

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 to 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 Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY / B

15 AUGUST 2021



## ANTICIPATING OUR RESURRECTION

What do we Catholics mean when we express our conviction that, at the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory? Are we simply heaping praises upon Mary for her 'specialness'? Or is there something deeper at stake?

In fact, like all Marian teachings, the Assumption speaks of the saving love of Christ that envelops our human lives. 'For the Son of God became human, so that we might become God' is a saying of the Church Fathers (cf. *Catechism*, 460). Mary, the 'first disciple' of Jesus Christ, walks with and before us in our own path of Christian discipleship. Her singular participation in her Son's Resurrection is an anticipation of our resurrection. *Who Mary is, we are becoming*. One day we, too, will live forever with God in heavenly glory.

The Assumption is a compelling celebration of Christian hope, an affirmation of the human body, and deep-down encouragement in our earthly struggles.

Teresa Pirola

## FIRST READING

Apoc 11: 19; 12: 1-6, 10

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

*I saw a woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet.*

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.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 44: 10-12, 16. R. v. 10

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

1. 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.**

2. 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

1 Cor 15: 20-26

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

*As members of Christ all people will be raised, Christ first and after him all who belong to him.*

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 die in Adam, so all 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.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

## GOSPEL

Lk 1: 39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*The Almighty has done great things for me; he has lifted up the lowly.*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah.

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic)

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 10:00am-3:00pm

## Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood



Vigil Mass: Saturday at 5:30pm

Sunday Mass Times: 8am, 9:30am, 11:30am (Chinese) & 6pm

Weekday Masses: Mon – Thurs. 7:30am, Fri 5:00pm

Holy Rosary: Mon – Thu after 7:30am Mass

Eucharistic Adoration: Fri 4:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 5:00-5:20pm

Cenacle Marian Movement of Laity: Thu 7pm

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena: Tue 7-7:30pm

### The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret Ellem

**Our Deceased:** Alan & Molly McNamara, Bill, Eileen & John Taylor, Amy Murry, Katherine Corbett, Win Tranor, Fr John Haseler, Sandra Walsh, Jim Grainger, Fr John Lyne, James Bertoldo, Mike Crestani; Geoff & Patricia Clarke, Jan Brayan, Arch Stewart, John Casey, Roy & Bessie Landon and O' Connor, Landon, Stewart, Pigott and Casey families; Bro Mark Murphy, Clara and Edmund Bridgewater, Carl D'Lima and deceased members of the Lobo family. Lastly, please pray for all the souls in purgatory.

**Our Sick:** Stephanie Thielbeer, Sam Wong, Donald Mees, Agnes, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

#### UPCOMING FEAST DAYS:

Saint Bernard 20<sup>th</sup> Aug, Saint Pius X 21<sup>st</sup> Aug

#### PARISH NEWS:

- **Expression of interest: Liturgy of the Word at Home via ZOOM video conferencing.** This is an opportunity to gather with fellow parishioners and offer up our prayer intentions during this time of isolation. If you would like to participate, please register your interest by email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au or leave a message at 9874 2533. Thank you!
- **Online Preparation Lessons for First Communion Candidates will start on Wed, 18<sup>th</sup> Aug, 7pm via Zoom. Link will be emailed closer to date.**
- **In the coming weeks, we will be communicating with parish volunteers who haven't done the Online Safeguarding Induction Training. This training is mandated by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney for selected volunteering roles in the parish.** If you have time on your hands, this could be the perfect opportunity to undertake the training. All information and registration details will be emailed. Thank you.
- **We sincerely thank all the parishioners who are continuously supporting our parish financially during lockdown and all the volunteers involved in the Vigil Mass.**
- **For pastoral care emergencies, reconciliation, funerals, etc. please contact Fr Martin directly at 0414 841 928 to make a COVID Safe arrangements.**
- **Prayer requests/Mass offerings for the deceased are still accepted.** Send us an email or leave a message at 9874 2533. Donations can be made online via the parish website.
- **The parish office is closed until further notice.** Please send your queries by email: [parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au](mailto:parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au) or leave a message at 9874 2533. Thank you.

#### AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **Support The Catholic Weekly:** Parishioners still wishing to receive a hard copy of The Catholic Weekly can take advantage of a special postal subscription offer during lockdown and receive 5 editions for \$20. To order call Rita on 9390 5411 or Steve 0429 188 800. To

subscribe online go to GIVE A GIFT: [www.catholicweekly.com.au/product/are-you-a-new-subscriber/](http://www.catholicweekly.com.au/product/are-you-a-new-subscriber/). In this week's edition: Exclusive interview with veteran journalist Greg Sheridan on his new book, "Christians, the urgent case for Jesus in our world"; *Be a Light in Lockdown: Archbishop Anthony Fisher's pitch to Family Educators*; *World first for NSW Outback School honouring a teen on the pathway to sainthood, Blessed Carlo Acutis*.

- **The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney invites you to download the Our Faith Our Works App** on the App Store or Google Play. This is your one-stop location for Mass & Confession times, spiritual reflections & meditations, podcasts, local Catholic news, and much more. This App features a PCI-compliant & secure donation gateway, enabling you to give to your local parish or our Archdiocesan ministries. Visit: [www.ourfaithourworks.org/app](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/app).



#### FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

##### CONVERSION - what I have learnt!

Since 1990 I have often attended an organization simply called SIP it's an acronym for *Spirituality in the Pub*, the venue for many years was the Bellevue Hotel at Paddington. The format is where two speakers each with a background in a field such as medicine, law, politics, or religion speak about a topic from one of these or other fields and then are open to questions about their presentation.

One evening one of the presenters was Mr. John Menandue, he had been the Australian ambassador to Japan and while he was in that country, he was strongly influenced by the Marist Fathers. In fact, they influenced him so much that he decided to be received into the Catholic Church. John said this about how he understood his journey into the Church; "*I have not converted from my Methodist Christian heritage at all, this is very much a proud part of my story rather I have now moved more towards being a member of the Catholic Church.*"

When he said this, I said to myself that was a wise, wonderful, and valuable insight. So often real conversion in life means that someone simply moves from one level of life to another level rather than renouncing totally where they have actually come from.

Saint Paul clarifies this reality when he wrote, "*be transformed by the renewal of your mind so that you can discern the will of God.*" (Romans Chapter 12 verse 2)

#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

*We encourage everyone watching us online to receive Jesus through the Spiritual Communion Prayer: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already here and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

