

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven is the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life. Until the middle of the sixth century there were no feasts in the Church to celebrate and honour Mary. She was commemorated alongside the saints and martyrs. The Eastern Church, however, had plenty of Marian feasts - celebrating her Conception, her Birth, her Presentation in the Temple, and Annunciation. But their most important Marian feast was the Assumption. This feast and all the other Marian celebrations were adopted by the Roman Church and included the Western Catholic Church.

The belief in the Assumption had its origin in the popular faith of the people. Christians could not believe that Mary's body underwent decay after being separated from her soul at death: they could not imagine that her body would disintegrate after the unique role she played in sacred history. The faithful came to believe that Mary was bodily assumed into heaven, thus guaranteeing that she was present with God, body and soul. Although it was only proclaimed as a dogma in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption had been taught in the Church for centuries as a truth that emerged from the faith of the people. It also points to what we believe God will do for us. We believe that our whole person, body and soul, will be raised to a new existence in the peace of God.

TODAY'S READINGS

In our first reading, from the Book of Revelation, we find God's temple in heaven opened and the Ark of the Covenant revealed. But more startling is the revelation of "a woman, adorned with the sun", who is the mother of the royal Son of David, the Messiah. The second reading tells us that, "just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ." The Gospel reading narrates the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Mary's greeting made the child in Elizabeth's womb leap for joy. Mary is the vessel of God's presence.

Priest in Charge: Fr John Mark Agulefo **Deacon:** Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)

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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book pages 186-191**Office: psalter week 4; Sundays: year C; Weekdays: year II, week 20**

Sunday morning Mass is livestreamed and will be available for viewing later on our parish YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)	ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Mary & Eddie Sinnott RIP
Sunday 14 th	9:30am		Gerald Topping RIP
	6pm		Thanksgiving (PL)
Monday	9:15am		Alan Little RIP
Tuesday	7pm		Sick & housebound parishioners and their carers
Wednesday	9:15am		Gerald Topping RIP
Thursday	9:15am		Ints. of Fr JM
Friday	12noon		Alan Little RIP
Saturday	10am	St Bernard	Sick & housebound parishioners and their carers
	6pm (vigil)	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Rebecca Corda RIP
Sunday 21 st	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Lil Abram RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Patsy Cockburn, Gerald Topping** and all who have died recently. The funeral of Patsy Cockburn will take place on Tuesday 16th August at 10:30am. Gerald Topping’s funeral will be held on Friday 19th August at 10:30am.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 11am-12noon and on request.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Monday-Friday 5pm-6pm, Saturday 11am-12noon. The church is usually open during the day for private prayer.

ROSARY: After 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass on Fridays.

ANNIVERSARIES: Wilfrid Skingsley, Francis McMorrow, Patrick Keefe, Edith Rossiter, Mark Walmsley, Dominic Gallagher, Martin O’Malley, Eleanor Pemberton, John Stewart, Sophia Morris, Hilda Helm, John James Barton, Rev. Donald Parsons.

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST: We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.

SUMMER AT ST CLARE'S: In early September Fr John Mark will be joined by Fr Stephen Talbutt, currently assistant priest at St Kentigern's, Blackpool. Over the summer a supply priest will assist with Masses. Please pray for Fr John Mark as he begins his ministry here, and for Fr Stephen as he prepares to move.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP: Friday 19th August at 3pm in the Church. All are welcome.

FREE NEWSPAPER: Get the Universe Catholic Weekly free for a four-week trial; see notice in the Narthex for details.

GOING TO THE HOLY LAND? Due to flight cancellations, the trip will now take place one day later, to run Sunday-Sunday 23rd-30th October. Please remember that the final balance **is due to be paid by 22nd August** and no reminders will be sent. Fr John Mark will be travelling on the pilgrimage as spiritual director.

FOOD BANK: Next weekend: 20th/21st August. There is currently urgent need of almost all food supplies due to very high demand. Thank you for your generosity.

DIOCESAN EDUCATION MASS 2022: Lancaster Cathedral (LA1 3BT), Friday 7th October 2022 at 6:30pm. All parishioners are invited to join Bishop Paul Swarbrick at the annual Diocese of Lancaster Education Mass. This invitation extends in a special way to all those involved in education and faith formation; priests, deacons, catechists, youth ministry, children's liturgy, those in seminary and teachers outside of the Catholic sector. The celebration gives us the opportunity to express our thanks and acknowledge the contribution made by all those in the Diocese involved in the work of education and formation in the faith. Together we ask for God's blessing on the mission of education and formation in our diocese.

ANNUAL CLEATOR PILGRIMAGE: Sunday 11th September at the diocesan shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Cleator, Cumbria. 3pm Mass and blessing of the sick. All members of the diocese are warmly invited. The Bishop will preside and preach.

MARCH FOR LIFE 2022: Saturday 3rd September in London, the annual March for Life, promoting the sanctity of human life from conception to natural end. Events begin at the Emmanuel Centre (SW1P 3DW) from 10:30am, Mass at 11am, and the march from 2pm, ending in Parliament Square around 4:30pm. All are welcome to come.

JOBS AT CASTLERIGG: Vacancies for gap year volunteers and for a Programme Leader - the latter being a 2-year paid post. Anyone interested can contact jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk or visit <http://castleriggmanor.com/join-the-team/>

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 344 (74/140/85 NCW 45). Collections: £517.27. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 14 th	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Tuesday	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Side chapel
Wednesday	10am-12	Parish Coffee Morning	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Side chapel
Friday	3pm	Divine Mercy Prayer Group	Church
	7pm	Lectio Divina	Side chapel
Saturday	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 21 st	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall

Events marked * are open only to members or those who have booked ahead.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION: Please note that watching an online Mass does not fulfil the Sunday obligation for those who are able to attend in person. The full statement of the Bishops can be found at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/spring-plenary-2022-resolution-returning-to-mass-at-pentecost/>

NEW PROGRAMME OF DAY RETREATS: Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gerard Majella in Lostock Hall has launched a programme of day retreats exploring a range of topics including prayer and scripture. The first retreat will take place on Saturday 10th September 2022, when attendees will be invited to explore John of the Cross' remarkable *Spiritual Canticle*. If you are interested in attending, please register your interest before Monday 29th August.

Visit <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/retreat-programme-2022-2023/> for more information on upcoming retreats and how to register your interest.

THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY: A six session course will be running at Christ Church, Victoria Road from 13th September – 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

COURSE AT CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE, STONYHURST: the annual course this year is entitled "The search for happiness" and offers a close study of the four pillars of the good life, reflecting on the necessary interior structures for responding justly to the challenges of the contemporary world. Runs 26th to 29th August 2022. For further information and booking: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-search-for-happiness>

Fr Andrew's new postal address:

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