

blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.'

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, our tribute of homage, rise up to you, O Lord,
and, through the intercession of the most Blessed Virgin Mary,
whom you assumed into heaven, may our hearts, aflame
with the fire of love, constantly long for you.

Communion Antiphon

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

Prayer after Communion

Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we ask you to grant, O Lord,
that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you
assumed into heaven, we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection.

Assumption of Our Blessed Lady

Year A

16th August 2026

Glory and Praise to God for Mary, Marvel of His Grace!

The tradition, that, at the end of her life, Mary was taken up into heaven body and soul, dates back to the sixth century. It is founded on the belief, that she who bore the Son of God - Life itself, in her very womb, could not possibly taste the corruption of death at the end of her earthly life. In the Assumption of Our Lady, Mary reveals our own destiny too: *"That transformation of our material bodies to which we look forward one day has been accomplished - we know it now for certain - in her"*

(Rev Ronald Knox)

Entrance Antiphon

*Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour
of the Virgin Mary, at whose Assumption the Angels rejoice
and praise the Son of God.*

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary,
the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant,
we pray, that, always attentive to the things of heaven,
we may merit to be sharers of her glory

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

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten

horns, and on his head seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Our First Reading comes from the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse) attributed to John the apostle. It was composed around AD 95 when the young Church was living under persecution. John writes to encourage the faithful to remain firm, confident that the Lord will return to reward the faithful and to judge the wicked. The imagery is highly symbolic. The woman represents the Church, persecuted by forces of evil (dragon) as she struggles to bring the Messiah to birth. On this feast we apply the prophecy to Mary, for Mary is the mother of Christ and therefore, the mother of the Church, which is Christ's body on earth. We look to Mary for the perfect example: she bore Christ, as we must do, and she surrendered her whole being entirely to his service. For this, the Lord rescued her and led her to fullness of life.

PSALM: 45(44):10. 11. 12. 16.10

Response: *On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.*

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
forget your own people and your father's house.

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.

1 CORINTHIANS 15: 20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Our Second Reading comes from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. Written around 55AD, Corinth was a thriving Greek city & sea port. Paul addresses the many problems in the young church & seeks to answer questions. The Greek Christians found it difficult to believe in a resurrection of the body to new life. Paul stresses that the resurrection of Christ and his followers is central to the Christian faith. Today's feast joyfully announces that Mary was the first after Christ to rise to new life. She is already totally transformed into glory, as the pledge to us all, of new life.

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Mary has been taken up into heaven;
the host of angels rejoice. Alleluia!*

LUKE 1: 39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And