

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

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



Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

14/15 August 2023

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

- Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star!
Guide of the wand'rer here below!
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care;
save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, star of the sea,
pray for the wand'rer, pray for me.**
- Sojourners in this vale of tears,
to thee, blest Advocate, we cry;
pity our sorrows, calm our fears,
and soothe with hope our misery.
Refuge in grief, star of the sea,
pray for the mourner, pray for me.**
- And while to him who reigns above,
in Godhead One, in Persons Three,
the source of life, of grace, of love,
homage we pay on bended knee;
do thou, bright Queen, star of the sea.
pray for thy children, pray for me.**

John Lingard (1771-1851)

Greeting & Introduction

Collect

Gracious God,
you chose Mary to bear your incarnate Word,
and at her life's end
you brought her in body and spirit to heavenly glory.
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 35

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

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

Gospel Acclamation

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

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Music: Ave Maria – Simon Lindley (b. 1948)

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,
on the feast of the assumption of Mary,
the Mother of God,
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 Prayer

Mass of Hope – Bernadette Farrell (559)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy Lord, Holy Lord, God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is he
who comes in the name,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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

Communion

Music: Hail, holy Queen - Hermannus Contractus

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
you have raised Mary to the glory of heaven;
through her intercession
grant that we who have shared this saving sacrament
may be brought to the glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Final Song

- Sing of Mary, sing of Jesus,
holy Mother's holier Son.
From his throne in heav'n he sees us,
thither calls us every one,
where he welcomes home his Mother
to a place at his right hand,
there his faithful servants gather,
there the crownèd victors stand.**
- Joyful Mother, full of gladness,
in thine arms thy Lord was borne.
Mournful Mother, full of sadness,
all thy heart with pain was torn.
Glorious Mother, now rewarded
with a crown at Jesus' hand,
age to age thy name recorded
shall be blessed in every land.**

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