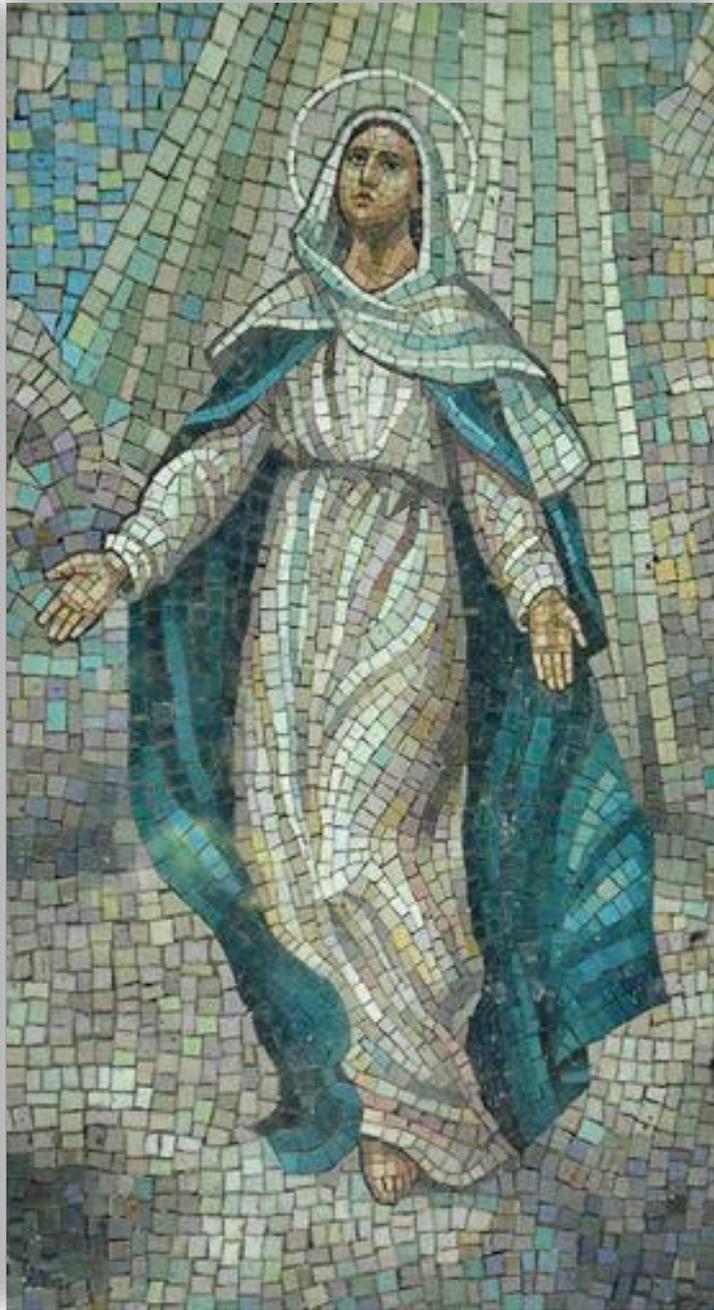


ParishNews



Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter

16 August 2020 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Year A



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The commemoration of the death of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Dormition, or falling asleep, as it was known in the East) is known as the Assumption because of the tradition that her body did not decay but that she was raised up, body and soul, into heaven. This tradition was already present in the sixth century; by the beginning of the twentieth century it was widespread; and after consulting the views of bishops all over the world, the Pope formally and infallibly declared the doctrine of the Assumption to be part of the authentic and ancient doctrine of the universal Church.

*The Almighty
has done great things
for me, he has exalted
the lowly.*

This great feast is a twin to the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Then the preface of the Mass contained these words: 'Christ is the beginning, the head of the Church; where he has gone, we hope to follow.'

Today we celebrate the first of us to do that, as we remember Mary following our

Lord into heaven. She is the first to follow him, but not the last: this feast should help open our eyes to our final destination, heaven. This feast pushes us right back to Easter, to thoughts of death and resurrection: the second reading which underlines this. It talks of the 'gradual' resurrection of the dead: Christ first, then 'those who belong to him'. Of these, the first is Mary, she who was without stain of original sin, she who was 'most blessed of all women.' In her, today, we see the fulfilment of the vision of the first reading: the end of death and the victory of life in Christ.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession

Some of you may be worrying that you have not been able to get to the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation for a while. The sacrament can now be celebrated after the Saturday morning Mass if you are able to attend. If you cannot attend this Mass it is possible to celebrate the sacrament in a distanced way. Please contact the parish office to make an appointment.

A Perfect Act of Contrition will remove *all our sins*. Perfect contrition is true and real sorrow for our sins, and comes about when we realise the immense love God has for us. We humbly approach this grace resolving not to sin again. Any serious sin can then be mentioned when you next go to see the priest in the sacrament.

An Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.

In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy.

Face Masks/Coverings

On 8 August it became mandatory to cover our faces when we come to church. Please see it rather as an act of charity towards your neighbour than a rule. We are going to maintain the 2m distancing in church which the government recommends wherever possible. This will mean that the capacity inside the church will not change. Therefore, if you do come and cannot get in, please be generous in your response. Certain people are exempt from wearing masks and a list of these exemptions can be found on the Gov.uk website.

The Parish livesimply Sewing Group have been making face masks and some are available at church. The group are asking for a donation for the parish.

Online Individually Guided Retreats

The Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group is offering online individually guided retreats for three, five or six days. Members of the Ignatian Spirituality Group are experienced guides, who have received training in relation to Ignatian spirituality and include priests, deacons or lay people. Dates can be arranged to suit individuals. For further information, please contact the Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk or telephone: 01752 769164 or 07823447637. In these uncertain and challenging times, many have rediscovered the delights of the created world, are turning to meditative practices, even finding solace in prayer. Others may feel the need to explore, make sense and reflect on the presence of God in their everyday lives, especially during difficult or painful moments experienced recently.

Exam Results

We pray for all those in our community who have received the results of their A levels and those awaiting their GCSE results. In the most difficult circumstances we pray for the future of our young people. May they grow to understand God's will for their lives and the great love that he has for them. May the decisions they make today and in the future be for their good and the good of the world.

Bedtime Chats: a GIFT Resource

Visit the GIFT page on the parish web site: www.blessedsacrament.org.uk/

Dial-a-Mass

The Middlesbrough Diocese in conjunction with the Knights of St Columba began Dial-a-Mass for the benefit of those who do not have the internet or computer. The Mass is recorded and put on telephone, at 12 midday on Sunday and will stay until 11.59 the following Sunday. For the cost of a local call the person can listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The number to call is: **01642 130120**. The Mass will not go over one hour (it tends to be approximately 45 minutes). Many people who have used this service have said how good it is and how it helped them, they felt less left out as they do not use computers and less isolated from the faith and the catholic community.

Holidays

Many of you will have had to change or cancel your plans for a summer break. We hope that you will still be able to enjoy some rest and perhaps some time with your families. We pray for those who have managed to get away that they will have a restful time and we also pray for those visiting us here in Exeter.

The Collection

During the celebrations of Mass at the moment, we are not able to pass the bags to collect your weekly offering. Instead, please place your cash offering or planned giving envelopes in one of the two baskets which will be available at the church doors. These will be collected at the end of each Mass. And don't forget that the most efficient way for you to give is by standing order. Forms are available by emailing the parish office. Arrangements are made directly with your bank. And please remember to GiftAid your contribution if you are a UK taxpayer. There are also plans for contactless giving at the church – watch this space! Many thanks for your continued support of the parish at this difficult time.

May they rest in peace...

Please pray for those who have died recently especially Paul Hughes and Joan Ash. Joan was a long time member of the Catholic Women's League and it was good to see her two sisters and their family and a considerable number of CWL members at her funeral on Thursday. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Joined in Matrimony...

Please pray for Paula Rowan and Kenechukwu Okonkwo who were married today, 14 August at Blessed Sacrament Church. We wish them every blessing as they go forward into life as husband and wife. Please pray for all couples who are preparing to marry, especially those for whom this has been a most challenging time, often having to cancel and remake plans.

Stewarding at Mass

Our stewards are doing a wonderful job greeting you as you arrive at church. They are also thoroughly cleaning the church after you have gone. It has all been done with great cheerfulness and we are all immensely grateful to them. If you would like to join the team please contact the parish office exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk and we will get you on the rota.

GIFT: Growing In Faith Together

GIFT is for all families who are keen to learn about and explore their Catholic faith. Our GIFT sessions will be recommencing monthly, beginning in September, via zoom meetings with parents. Following these meetings, electronic family resources will be sent out for you to engage with in your families. Our first zoom meeting is on 5th September. If you and your family would like to join GIFT and you would like to receive links to the zoom meetings, please email Maria: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Youth Events in the Diocese

September 26 - There will be workshops for young people to discuss the future of our planet and ways we can teach others to look after it. Workshops will be offered through ZOOM. We plan to share a prayer service at St Peters, Crownhill later that day. Bookings will be taken in September.

In **October** there will be a series of five sessions, exploring Faith, Music and Creativity. One Hope Project will lead three of the discussions. These are aimed at young people aged 13-21. Lastly, we are looking for young people across the diocese to help put together a short film of prayer and reflection. We are looking for people to sing as well as share thoughts, reflections and read prayers. The theme will be; My spiritual journey, living through COVID-19. If you are interested in either of these events or any future events, please email: youth@prcdtr.org

No paper copies of Parish News

Some of you will have been able to celebrate Mass in the church recently. In line with Covid regulations, paper copies of the newsletter will not be available at the church. If you know anyone who would like to have a newsletter sent by email or post please contact the parish office with their details (once you have their permission to share them).

Essential Grants Programme for Children and Families.

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) (covering Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset) has funds available for essential grants to families living in the Diocese of Plymouth who are struggling as a result of Covid-19. The charity can provide essential items that parents and carers could otherwise not afford for their children such as basic essential items like cookers, fridge/freezers, washing machines or cots and beds for children to sleep in. The fund is open to families of all faiths and none. The application process is straightforward and you can find more details on the website: <https://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk/what-we-do/grant-giving/> or you can call 01364 645420 to find out more.

The Young Vincentians Groups

Would like to share their links so that you can log on to see what they are currently doing:

Mini Vinnies: <https://www.svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies>

Youth SVP: <https://www.svp.org.uk/youth-svp>

B-Attitude: <https://www.svp.org.uk/b-attitude>.

They are also launching their new Young Vincentians Instagram account this month which will be a very useful way of capturing more fully the voice of the young person. Instagram www.instagram.com/svpyoungvincentians/

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word will resume again on Wednesday 2nd September. We meet online via the Zoom app and reflect together on the Gospel for the coming Sunday. In this very simple way we grow in our understanding of scripture and about the God Who Speaks. You don't have to be a scripture scholar to join! It's open to anyone who feels they would like to increase their faith. And please don't be anxious if you have never used Zoom, we will help you to get set up. If you would like to join and receive email notifications, please email Maria: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Pope's August Intention

The Maritime World: We pray for all who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families. <https://thepopevideo.org>

Pope Francis on Mercy...

It might be said that the Gospel, the living book of God's mercy that must be continually read and reread, still has many blank pages left. It remains an open book that we are called to write in the same style, by the works of mercy we practice.

The Pope tweets...

When we pray, God expects that we also be mindful of those who do not think as we do, those who have slammed the door in our face, those whom we find it hard to forgive. Only prayer unlocks chains, only prayer paves the way to unity.

Loss, Separation and Trauma

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic the latest Art of Dying Well podcast explores loss, separation and trauma. As the lockdown eases we talk to three experts, including Professor Stephen Regel, Clinical Lead at the Centre for Trauma, Resilience and Growth, part of the Nottinghamshire NHS Trust. <https://www.artofdyingwell.org/podcasts/>

Making an Act of Spiritual Communion

We are once again able to receive Jesus in Holy Communion when we come to Mass, but for many reasons it may not be possible for everyone. Committing this prayer to memory and saying it every day could help us express our heartfelt desire to be close to Jesus always.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Bishops Conference Information

Regular updates about the situation of the pandemic as well as lots of information about the Church in this country and around the world can be found on the website for the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales cbcew.org.uk

Foodbank News

Priority items are -500g/1kg Rice, Sugar, Tinned/long life custard, Tinned fruit, Sponge puddings. As we cannot collect donations at the church please use the donating points in supermarkets. You can also make a financial donation www.trusselltrust.org/make-a-donation/

Sunday Mass Blessed Sacrament YouTube channel

Even though we are able to gather for Mass Fr Jonathan will continue to record a Sunday Mass and post it online at www.youtube.com/c/BlessedSacramentExeter

We have had a favourable quote to install equipment to enable us to live-stream from the church. We are hoping the work will commence in the next few weeks. This will be a permanent way to offer the celebration of Mass for those who are unable to come to church.

Government help

There is a free service to find out what help you can get from the government and other organisations. Lots available. Link here: <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-support>

Food and vitamin vouchers

If you know someone who is pregnant or has children under 4, and maybe struggling in these times please check out this link for free food and vitamins – Healthy Start:

<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/do-i-qualify/do-i-qualify/>

YMCA News

As the Covid-19 pandemic sees a rise in the fear of long-term mental health impact on children and young people the YMCA is calling on parents and carers to not face this alone. YMCA Exeter is now offering a free wellbeing service for 5-18 year olds experiencing low level mental health difficulties, including low-mood, anxiety, stress, phobias, sleep problems and OCD. To speak to someone on our CWP team or to ask questions about the service we offer please contact us by calling 01392 410530 or emailing wellbeing@ymcaexeter.org.uk

YMCA Exeter are also running an online survey for 16-24 year olds, to hear about their experiences of lockdown and how it's affected their lives in the areas of employment, education, mental health and family life. The views and experiences of young people will help us shape how our projects might look, and how we adapt our services in a more socially-distanced world. Can you share the link for the survey with them: <https://bit.ly/ymcasurvey20>

YMCA Exeter is also looking for three Christian host families for their new TEN:10 Interns, due to begin their volunteer placement in Exeter from October 2020. Local families are needed who can give an Intern a home from 1 October 2020 till 23 July 2021 and support and pray with them as they seek to follow God and find their career path through volunteer service. Host families will receive a remuneration from YMCA Exeter to cover rent and food and will receive support in building a good relationship with them. Due to COVID-19 and the associated health risks they will be unable to place interns with host families who have a member of their household at high risk should they catch the virus. To find out more contact Volunteer Coordinator Sue Wilson on Sue.wilson@ymcaexeter.org.uk or call on 01392 410530

The Season of Creation

1 September – 4 October 2020

'The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home' Laudato Si' 13

The Season of Creation begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. This year we are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the publication of 'Laudato Si'; On Care For Our Common Home'. Pope Francis has also declared a special Year of Laudato Si', from 24 May 2020 to 24 May 2021.

The current pandemic has highlighted the inequalities which exist in our own country and its various communities and also the huge inequalities in the world between rich and poor. We must take opportunities to rebuild in a better way. A greener, more environmentally friendly future is possible. Making care for the poor, the most disadvantaged in our society and in the world a priority is possible.

So as the Season of Creation approaches, why not organise a Creation Celebration? Celebrate a special climate themed Mass, share a meal (socially distanced or online) or involve your parish and community in a conversation about how to tackle the climate crisis. There are lots of resources to help with ideas. Just go to the CAFOD or the Diocese of Plymouth website <http://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk>

Being part of history

Devon Archives and Local would like your help in contributing to a community archive about experiences in Devon during the Coronavirus emergency. Here is a simple online form to capture your thoughts:

<https://swheritage.org.uk/devon-archives/coronavirus-community-archive/>

For all the Saints...

20 August St Bernard Abbot

He was born near Dijon, in France, in 1090, of a noble family. In 1112 he joined the new monastery at Cîteaux. This had been founded fourteen years before, in a bid to reject the laxity and riches of the Benedictine Order (as exemplified by great monasteries such as Cluny) and to return to a primitive poverty and austerity of life.

Bernard arrived at Cîteaux with four of his five brothers and two dozen friends. Within three years he had been sent out to found a new monastery at Clairvaux, in Champagne, where he remained abbot for the rest of his life. By the time of his death, the Cistercian Order had grown from one house to 343, of which 68 were daughter houses of Clairvaux itself.

Bernard was a man of great holiness and wisdom, and although he was often in very poor health, he was active in many of the great public debates of the time. He strongly opposed the luxurious lives of some of the clergy, and fought against the persecution of the Jews. He was also a prolific writer, of an inspiring rather than a technical kind.

The Church is always suffering from corruption and always being renewed. If St Bernard, so often ill, could take a leading part in this renewal, what excuse do we have?

21 August St Pius X Pope

He was born in the village of Riese, near Venice, one of ten children of a very poor family. He was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 23. He was successively bishop of Mantua and of Venice, and was elected Pope, against his wishes, in 1903. In his time as Pope, he sought to “restore all things in Christ.” He insisted on the separation of Church and State, and banned the formation of political associations that claimed exclusive religious sanction for their political programme, whether of the Left or of the Right. He revised the code of Canon Law, founded an institute for scriptural studies, and initiated the revision of the Latin translation of the Bible (the Vulgate) and the reform of the liturgy.

He lived in great poverty even when he was Pope, and preached sermons every Sunday in the courtyards of the Vatican, to any who would listen. In his simplicity and goodness of heart, he performed miracles even when he was alive, and the clamour for his canonization started immediately after his death, on 20 August 1914, broken-hearted at the outbreak of the First World War.

22 August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The celebration of the “Queenship of Mary” was created by Pope Pius XII in 1954. This memorial provides us with an opportunity to continue our celebration of the Assumption of Mary (celebrated on August 15) and to honour the special place that Mary has within the communion of saints. The Memorial of the Queenship of Mary is a wonderful day to pray the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary, uniting our personal prayer with the prayer of the Church. This celebration was originally celebrated on May 31. During the reforms of the Liturgical Calendar under Blessed Pope Paul VI in 1969, the Memorial of the Queenship of Mary was moved to August 22, the octave day of the Solemnity of the Assumption. The Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (formerly celebrated on July 2) was moved to May 31 so that it’s celebration would take place before the Solemnity of the Birth of Saint John the Baptist on June 24. “As Christ is our Lord and King by a special title because He redeemed us, so the Blessed Virgin (is our Lady and Queen) because of the unique way in which she has cooperated toward our redemption by giving of her own substance, by offering Him willingly for us, and by desiring, praying, and bringing about our salvation in a singular way.”—Pope Pius XII

Mass Times

Sunday 16 August

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

6.00pm

Tuesday 18 August

6.30pm

Wednesday 19 August

9.30am

Thursday 20 August

St Bernard Abbott

9.30am *Olive Morgan RIP - birthday*

Friday 21 August

St Pius X Pope

6.30pm *Barbara Henwood RIP - birthday*

Saturday 22 August

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.30am

Sunday 23 August

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.45am *People of the Parish*

10.45am

6.00pm *Ann Pala RIP*

Tuesday 25 August

6.30pm *Private Intention*

Wednesday 26 August

9.30am

Thursday 27 August

St Monica Patron of mothers

9.30am

Friday 28 August

St Augustine Bishop

6.30pm *Valdi Pala RIP*

Saturday 29 August

The Passion of St John the Baptist

9.30am

The Word

Sunday 16 August

FIRST READING Revelation 11:19,12:1-6.10 *A woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon.*

PSALM *On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.*

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 *Christ as the first-fruits and then, those who belong to him.*

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-56

The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted up the lowly.

Sunday 23 August

FIRST READING Isaiah 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

PSALM *Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.*

SECOND READING Romans 11:33-36

All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Confessions

Following 9.30am Mass on Saturday morning. *Please be seated (socially distanced) in the front pews on the left of the church. The church will need to be cleaned following confessions.*

Attachments

Sunday Message & Sunday Homily

LOOK for young children

ICTHUS for older children