

The Assumption of Mary into Heaven 15 August



About the Assumption of Mary

The dogma of Mary's Assumption was proclaimed in 1950 by Pope Pius XII. However, the church has celebrated this feast since the middle of the fifth century. On this solemnity, we profess our belief, that God took Mary to heaven, body and soul. For her, the resurrection of her body has already taken place. In the Eastern Church, this solemnity is known as the Dormition, or falling asleep, of Mary. The Dormition celebrates the tradition that the day after Mary's body was laid in the grave, people who visited the grave found that the body had been replaced by rose petals.

How does the feast of Mary's assumption apply to our lives today?

Our lives on earth are meant to be a preparation for our eternal life. God invites us to eternal life, and there to enjoy the glorious new creation of his Son in body, soul and spirit. Our final hope is the resurrection of our own earthly bodies to be transfigured into copies of Christ's body – risen and glorious, where we will be reunited for ever with our family members and friends who have gone before us.

Mary is a true model showing us how we can follow her Son. She is the first to fully enjoy eternal life at the side of her Son – risen in the glory of heaven.

In the Invitation to Prayer before the Prayer of Final Commendation in the Funeral Liturgy, part of the prayer says: "One day we shall joyfully greet him/her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself." This thought should comfort us in our hope for eternal life.

Heaven is not some remote place that we cannot access. However, we should try to create a bit of heaven on earth. One way we can do that is to let Mary be our guide in following her Son Jesus.

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Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son,
body and soul into heavenly glory,
grant, we pray,
that, always attentive to the things that are above,
we may merit to be sharers of her glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

The Almighty has done great things for me

'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 forever.'
Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

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Antiphon

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

Hymn for the Assumption of Mary and 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II

Serving our country and beyond,
and knowing not what was in store,
defending our land, praying for peace,
these soldiers bravely went to war.
Our Lady, bright Star of the Sea,
those serving we entrust to you,
whether by land, air or the sea,
protect them in all that they do.

For many years warfare was rife,
with peace a distant memory,
so many who laid down their life,
far from their homes, across the sea.
Our Lady, Mary, Queen of Peace,
those serving we entrust to you,
whether by land, air or the sea,
protect them in all that they do.

In this Great Southland, may we be
blessed with prosperity and peace;
living lives of care and concern,
may hatred and divisions cease.
Our Lady, Help of Christians all,
those serving we entrust to you,
whether by land, air or the sea,
protect them in all that they do.

Mary, you live in heaven now;
the Lord called you, body and soul,
because you were faithful to him,
may heaven also be our goal.
Our Lady, assumed into heav'n,
those serving we entrust to you,
whether by land, air or the sea,
protect them in all that they do.

Text and Music: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

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