



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

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For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

15 AUGUST 2021

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Mary is taken up to heaven; she is in glory, like a queen arrayed in gold. The feast of the **Assumption** celebrates **God's reward to Mary for being the mother of her Son Jesus**. The Book of Revelation (Rev 11:19; 12:1-6, 10) provides an insight into this mystery of Mary as Mother of God.

The ark of the covenant brought the presence of God to the Israelites. Therefore the ark was specially revered until it was lost. Mary is the ark of the new covenant, Jesus. Bearing the Son of God in her womb, she brought the presence of God to humanity. Mary became the tabernacle for Christ who won victory over the evil powers of the world.

'Mary Mother of God' is an expression scandalous to many protestant Churches. There has been a struggle to explain adequately the mystery of Jesus as both man and God at the same time. Many in history have tried to explain the nature of Jesus and failed. Here are some of those heresies. This might help you clarify some misconceptions you may have.



Docetism (2nd Century) The Gnostics taught Jesus only appeared to have a human body and was not truly incarnate. Therefore Mary is not Mother of God. By denying Jesus had a real body, they also denied His suffering on the cross and the resurrection of the dead.

Arianism (4th Century) Arius of Alexandria taught that Jesus was a "creature" of the Father. According to his theology the Father created the Son as His first creation. The Son then created the universe. God then adopted Jesus as a son. Jesus was worshipped only because of His pre-eminence as the first creation. **Therefore Mary cannot be truly Mother of God. The word 'consubstantial' was included in the creed by the Council of Nicaea as a response to this heresy.**

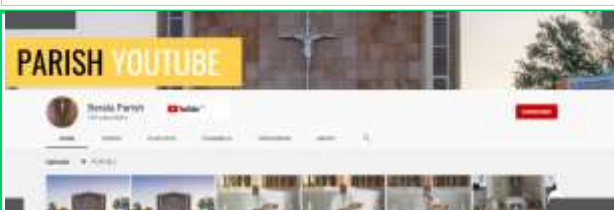
Nestorianism (5th Century) Nestorius of Antioch taught that Mary only gave birth to Jesus' human nature. He therefore would not allow Mary to be called "Mother of God" but instead wanted her to be called "Mother of Christ". In essence, the heresy maintained Jesus was really two separate persons, and only the human Jesus was in **Mary's womb. The Council of Ephesus corrected this heresy in 431AD.**

Adoptionism (8th Century) taught that Jesus in his humanity is not the true Son of God, only adopted. Therefore, Mary is not the mother of God. This heresy was condemned by the 2nd Council of Nicaea and the Council of Frankfurt.

In all these heresies, we see intellectual attempts to explain the nature of Jesus and it failing. Jesus, as God incarnate is a mystery, just as love is a mystery. No one can adequately define or explain love. Yet everyone knows what love is. Everyone can experience love. Similarly God is to be experienced, not to be defined or explained.

The assumption of Mary is a reminder for us that God loved Mary and assumed her to heaven at the end of her earthly life.

Today we are also reminded that Mary, now in heaven, can intercede for us before God. Therefore keep up your devotion to Mary.



Join us on Saturday at 5PM
for the Sunday Vigil Mass

@BeralaParish YouTube Channel

Don't forget to subscribe & switch the notification bell on.

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T. (02) 9646 1434
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Sara's Place:

For pregnancy support or
grieving after abortion visit
www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 9699 8190

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Graham Turner, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Doreen Stanmore, Sally Castell, Mamerto Bolonia Jr, Lily Bykowski, Tom Burke, Josephine Laing

Recently Deceased: Cecile Cook, Angel Gomez

Deceased: Valerie De Souza, Norma Grey

Anniversary: Helen Kenny, Zenaida dela Cruz, Jose Rene Jarque

Other Intentions: For all those affected by the Corona Virus. Holy Souls in Purgatory. The intention of the Holy Father.

NEWS

Evan's Catholic Anniversary



Rosalind Evans was received into Catholic Church on the Feast of the Assumption 2020. The solemn reception and the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation was done while COVID restrictions were in place. Therefore, it was not possible for the parish to come together to celebrate reception of the new catholic to the parish. The hope then was that at least at the anniversary we could gather together. But God's plan was otherwise.

We are hit with stricter restrictions now. All the same the parish congratulate Rosalind. Her witness to the faith is great.

Prayer for the Assumption of Mary

Father in heaven,
all creation rightly gives you praise,
for all life and all holiness come from you.

In the plan of your wisdom
she who bore the Christ in her womb
was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven.
May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness
and join in her hymn of endless love and praise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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you for your generosity!



Just for Laughs

Did Noah Fish?

A Sunday school teacher asked,
"Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot
of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he,
with just two worms."

**Church is Closed During Lockdown Period
STAY SAFE!**

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Rev 12:1

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.

First Reading

Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 44:10-12. 16. R. v.10

The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

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**

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 Cor 15:20-26

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 1:39-56

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 mighty 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.

Communion Antiphon

Lk 1:48-49

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

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Jos 24:1-2. 15-18**

2nd Reading: **Eph 5:21-32**

Gospel: **Jn 6:60-69**

REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 1:39-56

Historical Context - Feast of the Assumption

Since the 5th Century there has been an active tradition and belief around the assumption of Mary. The tradition states that Mary was physically 'taken up' into heaven at the end of her life. It is believed that her soul and her body remained united. This ancient belief was defined as an infallible teaching of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950. It is one of only two infallible statements that have been defined as such and both related to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast is celebrated on August 15 and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Scriptural Context - New life

The restoration of life to those who are shamed and oppressed that is exemplified in Elizabeth is a compelling theme of the gospel of Luke. Time and again, those who are ground down by a lack of life are given new hope and new life by the extravagant love of God. And throughout Luke, the recipients of this new life are women. The widow of Nain (7:11-15); the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet (7:36-50); the woman with a haemorrhage (8:43-48); Jairus' daughter (8:40-56); and the crippled woman (13:10-17) are all examples of this outpouring of new life.

Living the Gospel - Saying 'Yes'

In a world that is increasingly selfish and negative, there is a trend towards isolation from family, neighbours and community. In the face of social isolation, the call to a Christian life is a call to say 'Yes' to life itself and all it offers. To say 'Yes' to life is to say 'Yes' to life-giving relationships and decisions and 'No' to life denying relationships and decisions. To say 'Yes' to life is to say 'No' to those things that harm self and harm others. A 'Yes' to life is a 'Yes' to hope; to possibility; to love; to God; and to yourself.

FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

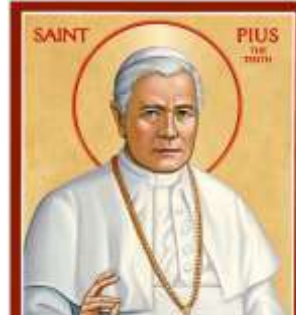
Friday, 20 August - St Bernard (Memorial)



Born near Dijon (France) in 1090. Died at Clairvaux on this day in 1153. Joined the impoverished, reformed abbey of Citeaux at the age of 21. Soon became the founder and abbot of Clairvaux and pioneered the reform and expansion of the Cistercian Order. Remembered as the

most influential churchman of his age, for his inspirational leadership, and for his devotion to the humanity of Christ and to the Blessed Virgin.

Saturday, 21 August - St Pius X (Memorial)



Giuseppe Sarto was born into a poor family in 1835. He was elected pope in 1903. He took as his motto, "To restore all things in Christ". Pius X was remembered for advocating the frequent reception of holy communion; reform of church music and

encouraging the use of Gregorian chant; the reform of Canon Law; the reorganization of the Roman curia; and the separation of church and state in France. He found some aspects of the Vatican's wealth and ceremony distasteful. Before his death in 1914, Pius X wrote in his will, "I was born poor, I have lived poor, and I wish to die poor."

Pope Francis prayer to Our Lady, Health of the Sick, to implore her protection during the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy
and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and
to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore
our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from
every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



Your body is holy and glorious

The Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In their sermons and speeches on the feast day of the Assumption of the Mother of God, the holy fathers and the great doctors of the church were speaking of something that the faithful already knew and accepted: all they did was to bring it out into the open, to explain its meaning and substance in other terms. Above all, they made it most clear that this feast commemorated not merely the fact that the blessed Virgin Mary did not experience bodily decay, but also her triumph over death and her heavenly glory, following the example of her only Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus St John Damascene, who is the greatest exponent of this tradition, compares the bodily Assumption of the revered Mother of God with her other gifts and privileges: *It was right that she who had kept her virginity unimpaired through the process of giving birth should have kept her body without decay through death. It was right that she who had given her Creator, as a child, a place at her breast should be given a place in the dwelling-place of her God. It was right that the bride espoused by the Father should dwell in the heavenly bridal chamber. It was right that she who had gazed on her Son on the cross, her heart pierced at that moment by the sword of sorrow that she had escaped at his birth, should now gaze on him seated with his Father. It was right that the Mother of God should possess what belongs to her Son and be honoured by every creature as God's Mother and handmaid.*

St Germanus of Constantinople considered the preservation from decay of the body of the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary, and its elevation to heaven as being not only appropriate to her Motherhood but also to the peculiar sanctity of its virgin state: *It is written, that you appear in beauty, and your virginal body is altogether holy, altogether chaste, altogether the dwelling-place of God; from which it follows that it is not in its nature to decay into dust, but that it is transformed, being human, into a glorious and incorruptible life, the same body, living and glorious, unharmed, sharing in perfect life.*

Another very ancient author asserts: *Being the most glorious Mother of Christ our saviour and our God, the giver of life and immortality, she is given life by him and shares bodily incorruptibility for all eternity with him who raised her from the grave and drew her up to him in a way that only he can understand.*

All that the holy fathers say refers ultimately to Scripture as a foundation, which gives us the vivid image of the great Mother of God as being closely attached to her divine Son and always sharing his lot.

It is important to remember that from the second century onwards the holy fathers have been talking of the Virgin Mary as the new Eve for the new Adam: not equal to him, of course, but closely joined with him in the battle against the enemy, which ended in the triumph over sin and death that had been promised even in Paradise. The glorious resurrection of Christ is essential to this victory and its final prize, but the blessed Virgin's share in that fight must also have ended in the glorification of her body. For as the Apostle says: *When this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the scripture will be fulfilled that says "Death is swallowed up in victory".*

So then, the great Mother of God, so mysteriously united to Jesus Christ from all eternity by the same decree of predestination, immaculately conceived, an intact virgin throughout her divine motherhood, a noble associate of our Redeemer as he defeated sin and its consequences, received, as it were, the final crowning privilege of being preserved from the corruption of the grave and, following her Son in his victory over death, was brought, body and soul, to the highest glory of heaven, to shine as Queen at the right hand of that same Son, the immortal King of Ages.

OTHER NOTICES

Jamberoo Abbey Online Retreat

Retreat about hope to be held on Sunday, 5 September. There are 6 conferences with two being uploaded each week. The cost is \$250. Pensioner discount applies. To check and register visit jamberooabbey.org.au/restreats/online-retreats/

Aid to the Church in Need Australia

Especially in remote and non-Christian areas, the faith is often nurtured via faith-based TV and radio programs. For over thirty years ACN has supported the *Catholic Radio and Television Network* which provides programming to networks in developing countries which do not have the means to buy or produce Catholic

content. These programs are seen and heard by about 36 million people worldwide every day. Can you help ensure that the faith is available in every corner of the world? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/media

Got Your Wedding Plans Under Control?

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. www.engagedencounter.org.au. Nov 13-14 2021; Feb 19-20 2022.

If COVID-19 restrictions prevent a face-to-face seminar, the CEE weekend will be held via Zoom.