

# *The Little Flower Messenger*

Year C – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022

*Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux*

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## **Gospel: Luke 1:39-56**

*'The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted up the lowly.'*

**Mass book (P. 188)**

**1st Reading:**

*Apocalypse 11:19, 12:1-6, 10*

**Psalm 44:10-12:**

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

**2nd Reading:**

*1 Corinthians 15:20-26*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

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

**Communion Antiphon: (P. 191)**

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

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*Welcome to Fr Stewart Foster who will celebrate Mass with us this weekend.*

## **This Week's Good News**

Dear Friends,

The Feast of the Assumption is one of the most important feasts of our Lady. Catholics believe in the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven. We believe that when her earthly life was finished, Mary was taken up, body and soul, into Heavenly glory, where the Lord exalted her as Queen of Heaven. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 966). The Assumption is the feast of Mary's total liberation from death and decay, the consequences of original sin. It is also the remembrance of the day when the Church gave official recognition to the centuries-old belief of Christians about the Assumption of their Heavenly Mother. In the Orthodox Church, the koimesis, or dormitio ("falling asleep"), of the Virgin began to be commemorated on August 15 in the 6th century. The observance gradually spread to the West, where it became known as the feast of the Assumption. By the 13th century, the belief had been accepted by most Catholic theologians, and it was a popular subject with Renaissance and Baroque painters. It was on November 1, 1950, that, through the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII officially declared the Assumption as a Dogma of Catholic Faith. On this important feast day, we try to answer two questions: 1) What is meant by "Assumption?" 2) Why do we believe in Mary's Assumption into Heaven, even though there is no reference to it in the Bible? "Assumption" means that after her death, Mary was taken into Heaven, both body and soul, as a reward for her sacrificial cooperation in the Divine plan of Salvation. "On this feast day, let us thank the Lord for the gift of the mother, and let us pray to Mary to help us find the right path every day" (Pope Benedict XVI).

the Magnificat, the song of Mary given in today's Gospel, Mary acknowledges that "the Almighty has done great things" for her. Besides honouring her as Jesus' mother, God has blessed her with the gift of bodily Assumption. God, who has "lifted up" His "lowly servant" Mary, lifts up all the lowly, not only



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because they are faithful, but also because God is faithful to the promise of Divine mercy. Thus, the feast of the Assumption celebrates the mercy of God, or the victory of God's mercy as expressed in Mary's Magnificat. As the new Eve, Mary shares intimately in the fruit of the redemption and so is assumed body and soul into Heaven.

Mary's Assumption gives us the assurance and hope of our own resurrection and assumption into Heaven on the day of our Last Judgment. It is a sign to us that someday, through God's grace and our good life, we, too, will join the Blessed Mother in giving glory to God. It points the way for all followers of Christ who imitate Mary's fidelity and obedience to God's will.

Since Mary's Assumption was a reward for her saintly life, this feast reminds us that we, too, must be pure and holy in body and soul since our bodies will be glorified on the day of our resurrection. St. Paul tells us that our bodies are the temples of God because the Holy Spirit dwells within us. He also reminds us that our bodies are members (parts) of the Body of Christ.

This feast also gives us the message of total liberation. Jesus tells us in John 8:34 that everyone who sins is a slave of sin, and St. Paul reminds us (Gal 5:1), that, since Christ has set us free, we should be slaves of sin no more. Thus, the Assumption encourages us to work with God to be liberated from the bondage of evil: from impure, unjust, and uncharitable thoughts and habits, and from the bonds of jealousy, envy, and hatred.

Finally, it is always an inspiring thought in our moments of temptation and despair to remember that we have a powerful heavenly Mother, constantly interceding for us before her Son, Jesus, in Heaven. The feast of Mary's Assumption challenges us to imitate her self-sacrificing love, her indestructible Faith, and her perfect obedience. Therefore, on this feast day of our heavenly Mother, let us offer ourselves on the altar and pray for her special care and loving protection in helping us lead a purer and holier life.

Deacon Des

## St Bernadette Relic Tour 2022

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral. More details of the tour can be found on the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales website: [www.cbcew.org.uk/st-bernadette-relic-tour-2022/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/st-bernadette-relic-tour-2022/)

## Parish News

**Bishop Alan Mass Celebration Sunday 21st August 2022:** Bishop Alan will be celebrating Mass here on Sunday 21st August 2022. There will be coffee and tea in the parish centre after the 10am mass and a chance for people to say hello to the Bishop.

**Masses:** A reminder that there will be no weekday Masses for the month of August. Weekend Masses will, however, continue. Cover will be provided as follows:

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August:** Fr Stewart Foster

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August:** Bishop Alan Williams SM

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August:** Fr Michael Halsall

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August:** Fr Michael Halsall

Please continue to check the Newsletter, website, and Facebook page for any last-minute changes. Thank you.



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**Volunteering:** We would welcome anyone that wishes to start volunteering as a greeter, server, reader, collector, counter or can offer any other skill/assistance to support the Parish. Please make yourself known to Deacon Des. Alternatively, you can email the parish office at [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) .

**Private Prayer:** The church will be open for private prayer on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. All are welcome. Please note however, the church will be closed from Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August and reopen on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you.

**Parish Office:** Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August and reopen on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** People who wish to be married in the Catholic Church must approach Deacon Des, at least 6 months prior to the intended date of their wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

**Gift Aid:** If you pay tax on your income and would like to donate using envelopes, please email Angelo at [stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org) for details.

Donating through Gift Aid means we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra.

If you are a Gift Aid donor and your circumstances have changed, such that you no longer wish to donate via the Gift Aid scheme, please let Angelo know (using the same email account above) so that we can reallocate your envelope.

During these difficult times, we recognise that the financial impact on some parishioners can be significant. Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated.



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## Mass Times and Intentions

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – YEAR C		
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> August	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>No Mass</b>	
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>No Mass</b>	
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> August <i>St Helena</i>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>No Mass</b>	
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> August	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>



**PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF IT RESPONSIBLY. THANK YOU.**



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