

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF MENTONE - PARKDALE

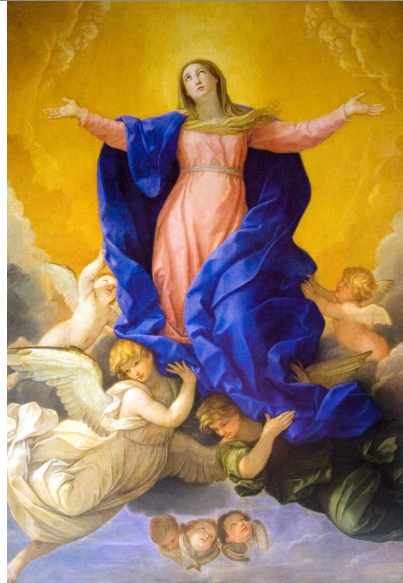
SAINT PATRICK - SAINT JOHN VIANNEY



Solemnity: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Year B: 15 August 2021

What does Catholicism teach about the assumption of Mary? And why is this event contemplated in the fourth glorious mystery? Let us begin by considering a few key points from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (see 966).

First, in discussing the assumption, the *Catechism* affirms that Mary did not suffer from original sin but was conceived full of grace. According to this doctrine, known as the Immaculate Conception, God's supernatural life dwelt in Mary from the very beginning of her existence.



It is important to emphasize that from a Catholic perspective, the Immaculate Conception is not simply about Mary. This doctrine, which has its roots in early Christianity, ultimately is about the mystery of Jesus Christ. God became man in Mary's womb. Since Jesus truly is the all-holy God, the Second Person of the Trinity, Catholics believe he is worthy to dwell in a pure vessel, a holy temple. Thus, it is fitting that God would prepare Mary as an immaculate dwelling place, full of grace and not stained by sin, for the God-man.

The annunciation scene in Luke's Gospel may at least point in this direction. The angel Gabriel greets Mary, "Hail, full of grace." The Greek word in Luke's Gospel for "full of grace" (Luke 1:28) is in a perfect passive participle form, which would indicate that Mary already has been filled with God's saving grace, even before Jesus was conceived in her womb.⁶ As we will see, the Immaculate Conception will serve as a

basis for understanding Mary's assumption.

Mary's Death?

Second, the *Catechism* teaches that Mary was taken to heaven when the course of her earthly life was finished. The Church does not declare whether Mary died and then was assumed into heaven or whether she was assumed before she died. It leaves open both possibilities. However, the majority of theologians and saints throughout the centuries have affirmed that Mary did experience death—not as a penalty for sin but in conformity to her son, who willingly experienced death on our behalf. In support of this latter view, John Paul II said, "The Mother is not superior to the Son who underwent death, giving it a new meaning and changing it into a means of salvation."

Third, the *Catechism* affirms that Mary was taken body and soul into heavenly glory right at the end of her earthly life. One of the consequences of original sin is the corruption of the

body (see CCC, 400; Genesis 3:19). If Mary was full of grace and did not suffer from original sin, it is fitting that she, like her son, would not experience such bodily corruption.

Biblical Assumptions

Although there are no explicit proof texts in Scripture for Mary's assumption, some biblical themes may at least shed light on this doctrine. For example, the notion of being taken up into heaven has some precedent in Scripture. Enoch was taken into heaven without seeing death (see Hebrews 11:5), and Elijah was whisked into heaven by the chariots of fire at the end of his life (see 2 Kings 2:11). If God could assume these righteous men of the Old Testament, it is certainly possible that Jesus could assume his own mother as well.

Even more, since the Bible presents Mary as the first Christian disciple, it is fitting that she would be the first to receive the blessings of following Christ. In the New Testament, Mary is presented as the first to hear God's word and accept it at the annunciation (see Luke 1:38, 45). She responds to God's word promptly by going in haste to help Elizabeth. She also describes herself as a servant of the Lord (see Luke 1:38, 48).

Mary remains faithful to her son, following him even to the cross (see John 19:25–27), where she experiences the fulfillment of Simeon's prophecy at the Presentation: "A sword will pierce through your own soul also" (Luke 2:35).

Continued page 3

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Notices for Parish Bulletin to the Parish Office by 12 noon Thursday

Recently Deceased

Derek Surin, Patrick Griffiths,
Anne Myers

Anniversaries

Vicki Busuttill, Francis Punton,
Bonny Alford, Veronica
Humphries, Phil Curry

Prayer for the Sick



We pray for those who are sick. Sr

Miriam da Luz, SPC, Joy
Websdale, Vicki Rhodes, Jim
Lacey, Darren Lacey

Vocation View

To taste and see the goodness of the Lord means to be drawn closer to God. "Try, then, to imitate God as children of His that He loves, and follow Christ by loving as He loved you." Be a presence of God's love in the world today. Do what you can to bring to life God's love.

Please pray for Vocations

Prayer / Meditation

Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament:

Each day the Church is open from 8:30 am to 6:00pm. Please choose a time (1/2 hour) to spend in Adoration. Each Friday the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration following the 9:15am Mass until 4:30pm, when Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is given.



Parish Events

CatholicCare's Annual Appeal will be held on return of our churches being opened.

CatholicCare Victoria empowers communities, builds strength and resilience, and works to help everyone reach their full potential. Thank you in advance for helping the thousands of individuals and families we support each year. **Please give generously to this appeal.**

Thanksgiving Envelopes

The next set of envelopes are in the church foyer for you to collect

Rose Garden

Many of the roses in the garden at the front of St Patricks are in serious decline. It is proposed that new roses be planted to refresh the garden and Parishioners are invited to donate toward the cost of replacement roses. You may wish to donate in the memory of a loved one or for prayers that have been answered. A contribution can be made by placing your donation in a sealed envelope with your name, the word "Rose garden" and placing that envelope on the collection plate. Donations will be accepted until the 22nd of August.



Monthly E-newsletter

If you would like to receive our monthly e-newsletter please contact the Parish Office with your email address.

mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au

21 / 22 Aug 2021

Rosters

Readers:

6:00 pm - J Marshall (SP)
9:00 am - T Busuttill, R Tregonning (SJV)
11:00 am - R Smith (SP)
5:00 pm - N Hadzi (SP)

Extraordinary Ministers:

6:00 H Foley (SP)
11:00 am - A Earle (SP)
5:00 pm - S Henning (SP)

Sacristan (SJV):

D Atherton

Extraordinary Minister to the Sick (SJV):

D Kidner

Flowers (SJV):

B McCann

Readings next week: Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Joshua: 24:1-2,15-18

Ephesians: 5:21-32

John: 6:60-69

Rosary:

1. In St Patrick's Church the Rosary is prayed each day before morning Mass at 8:40am. All welcome.
2. The Rosary is also prayed on Thursday after 10:40am OLSC Mass and on Wednesday evenings, 3pm at Bridie's (9585 5142)

Cuppa & Chat

All are welcome each Sunday to join us in the Parish Community Centre for a Cuppa and Chat following the 11:00am Mass



1st Collection:

Presbytery: \$XXX

2nd Collection:

Thanksgiving: \$1,754.34

Loose Money: \$XXX

Solemnity Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary,



Continued from page 1

She perseveres in faith throughout her life. She gathers with the apostles for prayer even after her son's ascension (see Acts 1:14). Thus, the New Testament presents a clear portrait of Mary as the first and preeminent disciple of Christ, who hears the word of God and keeps it in her heart.

Since one of the blessings promised to all faithful disciples is victory over death, it is fitting that Mary, who is the first and model disciple of Christ, would be the first to receive this blessing. Catholics thus believe that the privilege of resurrection promised to all faithful Christians was given first to Mary and in a totally unique way.

While the rest of us hope to have our bodies raised to glory at the end of time, Mary experienced the resurrection and glorification of her body at the moment her earthly life ended. Thus, her assumption—which flows from her unique participation in Christ's victory as the mother of the Savior and as the first and most faithful of Christ's followers—anticipates to some degree our own share in the fullness of that victory if we persevere as followers of Christ.

An Event of Love

Finally, let us consider what a moment the Assumption must have been for Mary! In describing this scene, some

Church Fathers spoke of Jesus himself coming back to earth to take his mother and bring her to her heavenly home. More recently, John Paul II said that the Assumption truly was an event of love, in which Mary's ardent longing to be with her son was finally fulfilled. In fact, many paintings of the Assumption portray Mary rising in splendor on a cloud to heaven, received by the angels with trumpets and celebration, and reunited joyfully with her beloved son.

While artistic depictions of this triumphant event in Mary's life are often celebrated, not as well-known are the many pieces of art that portray her last moments on earth, just before her assumption. Yet such a depiction of the end of Mary's life—her moment between heaven and earth—can be found on one of the main doors of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

There Mary is surprisingly portrayed as falling, as if she were definitively letting go of all the trials and sufferings of this life and allowing herself to fall asleep. Indeed, she is letting go of life itself as she passes from this world to the next. It is just at this moment of abandoning herself into the Father's hands that the angels rush down to catch her and bring her up to heaven. This depiction captures an aspect of Mary's assumption that offers us hope in the midst of our trials in this "valley of tears." This is the hope that God

will carry us through our distress and lift up our heavy hearts. So take a moment right now and ask yourself, what burdens, troubles, and worries are weighing you down? How can you entrust yourself more to God's loving care?

With whatever we're facing in life, may we, like Mary, fall into the Father's arms, so that we may have a more profound experience of his supporting us in our present sufferings and raising us to himself—both now and at the hour of our death.

The Communion to the Housebound

The Communion to the housebound rosters were



recently revised, to ensure that all those who wish to receive Holy Communion are able to do so. Please notify the Parish Office if you know of anyone who wishes to be visited on a regular basis.

In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Government introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals. This parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in legislation. A copy of the Parish Policy is available by contacting the Parish Office.

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Solemnity Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Year B: 8 August 2021

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Rev 12:1

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 Rv 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.'

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 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 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. 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.

Communion Antiphon Lk 1:48-49

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