

## **"Mary is assumed into heaven; the angels rejoice."**

Today we celebrate a joyful feast day which comes round each year in the height of the summer break: the Assumption of Our Lady. This celebrates the Church's certain faith that, at the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken up, body and soul, into the glory of heaven. There are no relics of Our Lady, and no tomb where she was laid. This would be surprising if she had been buried, given that we have the graves of Saints Peter and Paul, and we know the site of Jesus' tomb. St John Damascene, the great interpreter of this mystery, wrote, "It was right that she who had kept her virginity unimpaired through the



*process of giving birth should have kept her body without decay through death. It was right that she who had given her Creator, as a child, a place at her breast should be given a place in the dwelling-place of her God. It was right that the bride espoused by the Father should dwell in the heavenly bridal chamber. It was right that she who had gazed on her Son on the cross, her heart pierced at that moment by the sword of sorrow that she had escaped at his birth, should now gaze on him seated with his Father. It was right that the Mother of God should possess what belongs to her Son and be honoured by every creature as God's Mother and handmaid."* (Homily II on the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Office: Psalter week 4; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: year 1, week 20**

The first Mass each day is livestreamed and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)	<b>THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY</b>	Patricia Turner RIP
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Theresa & John Topping RIP
	11:30am		For healing (PL)
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:15am		Wilfrid Francis Skingsley RIP
Tuesday	7pm		Francis Cross RIP
Wednesday	9:15am		Brian Ellam RIP
Thursday	9:15am	St Bernard	Paul Pryar
Friday	12noon	St Pius X	Holy Souls
Saturday	10am	<b>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	Kathleen Earnshaw RIP
	6pm (vigil)		Mary-Alice Kelly RIP
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30am		People of the Parish
	11:30am		Holy Souls
	6pm		Holy Souls

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for all who have died recently.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Saturday 11am-12noon and by appointment.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Monday-Friday 5pm-6pm, Saturday 11am-12noon. The church is also open Monday-Friday morning-6pm; Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 1-5pm.

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Elizabeth Donovan, 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.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST:** Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

**FIRST COMMUNIONS:** Please keep in your prayers Jessica, Kian and Maddie, who will receive Holy Communion for the first time at the 11:30am Mass this Sunday.

**OPENING HOURS:** The church is now open for private prayer Monday-Friday all day until 6pm (with Adoration 5-6pm); Saturday 11am-5pm (with Adoration and confessions 11am-12noon) and Sundays 1pm-5pm. There may be occasional closures due to funerals and baptisms, etc.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING IN CHURCH:** You are welcome to sit in groups if you wish. Please be mindful of those who would like to keep a safe distance from others.

**FACE COVERINGS** should be worn when you are in church for any service, unless you are exempt. They are not needed when visiting for silent private prayer.

**BOOKING FOR MASS:** It is no longer necessary to book for any services.

**FOOD BANK COLLECTION:** This weekend (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> August). Please leave items on the presbytery doorstep at Mass times. Thank you for your contributions.

**CAN YOU HELP YOUR PARISH?** As we reopen more fully, we will need volunteers for many aspects of parish life. Could you help your parish? Speak to Fr Andrew.

**FOLLOWING JESUS – TEN INVITATIONS:** Copies of this new book by Philip McParland are now available in the narthex, priced £5. Please sanitise your hands before taking a look, and leave money for copies taken in the CTS/books wallbox.

**ORGAN RECITAL:** Sean Maxwell plays works by Bach, Hadyn and other Baroque composers at St Walburge's, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August 6:30pm. For full details and to get tickets, visit: <http://www.goldengiving.com/e/sw-organ-recital-2021>

**CLEATOR PILGRIMAGE:** The annual diocesan pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady at Cleator will go ahead on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September, with Mass and blessing of the sick from 3pm. Bishop Paul will preside. All welcome. See poster for details.

**JOHN BRADBURN CENTENARY PILGRIMAGE:** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. A fell walk in Cumbria close to John's birthplace. See poster in narthex for full details.

**LAUDATO SI' ZOOM RETREATS:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September or 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October, organised by Boarbank Hall. Speakers in September include our own Bishop Paul and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. For more details, see poster in the narthex.

**CTFB JACOB'S JOIN:** In place of the annual Churches Together pilgrimage there will be a Jacob's Join at Our Lady and St Edward's on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1-4pm. To book, please send your name and phone number to Margaret Thompson at 302 Sharoe Green Lane by 21<sup>st</sup> August. Numbers are limited. See poster.

**LAST SUNDAY:** At Mass: 276 (figures for individual Masses: 63/77/55/51 (NCW 30)) Collection: £595.06 (excluding online giving – the figures for standing orders etc. will be published monthly). Thank you for your generous support.

## **Sunday Mass – a statement from the Bishops of England and Wales**

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021.

In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

### **“Unlocking” the Parish: our plan**

The plan below gives some sense of how the parish may move towards normality in the coming months. It is subject to change!

#### **Before the autumn (most dates to be confirmed):**

- We hope to have an outdoor parish social event.
- Some visits to housebound parishioners and care homes are now resuming.

#### **From September**

- Further steps back towards normality at Mass, including an offertory procession and intercessions.
- Children’s liturgy and all our youth groups should resume.
- A normal year of sacramental preparation is planned, including for children whose confessions, first Communion and Confirmation have been delayed.
- A full programme of parish social life will take place, if permitted.
- Other parish groups should be able to resume.
- We hope to be able to hold some events to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish and school, in November 2021.
- We have been in contact with the pilgrimage company for the Holy Land trip and are awaiting a response to see whether or not the trip can go ahead.

We plan to continue to livestream Mass each day, for the benefit of those who are housebound; everyone who can is strongly encouraged to attend Mass and rebuild our community. We will also continue with some other online output to assist with catechesis, evangelisation and outreach work in the parish.