

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.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 16 Aug (St Stephen of Hungary)

Judges 2:11-19; Psalm 106; Matthew 19:16-22

What possessions get in the way of living our faith more completely, more generously? The sincerity of the young man in today's gospel also shows us that our faith entails obligations. "What good must I do...?"

Tue 17 Aug Liturgy of the Day

Judges 6:11-24; Psalm 85; Matthew 19:23-30

The Lord invites us all to follow and, through him, receive the promise of eternal life. By ourselves, we can never be holy enough. With him, all things are possible for each and every one of us.

Wed 18 Aug (Bl. Victoria Rasoamanarivo)

Judges 9:6-15; Psalm 21; Matthew 20:1-16

It is so much easier to point a finger at our leaders (in church and society) than to reflect on how conscious and active I am in lessening the injuries of poverty and racism affecting those around me.

Thu 19 Aug (St John Eudes, Pr)

Judges 11:29-39; Psalm 40; Matthew 22:1-14

We all love to be in control. But ironically, it is only when we stop resisting God, stop trying to make things work by doing them our way, that it becomes better for us. It becomes easier.

Fri 20 Aug St Bernard, AbD

Ruth 1:1.3-6.14-16.22; Psalm 146; Matthew 22:34-40

Ruth, a foreigner, is met with prejudice and hatred when returning to Judah. How open are we to welcoming others into our midst, whether they be new neighbours, in-laws – or even foreigners!

Sat 21 Aug St Pius X, P

Ruth 2:1-3.8-11; 4:13-17; Psalm 128; Matthew 23:1-12

God's love and generosity is essentially unfair. It is gratuitous, bounteous, magnanimous. *Extravagant God, help me to lavish my love upon others today – especially upon those who seem undeserving.*

Sun 22 Aug 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Joshua 24:1-2.15-18; Psalm 34; John 6:60-69

True discipleship, following Christ in today's world, means that everything we do, we do out of love. Imagine that! Reflect on how you can make this possible for one day, even for one hour.

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

Catholic Link

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

Assumption of Our Lady • Year B
Divine Office: Week IV • 15 August 2021

Hope in a Time of Suffering

On the Feast of the Assumption the Church reflects on a wonderful passage from the Book of Revelation, also known as the Book of the Apocalypse. A little background to the purpose of the final book of the Christian Bible would help us to appreciate it better. It is full of strange visions like dragons, beasts and bleeding lambs, not to mention the complexity of numbers like 666; 40; 7 and 144,000. Revelations has been misused by Christian fanatics and fundamentalists



Detail of a stained glass window in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, England.

to prove almost anything, e.g., that 666 refers to the Pope as the anti-Christ; that the "beast" is Communism (or whoever you want it to be) and that the various numbers are codes to calculate the date of the end of the world.

However, and less melodramatically, the Book of Revelation is simply about the persecution and suffering of early Christians in the Roman Empire, written to give them encouragement. Christians were imprisoned, tortured and martyred. The writer uses powerful images to move his readers from despair to hope, from fear to courage. The images show that God is in control of history, that Jesus is alive and strong, and that evil will never ultimately win.

With this background insight we approach the passage about the struggle between the pregnant woman and the dragon. The Book of Genesis already prophesied that the victory would be the woman's and her descendants, and that the serpent would have its head crushed.

The woman in the story who cries aloud in the

pangs of childbirth is *Eve*, the first woman and our first mother. She represents all of humanity as we struggle to defend life against the menace of death. The woman also symbolises

the *Church, our Mother*, bringing new birth through Baptism. And the woman also symbolises *Mary*, the Mother of Jesus, the "New Eve" and "Mother of the Church".

The dragon is the power of evil and death who confronts the woman, ready to devour the child as soon as it is born. It is a totally unfair struggle. A woman and a baby against a powerful dragon. But this is

the situation of humanity down the ages: life threatened with death as soon as it is born.

But God takes a stand against death. God defends the child and the woman. The child is born and taken straight to God. The child is Jesus. He is born, lives, dies, rises from the dead, and receives from God the power to rule. The woman is also freed from the threat of the dragon.

The victory is won. The resurrection is a reality. Mary participates fully in it and as her children we can share in it. The Assumption of Mary is about God's being true to God's promises: to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, to Jesus... and to us. Mary herself proclaimed: "He has come to the help of his servant, according to His promise..." The promise is fulfilled!

As the Book of Revelation gave courage to early Christians in the face of suffering and death, may it give us hope in a time of Covid-19. Good triumphs over evil, life over death. Mary Assumed into Heaven, pray for us!

Join Catholic Link

on Saturday 21
August at 4 pm

in a Zoom conversation
with Fr Sean Wales CSsR

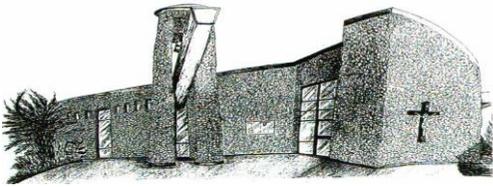
who talks to us
about his book
on the psalms entitled

"The Prayer Book
of Jesus"



For Zoom invitations
and details, email
janel@rpp.org.za





St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

Father Michael Foley, OMI (Parish Priest)

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Patrick Marescia (PPC Chairperson)

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*Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive, as a Parish,
to grow into disciples of Jesus Christ,
reaching out in Faith into a wider Community.*

Prayer Circle:

Contact Jeannette Nicholson

031 467 7658 / 083 524 5619

REPOSITORY IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

See notice on door for contact numbers for items urgently required.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The seriously sick:

Anthony Norris, Brian Fuller, Judy Willman, Scarlett Wright, Patrick Marx, Andre Herder, Veronique & Michael Tunley, Jerelene Naidoo-Chetty, Lyn Rossell & Dale Smith.



MASS ATTENDANCE: During Level Three of the national response to Covid pandemic, daily public Mass has returned with a limited attendance of **50** persons. The gates will be closed when the **50** person limit is reached.

ONLINE MASSES: The **9.30am** Sunday Mass will be available online, live-streamed on [Facebook](#).

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 14 Aug 5.00pm FEAST OF ASSUMPTION

David Abrahams' Birthday [Family]

Rhea Johns' Birthday [Family]

Stella & Patrick Vere R.I.P. [Cyril & Family]

Sun 15 Aug 7.30am FEAST OF ASSUMPTION

Maria Vieira R.I.P. [John de Gouveia]

Sun 15 Aug 9.30am FEAST OF ASSUMPTION

Bill Kirk R.I.P. [Lilly & Betty]

Dr Hart & Family [Dominican Sisters]

Mon 16 Aug 8.00am

Fr Derrick Butt's Birthday [Frankson Family]

Terry Beguinet & Family [Sister Carol]

Tue 17 Aug 5.30pm

Nolan King R.I.P. [Leeann & children]

Wed 18 Aug 8.00am

Sr Martha, O.P. R.I.P. [Dominican Sisters]

Thu 19 Aug 5.30pm

Holy Souls in Purgatory [Pottier Family]

Fri 20 Aug 8.00am

Lucy de Gouveia R.I.P. [John de Gouveia]

(5.00pm Closed Mass – only for TCC)

All Teenage Confirmation Candidates, their Sponsors and Families [Cathy & Mervin]

Sat 21 Aug 5.00pm

Ivan & Quintin Plowman R.I.P. [Sheila]

Mike Rehman R.I.P. [Naidoo Family]

Charné Lloyd's Birthday [Niernack Family]

Sun 22 Aug 7.30am

Mr Leslie Jacob's Birthday [Family]

Vimbai Gobo's Special Intention [Sutherland Family]

Sun 22 Aug 9.30am

All Parishioners

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES:

For those couples preparing for marriage – the next Marriage Preparation Course starts this Monday 16 August, and you will be notified by the team of further details. Any other couples contemplating marriage please contact the parish office to make an appointment to see Fr Mike.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

We have been informed that the Vicar General, Father Elias Zondi, will confer the sacrament of confirmation on our 15 teenage confirmation candidates, who have been suitably prepared, on Friday evening 20 August. We are happy to welcome him to our parish. Due to Covid regulations this Mass is not a public Mass but only for the candidates, their sponsors, and one parent each. The Mass will however be live-streamed on the parish Facebook page. Please support these candidates with your prayers.

NICHES:

Please note that all of the newly-built niches have now been sold. Memorial plaques are still available at R200 each (excluding engraving).

PARISH YOUTUBE CHANNEL LINK:

<https://youtube.com/channel/UC7SW37icz8YbjaE30o mgPw> -

We still need +-110 more subscribers to help us reach the 1,000 requirement for **Masses to be broadcast weekly on YouTube.**

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PARISH:

We say thank you once again to the parishioners who have been supportive in many ways, and especially financially, during this ongoing COVID pandemic. May God continue to bless you and keep you and your family safe and well. For those parishioners who don't have the parish banking details, and would like to make a contribution, the parish banking information is as follows-

NAME: Bluff Catholic Church
BANK: First National Bank
BRANCH: Durban Main
BRANCH CODE: 25 06 55 (Generic)
TYPE: Current Account
A/C NO.: 508 444 959 17

If you are a current Dedicated Giving parishioner who usually uses the envelope system and would like to make an EFT deposit, please **ONLY use your Unique Number as your Beneficiary reference.** If you usually contribute anonymously via the collectionbasket, and wish to remain anonymous, please use the word **DONATION** as your Beneficiary reference.

SOUTHERN CROSS:

The **August** issue, as well as the **May, June and July** Southern Cross issues are available at R30 from the parish office during regular hours.



ACT OF CONSECRATION TO MARY:

O Mary assumed into Heaven, our Mother and our Patroness, in gratitude for your protection we consecrate to you our parish community.

Today again, we place ourselves under your motherly protection, confident that you will help us grow into disciples of Jesus Christ, and that you will grant a lasting spirit of harmony in our parish.

We give you our hearts, Queen of apostles, we beg you to bless our witness and service to others, and to lead to the knowledge and love of your Son those people who yet await the truth of the gospel.

Bring us closer to your Divine Son, who is the source of all virtue and the sole guarantee of our success.

Accept this offering of ourselves which we make through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION
OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

● YEAR B ● 16 AUGUST 2021
DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK IV

DAILY MASS READINGS: YEAR I

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Revelation 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:

Revelation 11:419. 12:1-6. 10.

God's temple in heaven was opened. And a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery. And another sign appeared in heaven; behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems upon his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, that he might devour her child when she brought it forth; she brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up by God and to a place prepared by God. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come."

The word of the Lord.

PSALM:

Psalm 45:10.11.12.16

**R. On your right stands the queen,
in gold of Ophir.**

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

...R

Listen, O daughter, pay heed and give ear:

forget your own people and your father's house.

...R

So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him.

...R

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;

they pass within the palace of the king.

...R



SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Brethren: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. "For God has put all things in subjection under his feet."

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

R. Alleluia.

Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoices.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL:

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the child in my womb

leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Any Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Luke 1:48-49

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