

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

FIRST READING: Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 45.

RESPONSE:

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

1. The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. R
2. Listen, O daughter, pay heed and give ear;
forget your own people and your father's house. R
3. So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him. R
4. They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king. R

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoices. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-56.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

Redemptorist PARISH MISSION

A parish mission – or retreat – is a time of renewal, evangelization, and conversion, rooted in the very identity of the Church. From her earliest days, the Church has gathered the faithful to rekindle faith, deepen prayer, and renew the spirit of discipleship.

Typically, a mission includes:

- Morning Mass
- Midday Novena & Exposition
- Evening Mission Service
- Confession

For more info: Fr Tyrone Sam CSsR

Tel: 074 647 2229.

Email: tyrone.cssr@gmail.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 17 Aug Liturgy of the Day

Ezekiel 24:15-24; Deut. 32:18-21; Matthew 19:16-22

Whatever you face in your day today, don't lose heart and don't lose steam. Know that God goes before you, creating a clean heart and a fresh perspective and giving you the strength to endure.

Tue 18 Aug (Bl. Victoria Rasoamanarivo)

Ezekiel 28:1-10; Deuteronomy 32; Matthew 19:23-30

Known as the "Mother of the Church of Madagascar", this valiant woman singlehandedly kept the Catholic Church alive in Madagascar during a time of repression, showing great courage and love.

Wed 19 Aug (St John Eudes, Pr)

Ezekiel 34:1-11; Psalm 23; Matthew 20:1-16

St John Eudes described union with Jesus as more perfect than a body's union with its head – and that prayer is as essential for the Christian as breathing is for human life.

Thu 20 Aug St Bernard, AbD

Ezekiel 36:23-28; Psalm 51; Matthew 22:1-14

"There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge, that is curiosity; Those who seek knowledge to be known by others, that is vanity; And those who seek knowledge in order to serve; that is Love." – St Bernard

Fri 21 Aug St Pius X, P

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 107; Matthew 22:34-40

"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; (and) touches most the heart of the Mother of God ... and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary." – St Pius X

Sat 22 Aug Queenship of Mary

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 113; Luke 1:26-38

For St Alphonsus Liguori, Mary's queenship is not just a theological concept but a practical, daily relationship. He encouraged the faithful to entrust themselves to her sovereign care every morning.

Sun 23 Aug 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 138; Matthew 16:13-20

"Our joy in God reflects the joy of the Trinity ... The more faithfully and hopefully we respond to God's love in our life, the greater will be the fullness of our joy." – Gloria Durka

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
Pr=Priest; Ab=Abbot; D=Doctor; P=Pope

Catholic Link

SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AND WATCHFUL FAITH

Assumption of Our Lady • Year A
Divine Office: Week IV • 16 August 2026

The Assumption of Mary

There are many religious languages. Even the three Abrahamic religions have distinctive vocabularies. For example, Jews speak about Kabbala (mystical knowledge of God), Kaddish (prayer for the dead) and Kosher (dietary rules). Islam speaks of Sharia (law), Shahada (oneness of God) and Salat (prayer). Likewise, Christianity uses a technical vocabulary, often derived from its Hebrew, Greek and Latin backgrounds.

Christianity refers to its technical language as theology. "Incarnation, expiation, eschatology" are typical Christian words. More specifically, Catholicism often slips in Greek or Latin words: *Theotokos* for 'Mother of God', *filioque* '...and from the Son'. In the context of resurrection, we find the word "Assumption" used to refer to the mystery concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary's destiny.

While it is true that there is no mention of Mary's assumption into heaven in the New Testament, there are strong hints. The early Church's identification of Mary as the new Ark of the Covenant leads our minds to the New David – Jesus her Son – and to the likelihood that the Christ his Son would want to have his mother to share as fully as humanly possible in his heavenly Temple of Glory.

When in 1950 Pope Pius XII defined the dogma of Mary's Assumption into heaven, he was showing the world the realism of Christianity. The Resurrection really happened, confirmed in the Assumption of Mary, another aspect of faith which touches on our final destiny. The Assumption highlights the importance of matter, of the human body and the cosmic dimen-

sion of a world redeemed.

What was new in 1950 was the declaration that the Assumption of Mary became a defined *dogma* of the faith. The content of the dogma was almost as old as the Church herself. St Ambrose (339-397) had written "In Christ's resurrection, the world arose. In Christ's resurrection the earth itself, the heavens arose. In Christ's resurrection the earth itself arose". It was the "sensus fidelium" (sense of the faithful) that believed that Mary shared in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus as she had shared in the Incarnation and nativity of Jesus, as she had shared in the sufferings of Jesus from her place at the foot of the cross. In believing in Mary's Assumption, the early Church was in the same breath believing in "the resurrection of the body and life everlasting". Hence, too, in the Assumption, we the faithful are acknowledging that "the flesh" is already saved.

In 2004 the official ecumenical conversations between the Anglican and the Catholic Church came to the conclusion that "God has taken the Blessed Virgin Mary in the fullness of her person into his glory" and that this belief is "consonant with Scripture and it can, indeed, only be understood in the light of Scripture".

The Preface to the Eucharistic prayer for the feast of the Assumption describes Mary's Assumption "as the beginning and image of your Church's coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people". That is why we pray in today's Mass that "always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory".



Assumption of the Virgin, oil on panel, Church of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, Venice, by Titian (16th C)

Parish Priest: Fr David Evans
 Parish Secretary: Judy Joseph
 Bookkeeper: Tanya Charles
 Office Hours: Mon to Fri 08h00 to 16h00
 Website: www.stpatricksbenoni.co.za



Phone: 060 327 2998
office@stpatricksbenoni.co.za
bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za
 106 Woburn Avenue, Benoni

Mass Times	Tues 09h30	Wed No mass	Thurs No Mass	Fri 08h00	Sat 08h00 17h00	Sun 07h30 10h00	Confessions Tues 10h00 Sat 08h30
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Baptism of children: Book with the parish secretary and collect the form. Attendance of one short instruction is required.

Please support your parish: "St Patrick's Catholic Church" Benoni, Standard Bank. Current Account number: 021 095 612 (Branch code: 013042). To join our monthly Dedicated Giving contact Tanya; bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za or on 060 327 2998.

Our "Society of St Vincent de Paul" helps the poor – on our behalf – irrespective of race, colour or creed. Please support them: Society of St Vincent de Paul, Standard Bank, Boksburg, Current Account no. 220930287.

Given the gift of eternal life in Baptism: Auriella De Freitas.

We pray for Friederike Hintze who has died: may she rest in peace and rise in glory to live in joy in the kingdom forever.

This coming Tuesday 18 August will be a healing mass at 09h30 and the sacrament of anointing will be offered.

The Divine Mercy chaplet will be said every Friday at 3.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

The Knights of da Gama are having a **Bingo** Evening after Mass on Saturday 12 September in the Hall at 18h30. Please bring your family and friends along. Light snacks will be on sale. The bar will be open. Contact Jose 082 546 8505.

Save the Date! Saturday 3 October

Burger 'n Quiz parish fundraising. After the Saturday evening mass. More details in the coming weeks. Prizes and donations are warmly welcome. Contact Leslie 083 260 8282.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Mary set out and traveled to the hill country. (Luke 1:39)

Today we celebrate the truth that Mary, body and soul, has joined her son, Jesus, in heaven.

For centuries, this belief had been a beloved tradition, but it hadn't yet been defined by the Church as revealed dogma. That didn't happen until 1950 when Pope Pius XII declared her assumption to be an official teaching of the Church. That declaration was the fruit of years of work as the Holy Spirit guided Church leaders and theologians to a deeper and clearer understanding of Mary's role in the Scriptures.

The Holy Spirit was an intimate and guiding force in Mary's own life as well. Imagine Mary, a teenager, having to explain an unexpected pregnancy to her parents, to Joseph, and to her neighbors. We might expect her to act as any typical teenager would: isolate herself, panic over the way her life has just been turned upside down, give in to fear for her safety, and worry about her reputation.

But Mary was far from a typical teenager. She didn't sit around feeling afraid or sorry for herself. Instead, she listened to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and found the courage to put someone else's needs before her own. She immediately set off to visit her older cousin Elizabeth, who also was pregnant.

And what happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth? The Holy Spirit revealed to Elizabeth that her cousin was bearing her people's longed-for Messiah, and he filled Mary's heart with such joy that a beautiful prayer, called the Magnificat, burst forth from her.

If you feel stuck in a problem, think about Mary's example and turn to the Holy Spirit. You'll know he is helping you if, instead of brooding over the situation, you feel a desire to get out of yourself and help the people around you. You'll know it's the Spirit if you get a sense that God is with you in this situation. Mary's yes to the Spirit was a constant theme in her life, and it can be for you too.

"Mary, pray that more and more people will turn to the Holy Spirit as you did."

To make a donation to St Patrick's or give your collection at mass: Use SNAPSCAN by downloading the app on your phone and holding it over the QR code on the right.

