

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR BLESSED LADY

On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." The pope proclaimed this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians and laity. There were few dissenting voices. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

We find homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. In following centuries and by the 13th century there was universal agreement. The feast was celebrated under various names (Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption) from at least the fifth or sixth century.

In the light of the Assumption of Mary, it is easy to pray her Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55) with new meaning. In her glory she proclaims the greatness of the Lord and finds joy in God her saviour. God has done marvels to her and she leads others to recognize God's holiness. She is the lowly handmaid who deeply revered her God and has been raised to the heights. From her position of strength she will help the lowly and the poor find justice on earth, and she will challenge the rich and powerful to distrust wealth and power as a source of happiness.

'Mary assumed into Heaven points out to us the final destination of our earthly pilgrimage. She reminds us that our whole being - spirit, soul and body - is destined for fullness of life; that those who live and die in love of God and of their neighbour will be transfigured in the image of the glorious Body of the Risen Christ; that the Lord will cast down the proud and exalt the humble (cf. Lk 1: 51-52). With the mystery of her Assumption Our Lady proclaims this eternally. May you be praised for ever, O Virgin Mary! Pray the Lord for us.'

Pope Benedict XVI

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW MASS TEXTS. THE GREETING AND RESPONSE.

From the beginning of September, the Church in England and Wales will begin to use parts of the new translation of the Mass.

Four times during the Mass, the people are addressed with the phrase "The Lord be with you" This greeting is used to herald the start of an important action of the Mass. The first of these is at the beginning, the next before the Gospel is proclaimed, then at the start of the Eucharistic Prayer and finally at the dismissal at the end of Mass. In the new translation of the mass the people will no longer respond "And also with you" instead the people will now respond "And with your Spirit". Why? Firstly it is a closer translation of the Latin *Et cum spiritu tuo*. Also it matches the response that already exists in most other major languages. The purpose of this greeting is not to say "Hello" or "Good morning". It alerts participants that they are entering a sacramental realm. Both the greeting and the response comes from the Bible, "And with your spirit" is inspired by 2 Timothy 4:22, Galatians 6:18, Philippians 4:23 and Philemon 25. The two parts of this greeting expresses a desire that the Lord be present in Spirit to the entire community.

RESTORATION UPDATE - THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Next to the Confessional there is a miniature sample copy of one of our new Stations of the Cross (The finished pictures will be approximately the same size as the previous set, and will not be framed in the same way as the sample.) They are being painted by an artist called Peter Stoff, in oils and 24 carat gold leaf. Please feel free to take a look after Mass.

- MARBLE RELIEF OF OUR LADY AND THE CHILD JESUS

This week the white marble relief of Our Lady and the Child Jesus that previously was in the Church was re-sited in the cloister of Alexander House.

Regrettably we have no prior history of the origins of this plaque. However, an early photograph of the Church taken after 1919 shows the plaque was originally on the south wall of the Church near Our Lady's Altar. In June 1939 it was moved from there to make way for the memorial to Captain George Savile and then repositioned on the north wall of the sanctuary.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES



will begin for those in year 3 and above on Saturday 17th September at 11.00am.

The 1st Holy Communion Mass will be on Sunday 20th May 2012 at 11.30am.

Forms are available from the Sacristy after Mass today.

R.C.I.A.

This year's R.C.I.A. Course will commence on Thursday 6th October. Application Forms are available from the Sacristy.

The course is designed for those who wish to become a Catholic, or for Adult Catholics who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or for those who wish to learn more about their Catholic Faith.