



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 18 August 2024 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year B

Dear Parishioners

This last week on Thursday the Church celebrated the great Summer feast: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is one of the four “Marian dogmas” which the faithful believe about Mary. In the words of Pope Pius XII: “We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven.” Devotion to Mary had been in the Church’s life since the earliest times but it took centuries as with other beliefs for its full articulation. In the second century, shortly after the Apostles had died St Irenaeus was writing: “For what the virgin Eve had bound through unbelief, this did the Virgin Mary set free through faith.”

There is a beautiful story about Mary’s death. When she had been laid in her tomb the Apostles visited her but found no body...and instead it was full of flowers! Unlike all other Apostles and saints, there are no relics of Mary...because her body was assumed into heaven immediately on her “falling sleep”.

The importance of The Assumption becomes very clear in our Gospel passage, still in the Sixth chapter of St John. Jesus is trying to explain the Bread of Life, that He gives Himself Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, for the life of the world. His followers are struggling with this and soon many will start to turn away unable to accept what the Lord says. “I am the living Bread which has come down from heaven.” What is this living Bread for? “Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.” Mary demonstrates this statement as she becomes the first- fruits for humanity, of the Lord’s victory over death and corruption. In her Assumption we place our hopes that we too through the Resurrection of her Son, will be raised to eternal life. “Hail Mary, full of grace. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.”

God bless everyone and please keep praying for the sick and struggling. Father Clive

Parish Notices

Next week Masses – Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:15. Rosary for Peace on Friday at 9.15am in Holy Trinity.

Do remember on Monday 19th August at 1.30 pm in St Teresa's, there will be a Requiem for Gerard Frost.

Here is a link to our Archdiocese Website – it contains a **Reflection on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**: Also the **Novena Prayer for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi begins on Sunday 18 August** as his Memorial is on 26 August:

[News and Events from the Archdiocese of Birmingham \(birminghamdiocese.org.uk\)](http://birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

In August we pray with Pope Francis for Political Leaders: We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.

Please also pray for all who can no longer be with us at the Lord's Table: Lynette, Gerard, Paula, Serita, Catherine, Richard, Tom, Mary, Carol, Betty, Audrey and Peggy.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.