



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St
Lawrence

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Diocese of Northampton

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14th August 2022 Psalter Week 4	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
First Reading	Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6. 10 <i>A woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.	
Second Reading	1 Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-26 <i>Christ as the first fruits and then, those who belong to him.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up into heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 1:39-56 <i>The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly.</i>	
Saturday 13th August +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 14th August +	10.30am	Mass – (Olga Ayles RIP)
Monday 15th August <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Richard Jewell RIP)
Tuesday 16th August St Stephen of Hungary, Confessor – op mem.	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Service of Word and Holy Communion
Wednesday 17th August <i>Feria</i>	4.30pm	Reception of body – Fr John Fowler RIP with Vigil Mass
Thursday 18th August <i>Feria</i>	12.30pm	Requiem Mass – Fr John Fowler RIP
Friday – 19th August St John Eudes, Priest – op mem		No Parish Mass today
Saturday – 20th August St Bernard, Abbott & Doctor - memoria	10.00am	No Parish Morning Mass today
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
Saturday – 20th August +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday – 21st August +	10.30am	Mass – (Salvino Luzio Int.)



Fr John Fowler RIP

We were all deeply saddened to learn of the death last week of dear Fr John. Details of his funeral are as follows:

Wednesday 17th August – 4.30pm – Reception of body with Vigil Mass

Thursday 18th August – 12.30pm – Requiem Mass. This will be followed by the committal at the Nene Valley Crematorium, Doddington Road, Wellingborough at 3pm.

There will be a reception for Fr John after the Mass in the Parish Hall where Cicely & the family hope to join you all after the committal.

Requiescat in pace

Help Needed Please

We are looking for volunteers please to help prepare for the reception after Fr John's Requiem Mass. If you can help with the preparations, please let Áine Cooper know or simply turn up next **Thursday morning at 9.30am**. We would also appreciate help with arranging the tables and chairs in the hall on **Wednesday afternoon** please



Summer Mass Schedule

From **Friday, 19th August**, we shall be operating our Summer Mass schedule. There will, of course, continue to be the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass and the 10.30am Sunday morning Mass. There will be no weekday Masses in the Parish for the remainder of the month. There will

be a **Service of Word and Holy Communion on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10.00am** throughout August. Normal Mass times will resume at the beginning of September.



St Bernadette Soubirous

In September and October of this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage through England, Scotland and Wales for the first time. It is hoped that

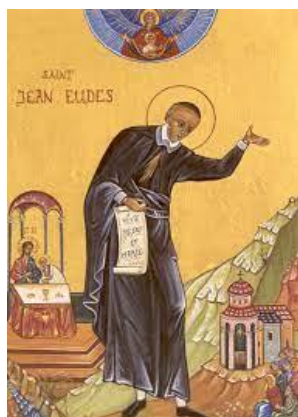
this event will enable people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes in a church or cathedral near them.

The relics will be arriving in our own diocese on **Monday 10th October 2022 at 3pm**. The reliquary will be placed in front of the sanctuary in the Cathedral for people to venerate, before leaving Northampton on **Thursday 13th October at 9am**. During this time, the Cathedral will be open from **7am until 10pm**, with Mass being celebrated at various points during the day, as well as led rosaries. There will also be a number of priests hearing confessions in the Cathedral during this time. Please do check the diocesan website closer to the time for a more detailed schedule of events.



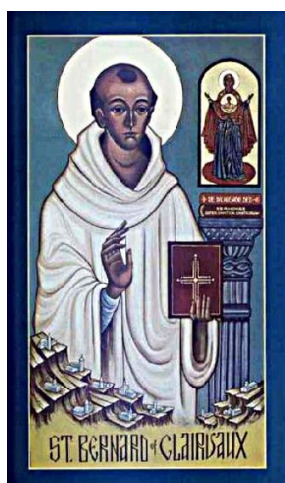
St Stephen of Hungary

Born in Hungary about the year 969. He received baptism and in the year 1000 was crowned King of Hungary. He was a just, peaceful and religious king, keeping strictly to the laws of the Church and always seeking the good of his subjects. He established many dioceses and did much to strengthen the life of the Church. He died at Szekesfehervar (Central Hungary) in the year 1038.



St John Eudes

Born in the diocese of Séz in France in the year 1601. After being ordained priest, he spent many years preaching as a missionary. He founded congregating with the object of educating priests in seminaries and of rescuing women who were in moral danger. He strenuously promoted devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He died in 1680



St Bernard

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 Abbott 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.

There is a Cistercian Abbey at Mount St Bernard near Coalville, Leicestershire which is well worth a visit. You can find further information via their website: <http://www.mountsaintbernard.org/>

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

From a Homily of Pope Benedict XVI for the Assumption – 2005

The feast of the Assumption is a day of joy. God has won. Love has won. It has won life. Love has shown that it is stronger than death, that God possesses the true strength and that his strength is goodness and love. Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven: There is even room in God for the body. Heaven is no longer a very remote sphere unknown to us.

We have a Mother in heaven. And the Mother of God, the Mother of the Son of God, is our Mother. He himself has said so. He made her our Mother when he said to the disciple and to all of us: “Behold, your Mother!” We have a Mother in heaven. Heaven is open, heaven has a heart.

In the Gospel we heard the Magnificat, that great poem inspired by the Holy Spirit that came from Mary’s lips, indeed, from Mary’s heart. This marvellous canticle mirrors the entire soul, the

entire personality of Mary. We can say that this hymn of hers is a portrait of Mary, a true icon in which we can see her exactly as she is.

It begins with the word “Magnificat”: my soul “magnifies” the Lord, that is, “proclaims the greatness” of the Lord. Mary wanted God to be great in the world, great in her life and present among us all. She was not afraid that God might be a “rival” in our life, that with his greatness he might encroach on our freedom, our vital space. She knew that if God is great, we too are great. Our life is not oppressed but raised and expanded: It is precisely then that it becomes great in the splendour of God.

The fact that our first parents thought the contrary was the core of original sin. They feared that if God were too great, he would take something away from their life. They thought that they could set God aside to make room for themselves.

This was also the great temptation of the modern age, of the past three or four centuries. More and more people have thought and said: “But this God does not give us our freedom; with all his commandments, he restricts the space in our lives. So God has to disappear; we want to be autonomous and independent. Without this God we ourselves would be gods and do as we pleased.”

This was also the view of the Prodigal Son, who did not realize that he was “free” precisely because he was in his father’s house. He left for distant lands and squandered his estate. In the end, he realized that precisely because he had gone so far away from his father, instead of being free he had become a slave; he understood that only by returning home to his father’s house would he be truly free, in the full beauty of life.

This is how it is in our modern epoch. Previously, it was thought and believed that by setting God aside and being autonomous, following only our own ideas and inclinations, we would truly be free to do whatever we liked without anyone being able to give us orders.

But when God disappears, men and women do not become greater; indeed, they lose the divine dignity, their faces lose God’s splendour. In the end, they turn out to be merely products of a blind evolution and, as such, can be used and abused. This is precisely what the experience of our epoch has confirmed for us.

Only if God is great is humankind also great. With Mary, we must begin to understand that this is so. We must not drift away from God but make God present; we must ensure that he is great in our lives. Thus, we too will become divine; all the splendour of the divine dignity will then be ours. Let us apply this to our own lives.

It is important that God be great among us, in public and in private life.

In public life, it is important that God be present, for example, through the cross on public buildings, and that he be present in our community life, for only if God is present do we have an orientation, a common direction; otherwise, disputes become impossible to settle, for our common dignity is no longer recognized.

Let us make God great in public and in private life. This means making room for God in our lives every day, starting in the morning with prayers, and then dedicating time to God, giving Sundays to God. We do not waste our free time if we offer it to God. If God enters into our time, all time becomes greater, roomier, richer.

[May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Stephen of Hungary, St John Eudes, St Bernard pray for us all.](#)

With our love and prayers – Fr David & Deacon Peter