

- ❖ **Service or Status:** The ‘master of the palace’ carried another well-known title: ‘keeper of the keys’. He wore the key to the palace door on his shoulder for all to see — a sign that he had access to the king and could act in the king’s name. Shebna used this office for his own status and power. Now God removes him and gives the keys to faithful Eliakim, driven ‘like a peg into a firm place’.

[Q]: *Where has authority been entrusted to you, do you carry it as service, or as status?*

- ❖ **From Problems to Praise:** Paul comes to the end of a long and painful wrestling with God over why his own people could not accept Jesus. After all his arguing he finishes not with an answer but with praise: ‘How rich are the depths of God... how impossible to penetrate his motives!’ He hands the whole struggle over to the mystery of how God works.

[Q]: *What unresolved struggle, or unanswered ‘why’, do you need to hand over to God today?*

- ❖ **Who Do You Say I Am:** Jesus leads his disciples north to Caesarea Philippi, a place which had 5 large shrines to Roman emperors and pagan gods – including the Temple of the Dancing Goat! Against that backdrop of religious ideas and things to worship, he turns and asks them — *and us* — the question that matters most: ‘But you, who do you say I am?’ Imagine standing in that scene. There are so many gods to worship, but Jesus is asking you where he ‘fits’?

[Q]: *How would you answer him — honestly — today?*

- ❖ **You Are The Christ:** Simon’s reply joins two titles — ‘*The Christ*’ is the long-awaited Messiah promised to save God’s people; ‘*Son of the living God*’ names the unique relationship Jesus has with the Father. He is not simply another prophet — John, Elijah, Jeremiah — but uniquely one with God.

[Q]: *Would you say you ‘know about’ Jesus, or that you ‘know’ him? Is your faith second-hand, or grounded in a personal encounter?*

- ❖ **‘Cephas’ — Rock:** was not a known Jewish name; it was a striking image once reserved for God alone. Joined to the ‘keys of the Kingdom’, Peter is given a real teaching authority for the time when Jesus is no longer physically present. Binding and loosing speak of God reclaiming the world from evil and setting it in order.

[Q]: *How do you relate to authority in the Church — do you receive this gift of Jesus positively, or negatively?*

Let us learn from the Church in Spain, where Pope Leo visited in June – it is a story of Synodality

(Austen Ivereigh’s “*First love, then technique*”, *The Tablet*, 20-06-26)

The Spanish bishops’ four-year pastoral plan, *Poneos en camino* (“Set out on the road”, Luke 10:3), published in April, is the fruit of a broad consultation, concluding in discernment sessions by the bishops, using conversations in the Spirit. Echoing the breakthrough Latin American Assembly of Aparecida (2007) that led to *Evangelii Gaudium*, Francis’ 2013 road map for the Church, the document frankly faces the crisis of faith transmission – people no longer become Catholic through family and parish – that has led to the shrinking and ageing of the eight million of Spain’s 45 million population who attend Mass. (“In Spain the era is over in which we said: ‘I am Catholic because I was born in Spain,’” the bishops say.)

But then the bishops reject the temptation to batten down the hatches until the storm passes, saying this would be to betray Christ’s mandate to evangelise, and abandon society to individualistic ideologies that breed polarisation and conflict. Their answer is a wholehearted commitment to the missionary conversion of *Evangelii Gaudium* and its call to evangelise, with synodality and discernment as the keys. Insisting that synodality and mission are inseparable, that to move into a missionary key without the synodal conversion of people and structures is a contradiction, the bishops endlessly quote the Synod Final Document, stressing Leo’s call for its implementation this year. This stress on synodality as the key to missionary conversion is exactly that of Leo, who in *Magnifica Humanitas* says the Synod Final Document identifies the “key practices for missionary transformation”.

Leo came to encourage and embed this path of missionary conversion, paying special attention to the young, 600,000 of whom he led in prayer at a “festival of faith” in the Plaza de Lima, telling them how his years in Peru showed him how “the Word of God can transform conflict into peace, can be a source of reconciliation, peace, and justice”. At the Corpus Christi Mass in the Plaza de Cibeles the following day, he told a huge crowd of 1.2 million that Spain’s historic Church was not a folklore museum to be visited but a school of faith for the building of a better society, and that the Eucharist was not just about “bringing out the monstrance, but of allowing ourselves to be brought out of our selfishness and indifference, out of a comfortable, private faith, so as to respond to His invitation to conversion, to change our perspective, and to welcome His presence which transforms us and makes us builders of a new world.”



CALENDAR

MONDAY
August 24
St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Rv 21:9b-14
Jn 1:45-51

TUESDAY
August 25
Weekday
2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17
Mt 23:23-26

WEDNESDAY
August 26
Weekday
2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18
Mt 23:27-32

THURSDAY
August 27
St. Monica
1 Cor 1:1-9
Mt 24:42-51

FRIDAY
August 28
St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Cor 1:17-25
Mt 25:1-13

SATURDAY
August 29
The Passion of St. John the Baptist
1 Cor 1:26-31
Mk 6:17-29

SUNDAY
August 30
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 20:7-9
Rom 12:1-2
Mt 16:21-27

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!

August 23, 2026
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 22:19-23 / Romans 11:33-36
/ Matthew 16:13-20

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” An easy answer if you just report what other people say and what you have heard. No commitment. No revelation. No risk. But it all changes when the question is more to the point: “Who do *you* say that I am?” Tell me what you know, not what you heard. The silence is almost deafening. Vulnerability, not just anonymous reporting, is required in the asked-for response.

No surprise—it is Peter who answers. Never one to hide his emotions or edit his thoughts, it is Peter who reveals what he knows, perhaps even what he is unsure of, perhaps the truth that he only hopes for but has not yet declared. “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus responds with a prayer of blessing; the apostles, on the other hand, remain silent. Although we are very familiar with Peter’s assent of faith, his declaration was almost unheard-of or unexpected from a first-century Jewish man. It was dangerous to identify someone as Messiah. It was blasphemous to name someone as the Son of the Living God. Yet, in faith and humility, Peter made the declaration and, in the naming, entrusted his life, his hope, and all that he believed firmly into the hands of Jesus. This was no simple act. This was no ordinary day. ●

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3. Sometimes when troubles are many, life can seem empty, it's true,
but look at the life of the Master, who lovingly suffered for you. (R)

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. 387)

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: I RECEIVE THE LIVING GOD (No. 916)

IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD (No. 918)

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

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Sunday, 23rd August 2026

ENTRANCE: THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION (No. 742) 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, ELEISON / LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kýrie, eléison,(2). Christe, eléison, (2). Kýrie, eléison, (2).

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 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 prayers;
you are seated at 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 22:19-23

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace: "I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah; I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of

Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family."

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 138: LORD, YOUR LOVE IS ETERNAL



- 1. I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple. (R)
- 2. I will give thanks to your name, because of your kindness and your truth: When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me. (R)
- 3. The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. Your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands. (R)

SECOND READING: Rom 11:33-36

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

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!
*For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor?
Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?*
For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

**All: You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church
and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.**

GOSPEL: Mt 16:13-20

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.**

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others

Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Priest: The Gospel 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, hear our prayer.”

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: ALL THAT WE HAVE

- Refrain:** All that we have and all that we offer,
Comes from a heart both frightened and free.
Take what we bring now and give what we need,
All done in his name.
- 1. Some would rely on their power, others put trust in their gold.
Some have only their savior, whose faithfulness never grows old. (R)
 - 2. Sometimes the road may be lonesome, often we may lose our way;
take courage and always remember; love isn't just for a day. (R)