



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

Newsletter

14th August 2022

Assumption of the BVM

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Regular Mass Times

Sunday	10.00
Monday	07:30
Tuesday	07:30
Wednesday	09.00
Thursday	07:30
Friday	09.00
Saturday (vigil)	18.00

Homily Notes

The Assumption is concerned with the end of Mary's life on earth, yet today's Gospel relates the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Why this Gospel passage? There is nothing in the Gospels about the end of Mary's life. The last mention of Mary in the New Testament comes at the first Pentecost when we find her praying with the Apostles. But this Gospel passage is appropriate because Elizabeth says to Mary: "Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?" It is because Mary is the mother of Jesus, the son of God who has become man to save us from sin, that she is honoured. We believe that she was without sin, and so was spared a normal death. The Immaculate Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. She "fell asleep in the Lord" – the Orthodox Christians call this feast the Dormition.

This Gospel is also appropriate because it repeats Mary's own words: "all generations will call me blessed." She is truly blessed as the Mother of God, the Immaculate, the sinless one, who has been raised to heaven where she intercedes for us.

According to John's Gospel Jesus, on the Cross, entrusted his mother to the Beloved Disciple, identified with John, the Evangelist. According to tradition, John later went to Ephesus, in present-day Turkey, and that Mary accompanied him. In fact, even today, one can visit the 'House of Mary'. Mary, an elderly person, rather lost in new unfamiliar surroundings, would be wondering what she was doing, and would be saying, like Paul, "I want to be gone and be with Christ" (her son, Jesus) "which would be very much the better" (Philippians 1: 23), but she would add: "let it be done according to your Word."

Mary is the model for those of us who are elderly. We would like to be with our loved ones who have gone before us, but we accept to live on as long as the Lord wishes.

May Mary, assumed into heaven, pray for us.

Michael



Mass Intentions

- Sa 13: Joseph Glanville
- Su 14: Phillip Battle
- Mon 15: Denise McMahon
- Tue 16: Sean Fraine
- Wed 17: Kathleen Byrne
- Thur 18: Terence Ingham
- Fri 19: Les & Lily Wales
- Sa 20: Parishioners
- Su 21: Heather & Garry Foggo (SI)

Prayer in a time of drought

Tears fall on cracked earth,
as plants wither,
cattle weaken,
and with loving arms,
mothers cling to their children.

Move us, Holy Spirit,
to be with our
sisters and brothers
in their hour of need.

Work through us, we pray,
so that living streams of love
and mercy flow,
bringing compassion,
healing and hope.

We ask this prayer through
Christ our Lord, Amen.

By Rachel McCarthy/ CAFOD

The World in Crisis : not just us.

To be honest, I can't keep up with it. Each day seems to come with more dire warnings about our future. Inflation is set to rise above 10%. Food prices have already risen by more than that, as our weekly shopping bill is evidence. Heating our homes and cooking our food is going to cost 3 or 4 times last year's prices by January 2023. The NHS is close to collapse and dental care is beyond the reach of many. Already, there are signs of discontent, as essential workers strike or threaten to strike.

We could easily wonder where we are going and how far this crisis is going to touch our lives and the lives of our loved ones. Is there even a sense of panic setting into the national psyche as the bad news is persistent?

As we begin to become aware of the parlous state of affairs – of state – I do not apologize for turning your attention towards the millions of people who have been living in this near-panic, near-despair, for years now. And they have only us, in the rich nations, to whom they can turn.

CAFOD made an appeal a few weeks ago, before our own news began to feel so threatening; appealing to us to turn our attention to the tens of millions of people living in famine conditions and some, nay many, who are already starving. Their appeal went almost unheard because we were distracted by the goings-on nearer to home. Their appeal is heart-breaking because of what it reveals about the sufferings of millions of children, men and women, in Africa and in other places with chronic hunger and poverty.

The current food crisis is devastating the region. **East Africa is facing its worst drought in 40 years:** in Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, up to 20 million people are fighting for their very survival.

In June, Cafod's Director, **Christine Allen**, made a journey to **Marsabit**, a nine-hour car drive from Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. She wrote afterwards: "*We passed vegetable-filled polytunnels stretching as far as the eye can see. But so much of this nutritious food will not go to the people of Kenya. This is where food for export is grown, food for our plates.*"

The large farms are jarringly juxtaposed with pastoralists scraping a living from the side of a dangerously busy highway".

Unfortunately, drought isn't the only issue. In East Africa there are many layers of crises, making people incredibly vulnerable. During 2020/21 the region battled a **locust invasion**, and of course **COVID-19**. The situation has been further exacerbated by the **war in Ukraine** and the resulting rising costs

The UN World Food Programme has warned that **47 million more people** will face acute hunger if the conflict in **Ukraine** continues – many of those affected will be in low-income countries in Africa. Catherine Ogolla, Cafod's Country Representative for Kenya, highlighted how the price of **cooking oil has doubled** as a result of the war in Ukraine. "Everybody is struggling to make a living," she said.

Yes, while we struggle to face up to the current crisis here, others are struggling to simply survive.

We turn to God and pray for them in their suffering. Terry

Psalm 63: *God, you are my God, I pine for you; my heart thirsts for you, my body longs for you, as a land parched, dreary and waterless. Thus I have gazed on you in the sanctuary, seeing your power and your glory. Better your faithful love than life itself; my lips will praise you. Thus I will bless you all my life, in your name lift up my hands. All my longings fulfilled as with fat and rich foods, a song of joy on my lips and praise in my mouth."*

Lottery Results
7th August
01 03 05 06 08 09 (No winner)
Jackpot £1,600

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

OFFERINGS 7th August
Envelopes £25.00
Plate £198.95
Many thanks for all your contributions

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick: Annabel, Sheila & Mike, Lorraine ALLEN, Natasha BAKER, Kitty BAXTER, John BRAGGER, Christopher BROWNE, Lloyd CHUNG, Emma DLAN, Baby Daisy Marcia DUNN, June DUNNE, Joe EDIE, Jean ENNIS, Baby FRANKIE, Irene GREEN, Mary HASTIE, Mary HOWARD, Raymond JOYCE, Helen MARTLEY, Eddie McKENNA, Mary MELODY, Margaret MUCHMORE Cathy MURRAY, Ava RUDZINSKI, Eileen SALTERS, Jean TAYLOR, Camila WILD, John TAGUE, Mary THOMPSON

Also, for the intentions of: Anne BAXTER, Marian DAVIES, Ryan EDWARDS, Rita & Jimmy FLATLEY, Germaine, Beverley HARPER, Joan HART, Helen HARTLEY, Theresa HASTIE, Sarah Jane, Frances KERWIN, Madeleine McCANN & Family, Ian McNICHOLAS, Ann MOORE, Teresa SWIFT, Martha TAGUE, David THOMAS, Cath WILSON

And for those who have died recently: