



Reflection I once asked a sixth form class if anyone could explain the doctrine of the Assumption. A student replied, "yeah, that's the teaching whereby the Catholic Church 'assumes' that Mary is in heaven."

There's a bit more to it than that. The Church does not just "assume" that any canonized saint is in heaven. Rather, it authoritatively *declares* that a person is in glory and should therefore be honoured in liturgy and imitated in life. Our church calendar is filled with saints' days.

From very early times, August 15 was observed as the "birthday" of our Blessed Lady. On this greatest of all Marian feasts we celebrate the greatest moment of her life – being permanently re-united with her son and sharing his glory.

All the saints experience the "beatific vision" upon their entry into heaven, The Catholic Church teaches authoritatively that it is not just Mary's soul that was admitted to God's glory, but that, at the end of her earthly life, Mary's body as well as her soul was **assumed** into heaven by the loving power of God.

There is no eyewitness account of this actual event recorded in the Bible. Come to think of it, though, no one witnessed the actual resurrection of Jesus either! The evidence was an empty tomb and eyewitness reports that the Risen Lord had appeared to them.

Interesting parallel here. There is a tomb at the foot of the Mt. of Olives where ancient tradition says that Mary's body was laid. But there is nothing inside. There are no relics, as with other saints, and credible apparitions of Mary, though not recorded in the New Testament, have been recorded from the 3rd century until today.

Mary is not equal to Christ, of course. Jesus, though possessing a complete human nature, is the Eternal Word made flesh. Mary is only a creature. The bodily corruption of death was not God's original plan. It came into the world through sin, as St. Paul says "the sting of death is sin" (I Corinthians 15:56). So it is fitting that she who knew no sin should know no decay and no delay in enjoying the full fruits of her son's work. It is fitting that she who stood by Christ under the cross should stand by him bodily at the right hand of the Father. "The Queen stands at your right hand, in gold of Ophir" (Psalm 45). Enoch and Elijah, who the Old Testament says were assumed into heaven, were surely great in God's eyes. But they do not begin to compare with the immaculate mother of His Son.

We too, one day, insofar as we accept God's grace, will stand at His right hand. But Paul says that "all will come to life again, but each one in proper order" (I Cor. 15:23). The Redeemer, of course, blazes the resurrection trail, but who is to be first among his disciples? The one who is last is first, the Lord's humble handmaid who did no more than say yes, and keep saying yes, and whose soul magnified not herself, but the Lord.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday 15th August 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm

Sunday 16th August 9.30am

Saturday 15th **THE ASSUMPTION** Vigil Mass 4 pm

those on front line fighting the pandemic

Sunday 16th **OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** Mass 9.30 am *Parishioners*

Monday 17th NO MASS

Tuesday 18th Feria Mass 10 am *Mass for Scott's health*

Wednesday 19th Feria Mass 10 am *For all in prison at this time*

Thursday 20th St. Bernard Ab. Mass 10 am *Religious in the Diocese*

Friday 21st St. Pius X Pope Mass 10 am *Maria Carmen Morris RIP*

Requiem Mass for *Sean Lomas* 2. 30pm

Saturday 22nd **Our Lady Mother & Queen** Mass 10 am

Vigil Mass 4 pm *Parishioners*

Sunday 23rd 21st. Sunday of Ordinary Time Mass 9.30 am



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IF YOU ARE GOING TO COME TO MASS THIS WEEKEND YOU NEED TO INFORM FR. PAUL BY TELEPHONE – 07973239942 OR E MAIL Fr.paul.lomas@rcaob.org.uk

COVID 19 VIRUS IS STILL PREVALENT SO KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM EACH OTHER. TOUCH AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.

Mass each day continues to be shown live on my Facebook page—Paul Roy Lomas. It is also available to use after the Mass has ended in case you can't be on your computer, smart phone

PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION This was resumed from the weekend.

1st/2nd August 2020. It is as on notice board - Saturday morning 11.30 to 12 noon each week. Due to the social distancing it will be on the benches in the front presbytery garden. Please telephone to let me know you are coming 07973239942.



CHURCH SANCTUARY ROOF—the wasp nest was removed and the work on the apex flashing was completed last week. Now we just have to pay the bill!

THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC MASSES THIS WEEKEND. WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THIS POINT. PLEASE :-

1. SANITISE YOUR HANDS WHEN ARRIVING AND LEAVING CHURCH.
2. WEAR FACE COVERING AT ALL TIMES.
3. ONLY SIT ON PEWS WHERE DIRECTED TO.
4. MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALL TIMES.
(NO PHYSICAL CONTACT AT EXCHANGE OF PEACE).
5. WHEN RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION, DO SO ON HAND ONLY AND MOVE WHEN DIRECTED TO.
6. THERE ARE NO NEWS SHEETS HANDED OUT, NO HYMN BOOKS TO HOLD, NO SINGING BECAUSE OF SPREAD OF VIRUS.

Mass, Prayer, and the Pandemic

We live in interesting times, but then haven't we always? Every day is an adventure, full of opportunities to respond or even be proactive in our lives. The guidance keeps coming from the government. The world has not been overcome by Covid-19 we just have to keep using our common sense and following the guidance of the Church and the government.

Reassurance about Sunday Mass: May I take this opportunity to offer a word of reassurance? Some parishioners have mentioned they feel unsure and uncertain about coming to Mass either on a Sunday or a weekday. Please do not feel under pressure! At present the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays or holydays of obligation is impeded by the pandemic, meaning that a dispensation from attending Sunday Mass is granted to those who, for reasons of health or infirmity, or prudence, are not able to attend. Please know that even if you are unable to attend Mass at this time, you are remembered in our prayers, especially before the distribution of Holy Communion, when the priest makes an Act of Spiritual Communion on your behalf.

KEEP SAFE, KEEP PRAYING AND REMEMBER THAT THE LORD WALKS BY OUR SIDE.