



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy
Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit



Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 14th August and Thursday 15th August 2019

VIGIL MASS

FIRST READING

A reading from the First Book of Chronicles

David gathered all Israel together to bring the ark of God up to the place he had prepared for it. David called together the sons of Aaron and the sons of Levi. And the Levites carried the ark of God with the shafts on their shoulders, as Moses had ordered in accordance with the word of the Lord.

David then told the heads of the Levites to assign duties for their kinsmen as cantors, with their various instruments of music, harps and lyres and cymbals, to play joyful tunes.

They brought the ark of God in and put it inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and they offered holocausts before God, and communion sacrifices. And when David had finished offering holocausts and communion sacrifices, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, go up to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your holiness.

At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
'Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.'

(R.)

Your priests shall be clothed with holiness;
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.

(R.)

For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
'This is my resting-place for ever;
here have I chosen to live.'

(R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: *Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?* Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law.

So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

As Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, 'Happy the womb that bore you and the breasts you sucked!' But he replied, 'Still happier those who hear the word of God and keep it!'

MASS OF THE DAY

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Apocalypse

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to

rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready.

Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:

forget your own people and your father's house.

(R.)

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.

(R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After

that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mary is taken up to heaven,
and the angels of God shout for joy.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

*A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Luke*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my
saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly
handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward all
generations will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great
things for me.

Holy is his name,
and his mercy reaches from age to
age for those who fear him.
He has shown the power of his arm,
he has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from
their thrones and exalted the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good
things, the rich sent empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel his
servant, mindful of his mercy
– according to the promise he made
to our ancestors –
of his mercy to Abraham and to his
descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY from *In Conversation with God* by Fr Francis Fernandez

“Today the Virgin Mother of God was assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church's coming to perfection, and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people.” (Preface of the Assumption, *Roman Missal*.)

Let us look at Our Lady, already taken up into heaven. Just as a traveller, gazing out to contemplate a vast panorama, seeks some human figure in his surroundings to bring the distant

objects into perspective, so do we look towards God with amazement, but can identify and welcome a purely human figure at the side of his throne. A ship has finished its passage, a destiny has been fulfilled, a human perfection has existed. Through her, his masterpiece, we see God's relations with humanity more clearly and with greater insight.

Our Lady's privileges are related to her Motherhood and, as such, with our redemption too. Taken into heaven, Mary is an image and forerunner of the Church, still on the way towards eternal life. From heaven, *she shines forth until the day of the Lord shall come, as a sure sign of hope and solace for the people of God during its sojourn on earth.* (Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes.*)

“By the mystery of the Assumption into heaven, there were definitively accomplished in Mary all the effects of the one mediation of Christ the Redeemer of the world and Risen Lord... In the mystery of the Assumption is expressed the faith of the Church, according to which Mary ‘is united by a close and indissoluble bond to Christ’. She is the assurance and proof that, as her children, we will one day be in our glorified bodies beside the glorious Christ.” (Pope St John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater.*)

Our aspiration to eternal life gains impetus as we meditate on our heavenly Mother above. She sees and watches over us, with a look full of tenderness, with more love the greater our need. She also has the specifically motherly role of mediatrix of mercy ‘at the final coming’.

She is our great advocate before God most High. Truly, life on earth is a *valley of tears*, we are called to make sacrifices and do endure suffering. Above all though, we are not in heaven yet. At the same time, the Lord gives us

many joys, and we have the hope of heaven so that we may look ahead with optimism. Mary is one of our reasons for happiness. She is *our life, our sweetness, and our hope*: We feel the affection of our Mother in our lives as Christians. We tell her, *Turn, then, thine eyes of mercy toward us...* Like her Son, she is full of mercy and compassion. She never withholds her helping hand from anyone who turns to her for help: *Remember O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection...* May we make ever more of an effort to seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, Queen of heaven and earth. May we fly to her, *Refuge of sinners*, and say to her: *Show us Jesus*, whom we are in need of above all else.

For those who look to Mary in every circumstance, with the simplicity and confidence of a child before his mother, there is great security and joy. A Father of the Church writes: *“Just as the Virgin Mary was a most docile instrument in the hands of the Lord, I desire greatly to be subject to her service. Grant me this request Jesus, God and man, Lord of all creation and Son of your Handmaid. Allow me to serve your Mother in such a way that You will acknowledge me as your servant. May she be my sovereign on earth, so that You may be my Lord for all eternity.”* (St Ildephonsus of Toledo.)

We need to examine the quality of our daily dealings with her. *“If you feel proud to be a Son of Our Lady, ask yourself: How often do I express my devotion to the Virgin Mary during the day, from morning until night? – the Angelus, the Holy Rosary, the three Hail Mary’s before going to bed...”* (St Josemaría Escrivá, *The Forge.*)