

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,  
Warrington*



## **Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary** 16th August 2020

Today's feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century as the "Falling-Asleep of the Mother of God". It was adopted in Rome in the mid-seventh century and was renamed the "Assumption". The feast celebrates Mary's passing over, body and soul, from this world into the glory of her risen Son.

### **Entrance Procession**

- 1 Hail, holy Queen enthroned above, O Maria!  
Hail, Queen of mercy and of love, O Maria!

**Triumph, all ye cherubim,  
Sing with us, ye seraphim!  
Heav'n and earth resound the hymn:  
Salve, salve, salve, Regina!**

- 2 Our life, our sweetness here below, O Maria!  
Our hope in sorrow and in woe, O Maria!
- 3 And when from death to life we've passed...  
Show us your Son, our Lord, at last...

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### **Greeting & Introduction**

#### **Gloria**

*Let us say together:*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### **Collect**

Faithful to your promise, O God,  
you have lifted up the lowly,  
clothing with heavenly splendour  
the woman who bore Christ – our life and resurrection.  
Grant that, like Mary,  
we may hear your word and keep it  
and one day share with her  
the risen life of Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## **Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading**

*(Apoc 11: 19, 12: 1-6, 10)*

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

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 the moon, and with the twelve stars 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.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 45**

**The queen stands at your right hand,  
arrayed in gold.**

- 1 The queen takes her place at your right hand in gold of Ophir.
- 2 Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear, forget your people and your father's house.

## Gospel Acclamation (Lourdes)

**Gospel** (Luke 1: 39-56)  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. 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 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.  
**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

## Bidding Prayers

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

#### Preparation of the Gifts

*Music:* Ave Maria for Treble Voices – Mervyn Cousins

#### Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,  
on the feast of the assumption of Mary,  
accept this sacrifice of reconciliation and praise,  
that it may bring us pardon for our sins  
and make of our lives an endless thanksgiving.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

#### Eucharistic Acclamations

Sanctus En Fa Majeur – Lourdes

## *The Mystery of Faith*

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

## Communion Rite

*Music:* Magnificat in G – Charles Stanford

## Prayer after Communion

Lord our God,  
we have been nourished at this heavenly banquet.  
As we honour the assumption of Mary,  
the Mother of your Son,  
deliver us, we pray, from all the evils that beset us.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## Concluding Rite

## Blessing & Dismissal

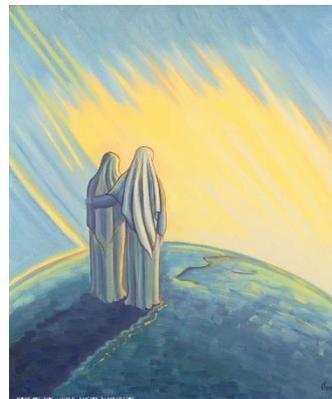
## Distribution of Communion

*Music:* Taste and see – James Moore

## Acknowledgements

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## SUNDAY REFLECTION



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## Poem by Malcolm Guite

### *The Visitation*

Here is a meeting made of hidden joys  
Of lightnings cloistered in a narrow place  
From quiet hearts the sudden flame of praise  
And in the womb the quickening kick of grace.  
Two women on the very edge of things  
Unnoticed and unknown to men of power  
But in their flesh the hidden Spirit sings  
And in their lives the buds of blessing flower.  
And Mary stands with all we call 'too young',  
Elizabeth with all called 'past their prime'  
They sing today for all the great unsung  
Women who turned eternity to time  
Favoured of heaven, outcast on the earth  
Prophets who bring the best in us to birth.