

focus on sunday

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 15th August 2021

Mary the mother of Jesus - has conquered sin and death. She has been brought to heaven and we pray that when our time comes we may join her in her Son's kingdom.



One of the interesting aspects for me of the Brexit campaign was the impressive sight of pro EU demonstrators waving the EU flag - 12 stars on a field of blue. I am not sure how many were aware they

were carrying an emblem based on veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Arsène Heitz. A devout Catholic, designed the first European Flag which was adopted by the Council of Europe.

There is no gospel account of the Assumption, which is why today's gospel tells the story of The Visitation and Mary's proclamation of the Magnificat.

The First Reading and psalm of the feast fired the imagination over centuries to bring the image of a woman clothed in the sun with the moon beneath her feet and a crown of 12 stars above her head. It is of the Assumption. Mary was the perfect combination of our humanity cooperating with the Divine - in her very body she became the first tabernacle. Like the prayer that bears her name "Hail Mary" it combines the words (Hail Mary, full of grace...) of the Angelic visitor to Nazareth and our human words (Holy Mary, Mother of God) in response. May we like her cooperate more fully with God's loving plan.

Fr Tom Cox PP, Shannonbridge. Adapted from Messenger August 2021.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines: 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, our tribute of homage, rise up to you, O Lord, and, through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love, constantly long for you. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we ask you to grant, O Lord, that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

RESPONSORIAL Ps. 44:10-12.16

R. On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.

1. The daughters of kings are among your loved ones. On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words: forget your own people and your father's house. **(R)**
2. So will the king desire your beauty: he is your Lord, pay homage to him. They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass within the palace of the king. **(R)**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up into heaven: all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!

GOSEL Luke 1. 39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled. 'And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.

He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy - according to the promise he made to our ancestors - of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 May almighty God have mercy on us....**Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Glorify 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.



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of their glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Apocalypse 11:19;12: 1-6.10

A reading from the book of Apocalypse.

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.