

Catholic Parish of Walsingham

ST PETER, BLAKENEY ✦ ST HENRY WALPOLE, SJ, BURNHAM MARKET ✦ OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, WALSINGHAM ✦ OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA

(1836)

Parish Mass Book, Readings & Prayers 112-115 Prayer of the Church, 4

ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

YEAR OF ST MATTHEW

AUGUST 16th, 2020

Today we celebrate the feast of the Assumption. Early in the eighth century St John of Damascus (c.675-670) wrote that, "Mary died in the presence



of the Apostles, but her tomb, when opened, upon the request of St Thomas, was found to be empty; wherefrom the Apostles concluded that the body had been taken up to heaven." There is an echo, here, of the account of the discovery of Jesus' empty tomb which occurs in all four of the canonical gospels. Empty tombs can be explained away quite easily but, subsequently, the risen Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalen and to the apostles. So far as we know there were no such appearances of Jesus' mother but Pope Pius XII, who defined the doctrine of the Assumption in his Apostolic Letter *Munificentissimus Deus* (MD) quotes this same St John, in that letter, saying that, "It was fitting that she, who had carried the Creator as a child at her breast, should dwell in the divine tabernacles...should look upon him as he

sits with the Father." Such has been the faith of Christians down through the ages. We also believe, and profess as we pray the Apostles' Creed, "in the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting." In our case, however, as Pope Pius reminds us, nature takes its course and, "...the bodies of even the just are corrupted after death, and only on the last day will they be joined, each to its own glorious soul." (MD, 4) Through the doctrine of the Assumption, then, we see Mary the Mother of God as a beacon to illuminate our hope of life after death. The gospel passage we meditate upon as we celebrate this feast includes the *Magnificat*. In this prayer, which we make our own each evening, Mary says, and we say with her, "The almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name." We acknowledge, as we celebrate this feast, the great things which, through the incarnation, resurrection and ascension of Jesus God has done for Mary. We remember that, "His mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him," and give thanks in our liturgy for the great things that, through the same mysteries, he has done and is doing for us as well. Pope Pius reminds us that, "...the liturgy of the Church does not engender the Catholic faith, but rather springs from it, in such a way that the practices of sacred worship proceed from the faith as the fruit comes from the tree." (MD, 20)

....from CHRISTUS VIVIT

"When we are called upon to help others discern their path in life, what is uppermost is the ability to listen. Listening calls for three distinct and complementary kinds of sensitivity. The first kind of sensitivity is directed to the individual. It is a matter of listening to someone who is sharing his very self in what he says. A sign of this willingness to listen is the time we are ready to spare for others. More than the amount of time we spend, it is about making others feel that my time is their time, that they have all the time they need to say everything they want. The other person must sense that I am listening unconditionally, without being offended or shocked, tired or bored. We see an example of this kind of listening in the Lord; he walks alongside the disciples on the way to Emmaus, even though they are going in the wrong direction (cf. Lk 24:13-35). When Jesus says he plans to go farther, they realize that he has given them the gift of his time, so they decide to give him theirs by offering hospitality. (291-2)

PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGY

Now, once again, we are able to celebrate the Eucharist. This is a real cause for rejoicing but we must still be careful to take every precaution against Covid 19. We are not obliged to put ourselves at risk in order to take part in the Mass. There are many online liturgies.

You can take part in the liturgy via the internet at the Catholic Shrine webpage:
www.walsingham.org.uk

"The almighty has done great things for me"



THE YEAR OF THE WORD

Befriending the Scriptures cannot, of course, meet at present. We can, however, keep reading Matthew's gospel and the readings appointed for the Mass of the day even though we cannot meet.

Sunday:	Apocalypse 11:19-12:10	Psalm 44	1 Cor. 15: 20-26	Luke 1:39-46
Monday:	Ezekiel 24:15-24	Deuteronomy 32:18-21		Matthew 19:16-22
Tuesday:	Ezekiel 28:1-10	Deuteronomy 32:26-36		Matthew 19:23-30
Wednesday:	Ezekiel 34:1-11	Psalm 22		Matthew 20:1-16
Thursday:	Ezekiel 36:23-28	Psalm 50		Matthew 22:1-14
Friday:	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 106		Matthew 22:34-40
Saturday:	Ezekiel 43:1-7	Psalm 84		Matthew 23:1-2

CHURCH OPENING THIS WEEK

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham: Sunday 10.30 Mass
Monday, Tuesday and Saturday 9.30 Mass (followed by exposition on Monday)
Tuesday to Friday inclusive, 10 – 11.30 Private Prayer
Confessions after 1030 Mass on Saturday

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea: Saturday 6.00 pm Mass
Thursday 9.30 Mass

St Peter's, Blakeney: Sunday 11.00 Mass
Wednesday 9.30 Mass

St Henry Walpole, Burnham Market: Friday 9.30 Mass
Sunday 9.30 Mass
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1030-1130 Private Prayer

Please hand on this information to people you know who are unable to receive this newsletter via the Web site. Who'd be a steward? Please do as they ask you without question.

Hand sanitiser will be available at each church but you should provide your own mask. 'Social distancing' must be observed. There will be clear indication in each church where you may sit.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION

I rejoice that, once again, we are able to share, even if under serious constraints, in the fundamental Christian act: the Eucharist. Under the present circumstances, however, be assured there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sundays. If you are isolating, sheltering or in any way nervous about public gatherings, just take your time.

FR KEITH

Fr Keith is now recovering quietly at home. He would like to thank everyone for all their thoughts, prayers and good wishes.

For the moment, Fr Tom and Fr Des will be answering the telephone. Please do not ask for Fr Keith, or come to visit for the moment, as he needs to rest.

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Prisca Hastings, who died on 6th August. Her daughter writes: The Requiem Mass for Prisca Hastings will be offered on Monday 24th August at 11:30am at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Prisca's family are very sad that due to Covid, numbers are so restricted for Mass in the church and that we are not able to sing together but if you wish to come and pay your respects, the doors will be wide open during the Mass - please feel free to bring a flower which the family will gather to place on Prisca's grave in Surrey later the same week where she will be buried with her beloved husband Bernard. The family would like to give thanks for the parish community that has provided a loving home for mum over the last 8 years.

PRAYERS

Fr John, so often among us in Blakeney, tells me that his carer Sally Cooper is sick and in hospital. Please remember her in your prayers.

Please also remember all those who are unwell, all young people facing problems in relation to their exams, and all those in any difficulty during this time.

Parish Clergy: Revv. Keith Tulloch, SM, (Parish Priest), Thomas Goonan, SM,
Steven Leeder (Deacon)

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