



St Mark's Parish

www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au



~ The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ 15 August 2022

I saw a woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet.

A mother carries her child in her womb, giving that child a share in her own life. What if a child were able to share its life with its mother? This is what we believe happened between our Risen Lord and his mother, Mary.

It is our faith that our Lord nourishes Mary with His Resurrection life, meaning that her bodysoul, her total humanity, is suffused with His Divine glory.

She grace-fully made the transition from earthly to heavenly existence without the wrenching apart of body and soul which we may expect. This is what we mean by 'The Assumption'.

This has been believed and celebrated since the early centuries of the church. Why was it only proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950? I think because in the first half of the 20th century tens of millions were killed in wars, death camps and in the Russian and China Communist dictatorships.

The Holy Spirit needed to remind the world that human beings are bodysouls made for transfiguration, not disfiguration by starvation, torture, massacre and disposal like animal carcasses.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we may share in the gift of transfigured bodies at the end of history.

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Hail, Mary; full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God,

pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.



The commemoration of the death of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(the Dormition, or falling asleep, as it was known in the East)

is known as the Assumption because of the tradition that her body did not decay but that she was raised up, body and soul, into heaven.

This tradition was already present in the sixth century; by the beginning of the twentieth century it was widespread; and after consulting the views of bishops all over the world, the Pope formally and infallibly declared the doctrine of the Assumption to be part of the authentic and ancient doctrine of the universal Church.

The Assumption

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Rev 12:1

(R.) A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
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.
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 of the Father, have mercy on us.
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. Amen.

First Reading

Revelation 11.19a; 12.1-6,10ab

A reading from the first book of Revelation
I saw a woman arrayed with the sun, the moon under her feet.

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.
A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth.
Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred sixty days.
Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah."

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 45.9,10,11a+12c+14, 15+17 (R.9b)

(R.) **The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.**

1. Daughters of kings are among your ladies of honour; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir. Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house. (R.)
2. The king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him. The princess is decked with golden robes; in many-coloured robes she is led to the king; behind her the virgins, her companions, follow. (R.)
3. With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king. I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations; therefore the peoples will praise you forever. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15.20-26

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
All will be made alive in Christ: he will be first, then all his disciples.

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a man; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1.39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The Mighty One has done great things for me; God has lifted up the lowly.

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."
And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, 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.

Communion Antiphon

Lk 1:48-49

(R.) All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.



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The Living Word

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gospel Reflection:

On the surface, today's gospel passage has little to do with the feast of the Assumption. There is no scriptural account of the Assumption and so we draw on a different significant gospel passage that features Mary. However, the account of Mary rushing to her cousin and exuberantly proclaiming the Magnificat is an example of Mary's joyful 'Yes' to life and to God that tradition tells us was rewarded in her bodily assumption into heaven.



Immediately prior to this account, the angel Gabriel has announced to Mary that she is to give birth to the Christ-child. Her humble response to the angel and to God is, 'Let it be done to me according to your word' even though she knew the shame and rejection her pregnancy would cause in her village. Whilst her initial response is subdued and humble, it is a 'Yes' to God's will. Mary's next instinct is an emphatic 'Yes' to life. The angel tells Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, is also to bear a child. Elizabeth was an older woman and keenly felt the social and cultural shame of not being able to bear children. When Mary hears that Elizabeth is already pregnant she rushes to be with her. Where no life was thought possible, God has created life. Elizabeth would have been shamed and regarded as inadequate and of lesser standing because of her childlessness. In many ways, Elizabeth was deprived of her own life because she could not give birth. Mary's "Yes" to God and "Yes" to life is confirmed and amplified by God's granting fullness of life to Elizabeth.

Historical Context – Feast of the Assumption:

Since the 5th Century there has been an active tradition and belief around the assumption of Mary. The tradition states that Mary was physically 'taken up' into heaven at the end of her life. It is believed that her soul and her body remained united. This ancient belief was defined as an infallible teaching of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950. It is one of only two infallible statements that have been defined as such and both related to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast is celebrated on August 15 and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Scriptural context – New life:

The restoration of life to those who are shamed and oppressed that is exemplified in Elizabeth is a compelling theme of the gospel of Luke. Time and again, those who are ground down by a lack of life are given new hope and new life by the extravagant love of God. And throughout Luke, the recipients of this new life are women. The widow of Nain (7:11-15); the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet (7:36-50); the woman with a haemorrhage (8:43-48); Jairus' daughter (8:40-56); and the crippled woman (13:10-17) are all examples of this outpouring of new life.

Living the Gospel – Saying 'Yes'

In a world that is increasingly selfish and negative, there is a trend towards isolation from family, neighbours and community. In the face of social isolation, the call to a Christian life is a call to say 'Yes' to life itself and all it offers. To say 'Yes' to life is to say 'Yes' to life-giving relationships and decisions and 'No' to life denying relationships and decisions. To say 'Yes' to life is to say 'No' to those things that harm self and harm others. A 'Yes' to life is a 'Yes' to hope; to possibility; to love; to God; and to yourself.

Questions:

- Q: What prompts Mary's rush to her older cousin?
- Q: What is the significance of Mary's arrival that suddenly makes Elizabeth fill with the Holy Spirit?
- Q: Why might this particular gospel writer begin his gospel with this emphasis on the affirmation of life?
- Q: How is it possible for you to acknowledge and support those in your community who are saying 'Yes' to life?

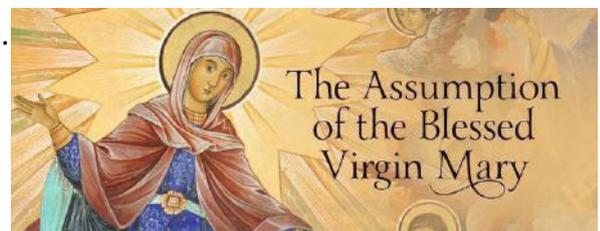
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Reflect:

When we're sad or lonely, who better to turn to than our universal mother?
Mary can feel the ripples of pain in our hearts and is ready to guide us to her son.

Pray:

Dear Mary, Like a woeful child, I am in need of your motherly care.
Wrap your arms around me for comfort, dry my tears, take me by the hand,
and lead me to your Son, the source of all that is good.
For only he can cast out the shadows of my troubled heart.
Amen.



Act: Not all of us are mothers, but we can still give maternal care to those who are hurting.
Share this prayer with the people in your life who could use a word of encouragement.

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St Mark's Church Hearing
Loop installed

Parish Bulletin: we ask that you take home your
bulletin, do not put it back for others or leave it on
the pew for others to pick up.

Administrator: Fr Denis Minns OP

Parish Priest: Fr Michael McLean PP

Pastoral Associate: Sr Antonia Nedu ISR

Chair Parish Pastoral Council: Ms Celine Cheng

School Principal: Ms Rachel Bourke

Masks are recommended, thank you for social distancing, please respect the sacredness of our church and remember to turn off your phone.

St Mark's Parish, Drummoyne acknowledges the Wangal people, one of 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.



God has done great things for me

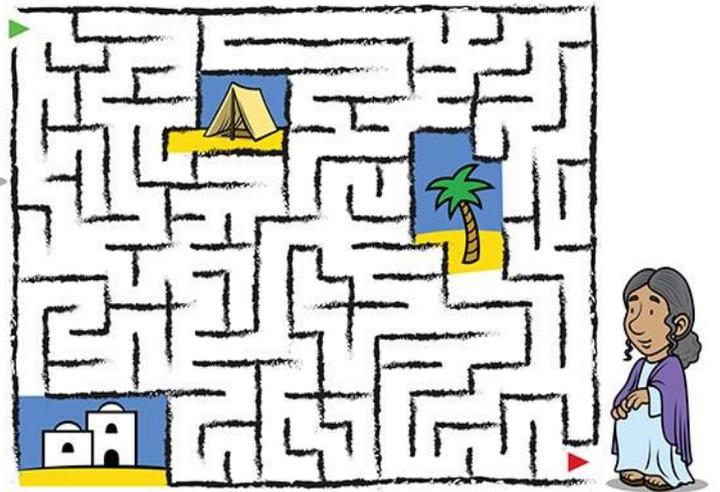


The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary,

*With all my heart I praise the Lord,
and I am glad because of God my Saviour.
He cares for me, his humble servant.
All people will say God has blessed me.
God All-Powerful has done great things for me,
and his name is holy.*



Help Mary find her way as she travels to see her cousin, Elizabeth.



**Mary was assumed into heaven.
Colour the picture of Mary.**

With all my heart I praise the Lord,
and I am glad because of God
my Savior.
He cares for me, his humble servant.
All people will say God has blessed me.
God All-Powerful has done great things
for me,
and his name is holy.



Mary was assumed into heaven.
Color the picture of Mary.

The angel Gabriel visited Mary. Draw the angel.



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.