

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

16TH AUGUST 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Fr Mark writes ...

Assumption

We celebrate a beautiful feast this weekend, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Rather than focus on our scripture readings, I would like to delve into the “Preface” offered by the Church for today. This prayer gives us a great introduction to the feast, in a sense summarising what we think we are doing as we gather:

*For today the Virgin Mother of God
was assumed into heaven
as the beginning and image
of your Church’s coming to perfection
and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people;
rightly you would not allow her
to see the corruption of the tomb
since from her own body she marvellously brought forth
your incarnate Son, the Author of all life.*

Now is the time of God’s favour; now is the moment of salvation

The preface begins with the word ‘today’. Our understanding of time has been challenged in recent times, not least by developments in modern physics, but liturgical time is the “time” of eternity - God’s time. As we celebrate this Solemnity, we are brought into communion with God and, through Him, are connected with the moment of Mary’s assumption. We belong to the eternal now of God, where Christ is Lord and time is healed of its brokenness. We are not merely marking an “anniversary” but are participating in a moment of saving grace.

Mary is the Virgin Mother of God

“Virgin Mother of God” - there is a great richness in these four words. “Virgin mother” - this juxtaposition is so familiar to many of us and yet how can this be? How can Mary be a virgin and a mother? This miraculous act of grace, involve in her total assent, is at the heart of the mystery we celebrate today. The title “Mother of God” - *theotokos* - again is so familiar to many of us that we can forget the power of these words. How can it be that a mere human is the Mother of the Eternal God, unless the one Jesus is truly God and truly human? We are reminded again that this feast celebrates a miracle of grace.

Mary is taken into heaven

The feast is called the “Assumption” because Mary is assumed, body and soul, into heaven. Notice the difference here between Mary’s passage to heaven and that of her son. Jesus ascended and Mary was assumed, taken, not by her own power (she is not God) but by the power of God’s love.

Where Mary goes first, we hope to follow

Mary is the beginning and image of God’s Church coming to perfection. After Jesus, Mary is the first of our human race to be taken into heaven. She is the first member of the Church to “cross the finishing line”, to reach perfection in God’s heavenly home. She is also the “image” of our future - we can look to Mary in heaven and see a picture of our future destiny. Through faith we too will be transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus and live with him in glory.

Furthermore, Mary’s assumption is a ‘sign of sure hope and comfort to God’s pilgrim people’. Sometimes the road seems long. We can feel lost, uncertain if we are on the right path. We need signs to reassure us. These signs afford us hope that we are on track - to keep persevering. If that sign also contains a picture to remind us of the beauty of our promised land then this can bring us comfort and consolation. Even if now we are caught up in fog or rain, thunder or darkness, unbearable cold, unimaginable heat, we are heading for a place where all will be well, where we discover that proverbial warm supper and a bath awaiting us in a place where there is no more sadness, no more tears, no

more pain.

Pope Pius XII, when he was defining the dogma of the Assumption, said this:

“And so we may hope that those who meditate upon the glorious example Mary offers us may be more and more convinced of the value of a human life entirely devoted to carrying out the heavenly Father’s will and to bringing good to others... Finally it is our hope that belief in Mary’s bodily Assumption into heaven will make our belief in our own resurrection stronger and render it more effective.”

Mary’s Assumption is connected intimately with her Immaculate Conception and the Incarnation

It is the Church’s belief that Mary was conceived without original sin. This is what we call the “Immaculate Conception of Our Lady” (different to the miraculous conception of Jesus, the Incarnation, which we celebrate at the Annunciation).

Pope Pius XII again:

“She by an entirely unique privilege completely overcame sin by her Immaculate Conception, and as a result, she was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body.”

These final words go to St. Germanus, the eighth century Patriarch of Constantinople, who sees the link between the Incarnation and the Assumption:

“For it was impossible that you, the vessel which bore God, should be dissolved and decomposed into the dust of death. Since He who emptied Himself into you was God from the beginning, and life eternal, the Mother of Life had to become a companion of life, had to experience death simply as a falling-asleep; you had to undergo your passage from this world as an awakening to your own reality author of Life. For as a child seeks and yearns for its own mother, and as mother loves to live with her child, it was fitting that you, in your motherly tenderness for your Son and God, should go to Him; and it was certainly right that God, holding on to His filial love for you. His mother, should confirm His intimacy with you by making you a sharer in His life.... Because you, then, are His eternal place of rest. He has taken you to Himself in his incorruption, wanting, one might say, to have you near to His words and near to His heart.”

Welcome to our simplified version of Peterpost which will run throughout August.

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| <p>St. Gregory's, Alresford We have carried out a risk assessment of St. Gregory's Church, and Bishop Peter has kindly offered to celebrate two weekdays masses there next week, 10am on Tues 18th and Fri 21st August and then, all being well, we will continue with weekday masses when Bishop Peter is available and recommence Sunday masses at the end of the month. Thank you for your continued patience as we try to keep everyone safe.</p> | <p>Face Coverings As many of you will be aware, the government have made the wearing of face coverings in public places of worship compulsory as of Saturday 8th August. Please bring your own face covering as we are unable to provide one for you. Please also cooperate with and support our volunteer stewards in this regard so that we can all feel and be safe.</p> |
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| Date/ | Mass Times & Intentions | | Livestream/Public |
|---|-------------------------|---|--|
| SATURDAY - August 15th <i>Our Lady on Saturday or Feria and (Vigil Mass) The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary</i> | 9:00AM | Simon Da Costa | <i>Public also Livestream</i> |
| | 5.30PM | Vincent Edward Brannan RIP | <i>Public (booking required) also Livestream</i> |
| | 7PM | Canon Paul Townsend (special intention) | <i>Livestreamed</i> |
| SUNDAY – August 16th <i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (solemnity)</i> | 10AM | People of the Parish | <i>Livestreamed</i> |
| | 12:00Noon | Holy Souls | <i>Public (booking required) also Livestream</i> |
| | 5:30PM | Brookes and Whitehead Families RIP | <i>Public (booking required) also Livestream</i> |
| MONDAY – August 17th <i>Feria</i> | 12:15PM | The Neil Family | <i>Public also Livestream</i> |
| | 7PM | Holy Souls | <i>Livestream</i> |
| TUESDAY – August 18th <i>Feria</i> | 10:00AM | Edmund Wheble RIP | <i>Public also Livestream</i> |
| | 7PM | | <i>Livestream</i> |
| WEDNESDAY – August 19th <i>St John Eudes (opt. mem.) Or Feria</i> | 10:00AM | Alan Martin RIP | <i>Public also Livestream</i> |
| | 7PM | Ewa Slinn RIP | <i>Livestream</i> |
| THURSDAY – August 20th <i>St Bernard (mem.)</i> | 10:00AM | Gerard & Catherine Martin & family | <i>Public also Livestream</i> |
| | 7PM | Eileen Gibson RIP | <i>Livestream</i> |
| FRIDAY – August 21st <i>St Pius X (mem.)</i> | 12:15PM | | <i>Public also Livestream</i> |
| | 7PM | | <i>Livestream</i> |
| SATURDAY – August 22nd <i>The Queenship of Mary (mem.)</i> | 9:00AM | | <i>Public also Livestream</i> |
| | 5:30PM | K. B. Joseph RIP | <i>Public (booking required) also Livestream</i> |
| SUNDAY – August 23rd <i>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> | 10:00AM | People of the Parish | <i>Livestream</i> |
| | 12:00 NOON | Elsie & William Walton RIP | <i>Public (Booking required) also Livestream</i> |
| | 5:30PM | | <i>Public (Booking required) also Livestream</i> |


Morning Prayer 8am (every day except Saturday), Evening Prayer 9pm, every day. Both livestreamed.

Reconciliation/ Confession – Saturday morning, 11-12, afternoon 4.30-5pm. No booking necessary

Please book early for Sunday masses

Fr Mark writes: "It's been so very lovely seeing people's faces back at masses, even though tinged with sadness that for many this is, rightly, not yet possible. Thank you to those of you who have been joining us on the weekdays to give space for others to come on Sundays. I'd like to encourage those of you coming on Sundays (including Saturday evening) please to book in as early as possible - that way we can "manage the numbers" better and even offer an extra mass if there is a demand."

PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:



Alan Machen RIP
 Bruce Warland RIP
 Roger Lewis-Bracey RIP
 Gill Heneghan RIP

PRAYER CORNER:
 Each week, this section will contain an intercession which I hope every parishioner will pray for, during the coming week. In this way, we will all pray to the Lord for the parish's mission, because "if the Lord does not build... in vain do the builders labour" (Ps 127:1).
Fr. Mark

This Week's Intention – Let us pray for our Parish Community, our ministry leaders and the communities which we serve, that we may become a people of ever greater love and patience, living in communion with the Lord and with one another.

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| <p><u>Antiphons & readings</u> Saturday 15th August 2020 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Vigil Mass</p> <p>Entrance Antiphon Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, who today were exalted above the choirs of Angels into eternal triumph with Christ.</p> <p>First reading - 1 Chronicles 15:3-4,15-16,16:1-2</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm – 131(132):6-7,10,13-14 Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your strength.</p> <p>Second reading – 1 Corinthians 15:54-57</p> <p>Gospel Acclamation – Lk11:28 Alleluia, alleluia! Happy are those who hear the word of God and keep it. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel Luke 11:27-28</p> <p>Communion Antiphon – cf.Lk 11:27 Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, which bore the Son of the eternal Father.</p> | <p><u>Antiphons & readings</u> Sunday 16th August 2020 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Mass of the day</p> <p>Entrance Antiphon cf.Rev12:1 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.</p> <p>First reading – Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 44(45):10-12,16 <i>On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.</i></p> <p>Second reading – 1 Corinthians 15:20-26</p> <p>Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up to heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel Luke 1:39-56</p> <p>Communion Antiphon – Lk 1:48-49 All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.</p> |
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Virtual Church Programme: Sunday 16TH - Saturday 22nd August 2020

| | Sundays | Mondays | Tuesdays | Wednesdays | Thursdays | Fridays | Saturdays | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 8am | Morning Prayer <i>Live stream only</i> | Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>Live stream only</i> | Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>Live stream only</i> | Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>Live stream only</i> | Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>Live stream only</i> | Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>Live stream only</i> | 9am – Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO livestreamed) | |
| 10am | Sunday Mass <i>Live stream only</i> | | Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO livestreamed) | Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO livestreamed) | Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO livestreamed) | | | |
| 11.15am | St Peter's Tea Room <i>Zoom Virtual room</i> | | | | | | | |
| 12noon | Sunday Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO livestreamed) | | | | | | | |
| 12.15pm | | Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO livestreamed) | | | | | Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO livestreamed) | |
| 2.55pm | | Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i> | Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i> | Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i> | Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i> | Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i> | | |
| 5.30pm | Sunday Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO livestreamed) | | | | | | | Vigil Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO livestreamed) |
| 6pm | | | Rosary <i>Zoom Virtual room</i> | | Rosary <i>Zoom Virtual room</i> | | | |
| 7pm | | Evening Mass - <i>Live stream only</i> | Evening Mass - <i>Live stream only</i> | Evening Mass - <i>Live stream only</i> | Evening Mass - <i>Live stream only</i> | Evening Mass - <i>Live stream only</i> | | |
| 9pm | Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i> | Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i> | Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i> | Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i> | Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i> | Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i> | Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i> | |

ALL public Masses at St Peter's Church ARE livestreamed, and times may vary. Please check the weekly newsletter or [website](#) for changes to schedule.

The virtual sessions take place on the online platform Zoom. These can be accessed through the following link <https://zoom.us/j/4388694572> Alternatively, open your Zoom app (if installed), enter or copy/paste the **Meeting ID: 438 869 4572** then click 'Join'. **Password: 287520.**

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN MASS ONLINE](#)
[Click here if you wish to see recorded services](#)