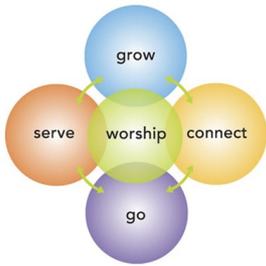


The Parish of  
**STONY STRATFORD**  
 with  
**CALVERTON**



**THE PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
**THE ASSUMPTION OF**  
**THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
**SUNDAY 13th August AD 2017**



*Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)*



The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated. Its origin is lost in those days when Jerusalem was restored as a sacred city, at the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (c. 285-337). By then it had been a pagan city for two centuries, ever since Emperor Hadrian (76-138) had levelled it around the year 135 and rebuilt it as *Aelia Capitolina* in honor of Jupiter. For 200 years, every memory of Jesus was obliterated from the city, and the sites made holy by His life, death and Resurrection became pagan temples. After the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 336, the sacred sites began to be restored and memories of the life of Our Lord began to be celebrated by the people of Jerusalem. One of the memories about his mother centred around the "Tomb of Mary," close to Mount Zion, where the early Christian community had lived. On the hill itself was the "Place of Dormition," the spot of Mary's "falling asleep," where she had died. The "Tomb of Mary" was where she was buried. At this time, the "Memory of Mary" was being celebrated. Later it was to become our feast of the Assumption. For a time, the "Memory of Mary" was marked only in Palestine, but then it was extended by the emperor to all the churches of the East. In the seventh century, it began to be celebrated in Rome under the title of the "Falling Asleep" ("Dormitio") of the Mother of God. Soon the name was changed to the "Assumption of Mary," since there was more to the feast than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven. That belief was ancient, dating back to the apostles themselves. What was clear from the beginning was that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated, and that an empty tomb stood on the edge of Jerusalem near the site of her death. That location also soon became a place of pilgrimage. (Today, the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition of Mary stands on the spot.) At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, when bishops from throughout the Mediterranean world gathered in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem, that "Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later . . . was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven." In the eighth century, St. John Damascene was known for giving sermons at the holy places in Jerusalem. At the Tomb of Mary, he expressed the belief of the Church on the meaning of the feast: "Although the body was duly buried, it did not remain in the state of death, neither was it dissolved by decay. . . . You were transferred to your heavenly home, O Lady, Queen and Mother of God in truth."

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

- TODAY:** **THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
**9:30am** **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**  
**11:00am** **FAMILY MASS at All Saints**  
*Pray for: Our Parish*
- Monday:** **St Maximillian Kolbe, Priest, Martyr**  
**9:30am** 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall  
**8:00pm** Bell Ringing Practice  
*Pray for: the Sick, Housebound and Disabled; and for all those who suffer voluntarily in place of others*
- Tuesday:** **Feria**  
**10:30am** **Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'**  
*Pray for: For all Parents and Godparents of Baptised children that they may bring them to Confirmation*
- Wednesday:** **St Stephen of Hungary**  
**6:30pm** Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School  
**7:15pm** The Band - PRACTICE at SMSG School  
**7:30pm** **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
*Pray that: for the Church and People of Hungary*
- Thursday:** **Feria**  
**12:30pm** Luncheon Concert at SMSG  
 - bring your packed lunch, teas/coffees provided  
*Pray for: all the victims of recent conflicts in Syria and Iraq, and for all those who have been made homeless by the actions of those responsible for these conflicts*
- Friday:** **Feria**  
 Parish Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham begins. Please either email or text Fr Ross with requests for prayers to be offered in the Holy House  
*Pray for: for all those on Pilgrimage*
- Saturday:** **Feria**  
*Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches*
- Next Sunday: 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**9:30am** **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**  
**11:00am** **FAMILY MASS at All Saints**  
*Pray for: Our Parish*
- READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:**  
 1st Reading: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7  
 Psalm: 67 (part)  
 2nd Reading: Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32  
 Gospel: Matthew 15: 21-28

*Sidesmen Team 2 Altar Servers Team 3*  
*Offertory Church Band*  
*Cleaning Team 2 Gardening Team 4*

*Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?*  
*Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 5/8): ?*

# MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

## Reflection prior to Mass:

*The Assumption of our Lady is a powerful reminder that like her we have all been promised a share in the resurrection of the Lord. Our celebration today is a sign of hope for us as we face death which seems to be the ending of everything that is good in our lives.*

## The 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.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (SIT)

### The First Reading

Revelation 11:19a; 12:-6a,10ab

SMSG Reader: Anna Page

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All Saints Reader: Diane West

### The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 45)

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

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. ®

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. ®

### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Reader: Mary Saggars

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### Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

### **Alleluia!**

### The Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

New Testament Page 49

### The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Dai Evans)

*Priest:* My brothers and sisters, Mary, raised body and soul to glory, shines forth as "a great sign" of our eternal future as the Church. As a pilgrim people let us bring our prayers, with her, to God our Father.

*Intercessor:* For the Church..... that we will look forward to the resurrection promised us by Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

V/. Lord, hear us.

**R/. Lord, graciously hear us.**

For world leaders..... that they will keep the peace and avert wars, let us pray to the Lord:

For the Society of Mary & the Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that the devotion to Mary they foster may

lead all Christians to that unity of will and purpose that is God's will, let us pray to the Lord:

For our families and homes..... That they may reflect the life of the home of Mary at Nazareth, let us pray to the Lord:

For the sick and afflicted... *Fiddy Abraham, Polly Barclay, Shirley Brown, Lesley C, Steve Cooper, Peter Fulcher, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Sheila Redgrave, Pete, Alan Shaw, Lionel Stobie, Susan, Eric, Wendy...* That they may be assisted by those around them and aided by the prayers of Mary and of all the saints, let us pray to the Lord:

For those who have died..... *Ted Atkinson, David Barker;* and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week, amongst them.....**14<sup>th</sup>** Ethel Foolkes; **15<sup>th</sup>** Nessie Bainbridge, John West; **16<sup>th</sup>** Frank Pell; **18<sup>th</sup>** Alfred Russell; **19<sup>th</sup>** Ruby Eglesfield, Joan Dando, Pam Rees..... That they will rise with Christ to rejoice forever with Our Lady and all the saints, let us pray to the Lord:

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Let us commend ourselves and all for whom we have prayed to the intercession of Our Lady as we greet her and say: **Hail Mary**

*Priest:* Lord of heaven and earth, our prayers come before you with the help of the glorious ever-virgin Mary, the first believer called to share in the glory of your triumphant Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Communion Reflection:

*We celebrate you as a living temple, Mother of God, for the Lord who holds all things in his hands dwelt in your womb and made you holy, made you glorious and taught us to cry out to you: Hail, abode of God the Word, Hail, holy one, greater than the saints. Hail, golden ark of the Spirit, Hail, unfailing fountain of life. Hail, key to the kingdom of Christ, Hail, hope of eternal happiness. Hail, virgin mother and unwedded bride.*

(From the Akathist hymn, sixth century)

## NOTICES

**Friday Mass during the School Holidays:** will normally be celebrated at 12:00noon, except when there is a Soup Lunch and Organ Recital on the first Friday when it will be at 11:15am

**Calverton Fete:** Is held this year on the 27th August from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. If you can help with setting up and clearing away, or with running stalls, or with donating home-made cakes and offers of books and/or bric-a-brac do please see Jill Barby, Jonathan Dunn or Eric & Diane West. Many thanks.

**St Mary & St Giles School:** is looking to appoint a handyman/woman from September. Please contact Kieran Salter for further details.

**Växjö Cathedral:** With reference to Fr Ross' comments about his visit to Sweden, and our links there, we have in the Church Library a beautiful book of photographs of Växjö Cathedral, and its lovely sculptures, stained glass and other inspiring artworks. Many are modern, and all are well lit, stunningly photographed and well printed. (The text is in Swedish, but the pictures stand on their own!). There is also a small accompanying brochure in English. Do look and borrow them from the library table. Jenny Rowilson

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