitated (verse 17). This does not seem to make Jesus disappointed or angry. Instead, he confidently gives us a divine commission to boldly witness.
[Q]: *How is your personal journey from believing in faith to living the faith going? In which parts of life are you doubting – hesitating?*
- ❖ **I Am With You:** Jesus in Heaven is now present in a new way. There is still the struggle displacing the grip of Satan and completing the reign of God. This is why he clothes his disciples with his power to continue his work and re-present him.
[Q]: *Where do you feel you most continue his presence each week?*

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY ACCORDING TO LAUDATO SI’ (LS)

Pope Francis presents Saint Francis of Assisi as a model of living “in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself” (LS 10). These four elements offer a solid and integral foundation for the entire Encyclical. Integral ecology – the concept at the heart of LS – is a paradigm for analysis, discernment and commitment. Within integral ecology, LS encompasses numerous specific ecologies: environmental, economic, social, cultural, societal institutions, daily life, and overall human ecology. This list entails interconnectedness and consistency. When we better appreciate the interconnectedness of our natural world, we will better understand the interdependence of human and natural environments. After all, human persons are a part of nature, and so they need to have a proper relationship with it. When initiatives are proposed, there must be a consideration of the human person’s relationship with God, others and the natural world; “everything is connected” as Pope Francis often likes to remind us. This same principle applies to individual believers: living a full and meaningful life (Jn 10:10) entails caring for all aspects of a person’s flourishing. Not surprisingly, right after the list of ecologies, LS evokes the common good, namely “the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups, and their individual members, relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment.” Here, too, the “sum of conditions” implies interconnectedness and consistency. Further, while it is right to make use of specialised expertise in any particular field, this does not mean imposing personal preferences; rather, it is necessary to work comprehensively in consideration of all the above ecologies.

Moreover, the reference to “daily life” reminds us that care for Creation, as well as care for our sisters and brothers, are not tasks for experts only; they are for everyone. It is also an issue of cooperation, since alone we will not go far; it is also about “how” we cooperate with one another.

Finally, integral ecology – especially when considering the common good and integral human development – is not merely a method. It is not about promoting interconnectedness and transdisciplinary approaches as ends in themselves. Integral ecology has a purpose: the fulfilment of the entire human family through a life based on solidarity and sustainability, and the fulfilment of each of us through lives of wholeness and holiness.

*This is taken from **Integral Ecology in the Life of the Family**, a 2026 document from the Dicastries for Promoting Integral Human Development and for Laity, Family and Life. This is a good introduction to **Laudato Si’ Week (17 to 24 May)**, a week when all Christian Churches join together to renew their commitment to taking care of our Common Home, in caring for Creation and human life. The theme for this week is “**From Hope to Action**”, voicing the challenge to build up our common home together.*

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



CALENDAR

MONDAY

May 18
Easter Weekday
Acts 19:1-8
Jn 16:29-33

TUESDAY

May 19
Easter Weekday
Acts 20:17-27
Jn 17:1-11a

WEDNESDAY

May 20
Easter Weekday
Acts 20:28-38
Jn 17:11b-19

THURSDAY

May 21
Easter Weekday
Acts 22:30;
23:6-11
Jn 17:20-26

FRIDAY

May 22
Easter Weekday
Acts 25:13b-21
Jn 21:15-19

SATURDAY

May 23
Easter Weekday
Acts 28:16-20,
30-31
Jn 21:20-25

SUNDAY

May 24
Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
1 Cor 12:3b-7,
12-13
Jn 20:19-23

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

ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL

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Rev. Ignatius Adisak Somsaengsuang

ASSISTANTS:

Rev. Peter Somphop Ruengwuthichanapuech
Rev. Peter Kittisak Kitsamret

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 17, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord (A)

Acts 1:1-11 / Ephesians 1:17-23 / Matthew 28:16-20

MIGUEL DULICK

Even by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit! •

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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: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (No. 945)

FINAL: GO MAKE ALL DISCIPLES (No. 769) PLEASE STAND

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Sunday, 17 May 2026

ENTRANCE: HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE (No. 543) 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 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

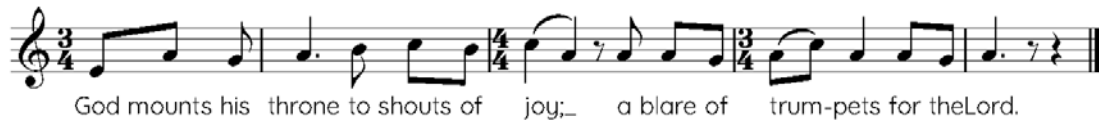
In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 47: GOD MOUNTS HIS THRONE



1. All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness, For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth. (R)
2. God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R)
3. For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne. (R)

SECOND READING: Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA: PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**All: Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.**

GOSPEL: Mt 28:16-20

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.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

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:
"Make us faithful witnesses, O God."**

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: BLESS THE LORD (No. 620)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND