

LIVINGTHEWORD

- ❖ **The Wisdom of Solomon:** The last person to possibly take his kingship (Shimei, see 1Kings 2,8) has died so Solomon is now truly King. He has also just married the King of Egypt's – Pharaoh's – daughter! Solomon's power and political responsibilities are immense. He makes a special journey to Gibeon, a very special 'high place' and altar. He presents 1,000 burnt offerings on the altar! (1Kings 3,4). The intensity of his prayer, as well as his humility, are striking. You have made me. I am your servant. I have the responsibilities of a King. Yet I am young. I don't know what to do. Give me an understanding heart.
[Q]: *What would your deepest and most heartfelt prayer to God be as God asks you: 'Ask something of me'?*
- ❖ **Highs and Lows:** Life involves ups and downs. It takes great faith to trust that 'all things work for good for those who love God'. Consider a difficult life experience.
[Q]: *How has it worked for your good? Have you allowed it to mould you closer to the image of his Son?*
- ❖ **Thinking is Not Possessing:** The phrase 'Kingdom of Heaven' is the idea Jesus most talked about in the gospels. Having a heart for the poor. A desire and commitment to see that all are included. Fighting all systems that exclude and oppress. The compassion and forgiveness offered to us by God. For Jesus, these are not just ideas – they are lived realities. A treasure 'thought about' is not a 'treasure possessed'. Being possessed by 'the Kingdom' comes at a cost because it invites us into a complete transformation of our life.
[Q]: *Is your discipleship 'thinking about the Kingdom' or 'living for the Kingdom'?*
- ❖ **Selling Everything:** Filled with joy, the person in the parable sells all that he owns to buy the buried treasure. The treasure – the Kingdom – has now possessed him! But the person had to let go of everything else to buy it. There is a dramatic joy and reprioritisation of values that has taken place in the heart.
[Q]: *What do you truly love and would be willing to sell all that you have for its possession? Are the top values that steer your life God's values or worldly values?*
- ❖ **The Righteous and The Wicked:** As in previous parables in Matthew Chapter 13, Jesus includes a subversive challenge. There will be a judgment: good and evil will be separated at the end of time based on how people have lived.
[Q]: *Imagine and examine yourself at the Final Judgment. Would the witness of your life be words about the poor or actions to lift up the poor? What would living more for the Kingdom of God practically look like?*

Parables of the Kingdom

Over recent Sundays, we have heard Matthew's proclaiming the Kingdom, through the use of parables. A parable can be defined as "a short, simple story used to illustrate a moral or make a point in presenting the message of Jesus". It is a skillful teaching tool, used to reach the masses – *us*.

Matthew is challenging us to think again about our ideas of God and salvation. His focus on Jesus is an invitation to a faith relationship which leads to transformation, a new understanding of what it means to be human.

Matthew challenges us to understand the idea of discipleship as being beyond adherence to commandments. Much more, it has to do with understanding that, in Jesus, God is with us, and that, as disciples, our calling is to embrace the way of the Kingdom as shown by Jesus in word and deed.

In the person of Jesus, God has shown himself with his disciples, as the compassionate, faithful healer, calling them to live the challenge of the good news of God's reign – "*A life they never dared hope for*". Jesus looks upon his disciples with compassion, ever striving to lighten their burden of discipleship within a hostile world.

Matthew's church is a community of disciples, characterised by humility, concern for the 'little ones', reconciliation, forgiveness and mercy. All this is a foretaste of the Kingdom of Heaven. So, the church is the community of disciples, representing the renewed, restored people of God, sharing in his mission to build the Kingdom.

Opportunities in faith for Jesus' disciples, the Church:

- ❖ Focus on the person of Jesus as the presence of God.
- ❖ Focus on the Kingdom as an expression of God's will.
- ❖ Focus on community built on reconciliation and mercy.
- ❖ Focus on the connection between faith and life.

Thus, the disciples are challenged to move from simply believing in Jesus to believing as Jesus believed. The Kingdom, preached by Jesus, may be deemed an impossible dream, but it is truly for here and now – in the midst of our world's reality – transforming our world into the world willed and visioned by our God, a God with us.

Sharing a few thoughts from Kieran O'Mahony osa



CALENDAR

MONDAY

July 27
Weekday
Jer 13:1-11
Mt 13:31-35

TUESDAY

July 28
Weekday
Jer 14:17-22
Mt 13:36-43

WEDNESDAY

July 29
Sts. Martha, Mary,
and Lazarus
Jer 15:10, 16-21
Jn 11:19-27 or
Lk 10:38-42

THURSDAY

July 30
Weekday
Jer 18:1-6
Mt 13:47-53

FRIDAY

July 31
St. Ignatius of
Loyola, Priest
Jer 26:1-9
Mt 13:54-58

SATURDAY

August 1
St. Alphonsus
Liguori,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Jer 26:11-16, 24
Mt 14:1-12

SUNDAY

August 2
Eighteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Is 55:1-3
Rom 8:35, 37-39
Mt 14:13-21

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

ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL

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PASTOR:

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!

July 26, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 / Romans 8:28-30 / Matthew
13:44-52 or 13:44-46

ANN M. GARRIDO

Jesus' favorite thing to talk about was a mystery he called the kingdom of God, referred to in the Gospel of Matthew as the kingdom of heaven. He was not the first to speak of it. The prophets before him spoke often of God's dream for the world. They wanted all to know what it would look like when God reigns here on earth as God already reigns in the heavens. But Jesus added to that teaching by offering vivid new images of what God's reign is like. Matthew 13 is filled with such snapshots. The kingdom of heaven will be like a mustard seed, a pearl, a measure of leaven, a hidden treasure. It will be like a sower casting out seed, a wheat harvest, a net that catches many fish.

At the end of this litany, however, Jesus offers an image of what he expects of those who have received his teaching about the Kingdom. They are to be like "the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old" (Matthew 13:52). It sounds as if Jesus' disciples are to act like hosts of a banquet, setting the table with stories from across time to feed their guests with whatever words and images would best help them grasp the mystery of this kingdom. They are to continue Jesus' work of developing new ways to illumine a mystery that is in the end too great for words. ●

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)

Amen. Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (No. 387)

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. 390) **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: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY (No. 932)

FINAL: BE THOU MY VISION **PLEASE STAND**

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Riches I heed not, or man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.
4. High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Sunday, 26 July 2026

ENTRANCE: HOLY GOD WE PRAISE THY NAME (No. 615) **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: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first Book of Kings:

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Solomon answered: "O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?"

The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: "Because you have asked for this—not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you."

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 119: LORD, I LOVE YOUR COMMANDS

Lord, I love your com - mands.

- I have said, O LORD, that my part is to keep your words.
The law of your mouth is to me more precious
than thousands of gold and silver pieces. (R)
- Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise to your servants.
Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight. (R)
- For I love your commands more than gold, however fine.
For in all your precepts I go forward; every false way I hate. (R)
- Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them.
The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple. (R)

SECOND READING: Rom 8:28-30

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

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

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;
for you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.**

GOSPEL: Mt 13:44-46

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.

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."

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:

“Lord, give us an understanding heart.”

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: ONLY THIS I WANT (No. 782)

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)