

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 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.

15 August 2021  
Yr B Assumption

# WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

**Website:** <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org/>



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Parish Assistant:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.  
**Administration** Di Bolitho / Anne Bowden  
**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth  
**School Principal** Mrs Katie Hanes

**Presbytery** 67658211  
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Office Hrs: Tues -Wed 9.30 am -11.30 am  
**Parish Associate** 0411703608  
**St Josephs School** 67654079

WEEKEND  
MASSES  
WEEKDAY  
MASSES

## NO MASSES

The Tamworth Local Government Area is currently under stay at home orders from 5pm, Mon 9 Aug.2021 until 12:01am, Tues 17 Aug. 2021. The Church and Office are closed during this time.

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

**Recently Deceased:** Betty Hodgens, Loyola Hawthorne, Coral Markey, Vera Anne Pendergast.

**Anniversaries:** Eric Graham (3/8), John Jackson (8/8), Jack Sampson (9/8), Stan Hobbs (16/8), Andrew Tickner (20/8).

**Deceased:** Sister Ita Harris (rsj), Sister Francis Gabriel (rsj), Mary Sampson, William Coulston.

**Sick:** Norma O'Brien, Sophie Littlejohn, Margaret Marshall, Colleen Greer, Graeme Bussell, Fr Bernie Flood, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison.



## POPE FRANCIS PRAYER TO MARY FOR THE PANDEMIC.

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Patroness of our Diocese of Armidale, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin

## PADDY'S CORNER - Take some time to laugh:

- \* My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, "Throw this and wherever it lands - that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends." Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge!
- \* My mum always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now! I'm saving the world!
- \* Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"



*Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them bravely, remembering whom you are trying to follow.  
Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life.  
God will reward you as only He can.*



**TAMWORTH AND SURROUNDS COVID LOCKDOWN:** Due to the current lockdown the Church and Presbytery Office are closed. There will be no physical celebrations of the Mass until further notice. Below are other options available for you to still partake in your celebration of faith.



**YOU ARE NOT ALONE:** During these trying and worrying times we can often feel more alone than normal, even if living with others, but moreso if living alone. Let us all consider the impact a call from a friend can make on our day and "pay it forward" or "create it forward" by contacting someone you know that may be feeling isolated. Check in on them and have a chat - it will improve their day and your own, as a good deed, and a good chat, even if brief, is very therapeutic all round and a big part of our community support.

## MASS AT HOME:

**Television:** Mass for You at Home airs on **Channel 10** at 6am each Sunday, and also on Aurora (Foxtel Channel 173) at 10am.

Masses at St Patrick's Cathedral are livestreamed daily via **Archdiocesan YouTube Channel**. Link below. On Sundays, the 11am Mass will also be televised live on **C31** (Please note: C31 is available as **Channel 44** on digital television)

**Online:** Online Masses streamed by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney are available on: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZxfrykD8iSWEExFBdM7fpRg>

**ORDINATION AND ONLINE MASS:** Please see the below links for the Livestream for Rev Damien Locke's Ordination to Priesthood on Saturday and his Livestream for his first Mass on Sunday. The Link for Saturday Ordination is: <https://youtu.be/waGVtlfqcp8> and the link for Sunday Mass of Thanksgiving is: <https://youtu.be/Kng65B8cakM>

**CLERGY EDUCATION AND RETIRED CLERGY COLLECTION:** Thank you for your most generous support of this collection. If you had taken envelopes home they may be returned after the lockdown period when Masses recommence. We pray this is very near in the future.

**REVIEW OF PRAYERS FOR THE SICK LIST:** Please note the sick list has now been refreshed. Please advise the parish of those whose names you have permission to have added for our prayers.

**CHURCH COLLECTIONS:** You may still give your weekly donations via the electronic payment to the accounts below.

BSB 082105 **1st Coll:** Presbytery Acc 001023642  
**2nd Coll:** St Patricks Church Acc 001041198

\*Please keep payments separate for each account.

**HINTS TO FEEL BETTER IN LOCKDOWN:** Write a list of the positive things in your life. ... Soak up nature. ... Take things slowly. ... Read a positive news story. ... Maintain regular social contact. ... Follow a routine. ... Limit social media. ...  
**Know when to ask for help.**

We acknowledge that we walk upon the traditional lands of First Nations peoples. We pay our respects to them and recognise the continuing gift of their cultures to the life and spirit of Australia.

