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**First Reading:** Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6,10  
**Response:** “*On your right stands the queen, in gold of Ophir*” (Ps.44:10)  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 44:10-12,16  
**Second Reading:** I Corinthians 15:20-26  
**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-56

Today we celebrate Mary’s glorious assumption. She in whom Christ was incarnate is with Christ glorified. Mary is the model of our Christian journey with the Risen Lord. In Mary’s glorious assumption we celebrate the fulfilment of our Christian destiny.

The Apocalypse shows a heavenly liturgy, “*the sanctuary of God in heaven and the ark of the covenant*” (Apoc.11:19). The woman portrayed, symbolizes Mary, a perfect type of the Church, “*adorned with the sun*” (Apoc. 12:1).

We also see the presence of evil in “*the dragon that stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child*” (Apoc.12:3). Finally, the destructive power of Satan will be destroyed and “*Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God*” (Apoc. 12:10).

The path to glory is by following the Word of God. “*Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words*” (Ps.44:11). Note that this psalm is also a royal wedding song with bride adorned.

Ultimately, being faithful to God leads to full union with God in heaven, a grand finale, where the Church, epitomized in Mary, is seen as “*the queen, in gold of Ophir*” (Ps.44:10), symbolizing the Church as the bride of Christ.

“*Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ*” (I Cor.15:22). Christ is key to heaven. His resurrection spells the resurrection of us all. Mary’s assumption is indicative of our destiny to heaven.

The ultimate victory is with Christ. “*He has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death*” (I Cor. 15:26). Our future resurrection is fulfilled when Christ has conquered all and Mary’s assumption is an example of our destiny.

Mary is pronounced blessed when she visits her cousin Elizabeth. “*Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb*” (Lk.1:39). Elizabeth knew Mary carried the Messiah, even as the child leapt in her own womb and Elizabeth addresses her as “*the mother of my Lord*” (Lk. 1:43).

Mary does not take the honour to herself. She sees the hand of God in her life and proclaims: “*The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly*” (Lk. 1:50).

**Scripture:** Read today’s Gospel (Lk. 1:39-56). See Mary humbly serving God and neighbour. .

**Liturgy:** (Opening Prayer for Mass of Assumption)

*“All-powerful and ever-living God, you raised the sinless Virgin Mary, mother of your Son, body and soul to the glory of heaven. May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her glory.”*

**Doctrine:** “*Today the virgin Mother of God was taken up into heaven to be the beginning and pattern of the Church..You would not allow decay to touch her body, for she had given birth to your Son, the Lord of life.*” (Preface to the Eucharist Prayer).  
*Lex orandi, lex credendi.*

**Witness:** Seek ways to imitate our mother, Mary, in humbly serving the Lord and others.

## FOR THE CHILDREN

Examine the role of Mary in the **Gospel** today. (Lk. 1:39-56).

**How often is Mary mentioned in the Eucharist?** E.g. Creed, Eucharistic Prayer, etc.

Give children **Teaching** and explanation on what the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin means.

Pray the 'Hail Mary,' asking Mary to pray for us sinners, "**now and at the hour of our death**" that we be with her in heaven. (**Witness**)

## FOR TEENAGERS

**What is your understanding of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven?**

**What role has Mary in your life? What are your expectations and hope for future life?**

Give the Church's teaching on who is Mary and her glorious assumption into heaven.

Seek ways to imitate Mary and proclaim great things that the Lord has done for us.

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (CCC)

"The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life completed, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son's resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body." (CCC. #974)

## LIFE EXPERIENCE

We travel far afield to visit the shrines of Our Lady. There is one not far from our family homestead, in Zululand, called *Ngome*. Here, Sr. Reinolda, a Benedictine nun, says she saw Our Lady, surrounded by a bright light, dressed in white. Upon her breast was a big host, radiating life. It was as though she was a living monstrosity. She called herself, 'Tabernacle of the Most High,' and that is the title of Our Lady at the shrine. Mary reminds us, like her, we are tabernacles, bringing Christ to the world.

## LITTLE ANGELINA

Angelina, showing off her rosary, explained how she talks to Our Lady.  
"What if nobody is there?" asked her little non-Catholic friend.  
"I don't pray to nobody," said Angelina, "if she was nobody she wouldn't be there."  
What would St. Anselm make of this child's logic and faith? How does it compare with his ontological proof of the existence of God which concludes "If I am thinking of the Greatest Being Thinkable, then I am thinking of a being that exists."<sup>(i)</sup>  
*Quod non posit cogitari non esse.*

*N.B.:* Ontological arguments are from intuition and pure reasoning, using *a priori* proofs rather than from observation,

(i) ST. ANSELM. "The Prayers and Meditation" *Proslogion* Ch.2.160. Transl. Ward B. Penguin Books, London. 1986. p. 246

## IMPORTANT NAME: **Mary**

Mary's assumption is the climax of her life-journey. Her's is the story of God in our lives. "**He has done great things**" (Lk. 1:49). Let God lead us in the story of our lives. Looking back to Mary's early years, we see a young Jewish girl steeped in the traditions of her faith with an openness to the Holy Spirit. Her courtship with Joseph is chaste and pure, that is why she asks how she can conceive. In becoming the mother of Christ, she is the mother of the Church. She is married to Joseph, yet remains *beata semper virgine*. During her own pregnancy, she sets out to serve the pregnancy of another. She is Jesus most faithful disciple, the one human who was with him from the moment of his birth till death, finally sharing in his glorious resurrection. This humble virgin, daughter of a Mighty Father is our glorious queen in heaven.

**Watchword:** “*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord*” (Lk. 1:46)

Hebrew: רוממה נפשי את־יְהוָה Romamah naphshi ethYahweh  
Greek: Μεγαλυνει η ψυχη μου τον κυριον Magalunei he psyche mou ton kurion.  
Latin: Magnificat anima mea Dominum.  
Portuguese: A minha alma engrandece ao Senhor.  
Spanish: Engrandece mi alma al Señor.  
French: Mon ame loue la grandeur du Seigneur.  
German: Meine Seele erhebt den Herrn.  
Afrikaans: Ek besing die grootheid van die Here.  
Zulu: Umphefumulo wami uyayitusa inKosi.  
Xhosa: Umphefumulo wam uyayibonga iNkosi.  
Sotho: Pelo ya ka e tlotlisa Morena.  
Irish: Morann m’anam an Tiarna.