



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Lawrence

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16th August 2020 – ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Psalter Week 4

First Reading:	Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6. 10
Psalm:	On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.
Second Reading:	St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-26
Gospel Alleluia:	<i>Alleluia, Alleluia! Mary has been taken up into heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!</i>
Gospel:	Luke 1:39-56

Saturday 15th August	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (A & E Donald RIP)
Sunday 16th August	10.30am	Mass (The People of the Parish)
Monday 17th August <i>St Clare of Montefalco, Virgin</i>	10.00am	Mass (Albert Lawrence Blunt RIP)
Tuesday 18th August <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass (Care Staff at St Joseph's Convent Int)
Wednesday 19th August <i>St John Eudes, Priest</i>		No Mass
Thursday 20th August <i>St Bernard, Abbot & Doctor - memoria</i>	10.00am	Mass (Roseann Kiely RIP)
Friday 21st August <i>St Pius X, Pope - memoria</i>	10.00am	Mass (Edward Follows RIP) (Joyce & Edward's Wedding Anniversary)
Saturday 22nd August <i>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	10.00am	Mass (Patrick Bermingham Int)

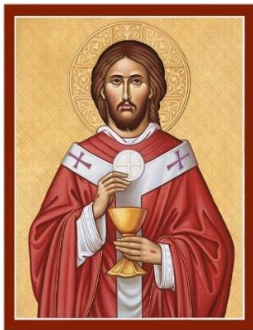
Saturday 22nd August	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (The Watson family Int)
Sunday 23rd August	10.30am	Mass (The People of the Parish)



PUBLIC MASSES AND LITURGIES – The obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday continues to be dispensed, by the Bishops of England and Wales, at this time, therefore we will continue to ‘Live Stream’ all Masses except on Wednesdays. Those of you that do attend the church for Mass are asked to carefully follow the guidance of the Stewards. The booking-in system for Mass, particularly at weekends, is still in place. If you haven’t already done so, please contact Denise with your preferences. If you have any concerns, please contact Fr David or Deacon Peter

Government Guidelines now require the wearing of a Face Mask in all places of worship.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

St Alphonsus Liguori

If you are aware of anyone who is in need of support or company or with any kind of need, please do get in touch with the SVP, Fr David or Deacon Peter.

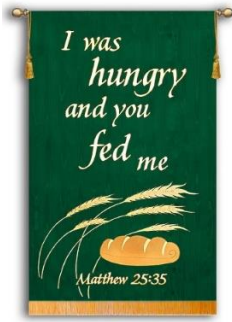
The SVP is an organisation where members are guided and inspired to see their work of helping people as part of their spiritual life.

If you would like to join the SVP and be part of an organisation that helps those in need in our parish, do contact the SVP on the number at the top of the newsletter.



NEXT SATURDAY we celebrate the Queenship of the BVM - Mary is both a queen and a mother, but she is more mother than queen. Mary’s Queenship and motherhood, spark to life simultaneously. In the very moment Mary becomes a mother at the Annunciation, she also becomes a queen. The Archangel Gabriel tells Mary that her Son will sit on “*the throne of his ancestor David*” and that “*He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*” (Luke 1:32-33). Since Jesus is a king, and since He is conceived in the womb of Mary, and since in Israel the mother of a king was always a queen, Mary becomes a queen.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION – If anyone would like to go to Confession, please contact Fr David by email or call round to the presbytery. Confessions will not be held in the confessional but in a safe place and with appropriate distancing, in compliance with the guidelines.



We continue to be very grateful to all of you who have been supporting the Food Bank – Catholics, Anglicans and others. The donation box remains outside the presbytery door and is checked frequently. The Food Bank continues to need donations of:
Long Life Milk – Long Life Juice – Tinned Rice Pudding – Tinned Custard – Tinned Meat – Tinned Vegetables – Tinned Tomatoes – Pasta Sauce - Spreads



St Bernard (1090 – 1153)

On Thursday the Church celebrates the memoria of St Bernard who was born near Dijon in France in the year 1090. He was brought up religiously and joined the Cistercians in 1111. Soon afterwards he was elected Abbot of the monastery of Clairvaux. He was outstanding in directing the monks in virtue both by his work and by his example. On account of divisions which had arisen in the Church he travelled through Europe trying to restore peace and unity. He wrote many works dealing with theology and the spiritual life. He died in 1153

As we move slowly out of lockdown, the churches of Olney are participating in a Family Trail challenge produced by Scripture Union from 17th August until 1st September. In your own time you are invited to be an adventurer and find four clues which are located at the four churches in the town – (Catholic; Baptist; URC; Anglican) that will lead you to virtual treasure which we all need in these challenging times. All you need is a smart phone to scan the QR codes on the clues. Good Luck!



MASS OFFERINGS (STIPENDS) – If you have any Mass intentions to be offered, please contact Fr David, Deacon Peter or Denise. Please do include the full name of the person for whom you want the Mass to be offered, whether they are alive or deceased.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT – These courses are being offered by the Diocesan Service Team for charismatic renewal (DST) The programme runs for 7 weeks, including a virtual Retreat day, and commenced on 13th August, but you can still join in. Bishop David encourages us to take part. Please click on the [link](#) on the parish website if you wish to attend.

From Fr David's desk...

Reflection on the Assumption of the BVM

This special Feast Day of Our Lady is very ancient. It is celebrated by Christians both East and West, Catholic and Orthodox – and some Anglicans too. Devotion to Mary has been a characteristic of Christian Faith from the beginning. The fact that Mary is mentioned often in the New Testament – and that she is named as one of those present with the Apostles when the Holy Spirit came down on them at Pentecost – indicates that she was held in esteem by the first disciples. After the New Testament books and letters were written, we have a generation of writers who show a growing awareness of the importance of Mary – but this growing awareness was not born in a vacuum; it developed because there was already love and devotion to her.

Thus, we have St Justin Martyr, who died around 165AD, pointing to a parallel between Eve and Mary – Eve’s disobedience had led to death; Mary’s obedience had brought faith and joy back into the world in the Child she bore. St Paul in his Letters had already pointed out the great parallel between Adam and Jesus – Adam brings death to humanity by his sin and disobedience; but Jesus is the New Adam or Second Adam who brings life back to us all through His obedience. All of this points to a sense of the connection between Mary and Jesus – the Second Eve and the Second Adam. St Melito of Sardis had also highlighted this link in almost poetic form in an Easter homily he preached around 160AD: Jesus, he says, “is the mute lamb, the slain lamb, the lamb born of Mary, the fair ewe.” Such words reveal a most delightful love and veneration for Mary.

St Ignatius of Antioch, martyred probably around 107AD, wrote a number of important letters on his way to execution in Rome. These letters were written to encourage the Christians of the various places he travelled through. He sought to bolster their faith and he pointedly explained the reality that Jesus was truly the Son of God who was also born as a man: every time he does so, he mentions God the Father and the Virgin Mary. Acknowledging the role of Mary in the mission of Christ was a vital part of the Faith of early Christianity and helped to demonstrate the reality that God had indeed dwelt with us in the flesh. Ignatius writes, “There is one Physician who is possessed both of flesh and spirit, both made and not made, God existing in flesh, true life in death, both of Mary and of God, first passible and then impassable, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

What a blessing that we still have these very early writings of the first or second generation of believers! Indeed, Ignatius probably knew St Peter and some of the other apostles. Irenaeus of Lyon was a bishop who had known a bishop (Polycarp) who had been a student of St John the Apostle. Irenaeus died around 202AD but not before he had written long and clear explanations of what Christians believed in order to combat heresies and explain the Faith to pagans. He also takes up the idea of Mary being the Second Eve. He says that Mary, “by obeying, became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race...The knot of Eve’s disobedience was untied by Mary’s obedience. What Eve bound through her unbelief; Mary loosed by her faith.” He goes on to say that Mary therefore becomes the advocate or intercessor of Eve.

Today’s Feast Day sees the full consequence of the identity of Mary as the New Eve. She cannot be separated from the Second Adam, from Jesus. He is our Saviour and, risen from the dead, He is Lord of everything. Mary remains joined to her Son so that she shares in His Resurrection victory over sin and death. Jesus is raised to life by His power as God. Mary does not have the power to raise herself – she is a human being like us. But she is so joined to her Son that she is taken up into resurrected life by His power. This is why we say she was assumed into heaven – this tremendous gift and grace was bestowed on her by her Son.

Mary’s Assumption into heaven points us to the brightest hope and comfort – we will all one day by God’s grace share in the Resurrection of Christ. The joy and fulfilment of heaven is our true and final goal. The way to get there is the way that Mary chose – the Way that is Jesus. Being joined to Him is what will lead us to the beauty and exhilaration of the glory of God’s eternity. May Mary be our Advocate as we make our way there. May we grow in our devotion to Mary who will always point us to her Son and help us grown in our personal union with Him. Happy Feast Day!

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence and St Rita pray for us all.

With my love and prayers,

Fr David B Barrett Parish Priest

