

St Therese's Parish Essendon

14 and 15 August 2021

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



First Reading Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10 A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I saw a woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet.

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.'**

Gospel Lk 1:39-56 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The Almighty has done great things for me; he has lifted up the lowly.

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.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

A mother carries her child in her womb, giving that child a share in her own life. What if a child were able to share its life with its mother? This is what we believe happened between our Risen Lord and his mother, Mary.

It is our faith that our Lord nourishes Mary with His Resurrection life, meaning that her bodysoul, her total humanity, is suffused with His Divine glory.

She grace-fully made the transition from earthly to heavenly existence without the wrenching apart of body and soul which we may expect. This is what we mean by **'The Assumption'**.

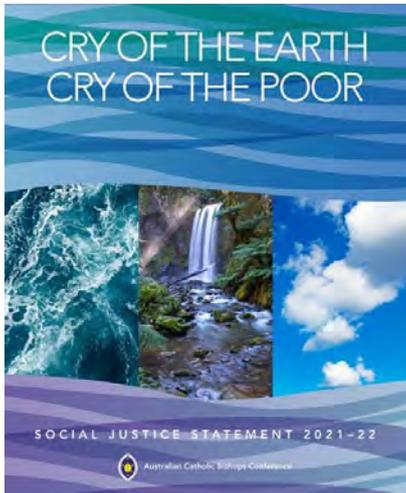
This has been believed and celebrated since the early centuries of the church. Why was it only proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950? I think because in the first half of the 20th century tens of millions were killed in wars, death camps and in the Russian and China Communist dictatorships.

The Holy Spirit needed to remind the world that human beings are bodysouls made for transfiguration, not disfiguration by starvation, torture, massacre and disposal like animal carcasses. We could pause for a moment to pray that we may share in the gift of transfigured bodies at the end of history.

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ANNUAL APPEAL FOR OUR REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER GROUP
Next weekend we will hold our annual appeal which provides much-needed financial assistance to our RAAS Group who support several families living in and around our local area. These are difficult and painful times for many refugee families; some with small children whom we support in the community are still waiting in hope as they seek protection and the chance to find safety and security in this country. With your support our parish volunteers assist these refugee and asylum seeker families in so many ways, both pastorally and materially throughout the year. Envelopes for this appeal will be available at Masses when we return next week. Donations can also be made direct to the parish via EFT and credit card. Thank you for your ongoing support.



CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR The Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, affirms that "we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour". The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. The Statement reflects on creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life. The Bishops invite the whole Catholic community to join **them in taking up Pope Francis' invitation to a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability, guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals.** These Goals are: response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education; and community engagement and participatory action. The Statement especially encourages Catholic families, communities and organisations to: listen to the First Nations;

reflect on the theological foundations offered in Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor; and plan their next **steps towards the Laudato Si' Goals. You can read the statement at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Social-Justice-Statement-2021-22.pdf>**



PLANNING FOR OUR PARISH 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2022

A Message from our Parish Leadership Team

Next year, in 2022, we celebrate the Centenary of our parish. Fr John and the Parish Leadership Team have commenced planning for the Centenary, recognising the significant time and effort put into the 90th anniversary celebrations in 2012, when Fr Bill wanted to capture the history and stories from many of the elderly parishioners at the time.

Amongst the highlights of the 2012 celebrations was the publication of the **Commemorative Book, entitled 'With Confidence and Love', capturing the**

history, mood and spirit of the parish over the 90 years to 2012. As we approach 2022, especially given the impact of COVID19 over the last 18 months, we (as a leadership team) find ourselves challenged to **identify appropriate opportunities to celebrate this significant milestone! To answer the question, 'how do we as parishioners want to mark and celebrate this special occasion?'**

Clearly, we want to build on the history captured up to 2012, add the significant aspects of the last 10 years, but also reflect the spirit of what we have, what has been built here over the last 100 years, as a parish community! Perhaps 100 years is about celebrating what we have today, with a vision of what we want to take forward for the generations to come! We are yet to consider what this might look like.

In recent weeks we (as a leadership team) have been advertising the Centenary in the Parish Bulletin, seeking people interested in participating on the Centenary Planning Team, and / or any ideas parishioners may have for celebrating the anniversary. So far, we have had 1 volunteer and no ideas or suggestions – which is perhaps understandable given the difficult times we are in! So, we are feeling a bit unloved at this stage.

We think 2022 should be celebrated appropriately within the Parish, whatever we decide together, to recognise what we have and what it means! So, we ask you to please consider joining the Centenary Planning Team, and / or submitting any ideas you have regarding the Centenary.

If you are interested, you can contact the Parish Office, or the Parish Leadership Team, to register your interest by either telephone or email. Contact details are in the Parish Bulletin or Parish Website.

Anyone is welcome, young or old, and we are sure you will find it a very rewarding experience.

Let us turn to God with our needs and the needs of the world.

We pray for the Pope and all who are good shepherds of the Church: may they glorify God through their life and their work. Lord, hear us.

We pray for a world in need of God's mercy: may those who are humble and poor in spirit be raised up to the fullness of life and receive a sense of human dignity. Lord, hear us.

For those who near death: may our blessed lady, assumed into heaven, be their loving friend and mother as they enter into eternity. Lord, hear us.

We pray that the young and the old, grandchildren and grandparents, be a source of delight to one another. Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who are ill. Callum O'Dwyer Lord, hear us.

We pray for our own special needs. Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have died recently:

And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Bill and Millie O'Connor, Lily Hester, Attilio Riccardi, Mary Gleeson, Ena Farnbach, Jean O'Brien, Lord, hear us.

Loving God, you show mercy and kindness to all. Hear our prayers and help us to remain faithful disciples following the example of Mary.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



ONE YEAR ON FROM THE DISASTER IN BEIRUT on August 4 2020, we remember the people of Lebanon in our prayers. For the ordinary people, already overwhelmed by the profound financial crisis afflicting the country since October 2019 – by the endemic corruption, decaying public infrastructure, hospitals on the edge of collapse in the face of a continuing Covid-19 pandemic – there is still no light at the end of the tunnel. Over half of the population now live below the poverty threshold with the cost of everyday household items now out of reach to many. We pray that the international community will continue to respond with generosity and compassion. And that stability and peace will be restored.

PARISH DIARY

Date	Event	Time
Monday 16 August	SVDP- Essendon Conference Meeting	7: 00pm
Saturday 21 August	Refugee & Asylum Seeker Collection	
Sunday 22 August	Refugee & Asylum Seeker Collection RE Programme (Eucharist) Session 1 via Google Meet	All Masses 10: 00am
Sunday 29 August	RE Programme (Eucharist) Session 2 in PACE (TBD)	9: 30am

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: John Hannon john.hannon@cam.org.au
 Baptism – Pastoral Outreach: Leanne Torr leanne.torr@cam.org.au
 Business Manager: Kathy Gilmour kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au
 Function Manager: Jac Radcliffe jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au
 Bookkeeper: Irene Fritsche irene.fritsche@cam.org.au
 Parish Leadership Team: essendon.plt@cam.org.au
 Child Safety Officer: Olivia Metcalf essendon.safeguarding@cam.org.au
 Office opening hours - Monday to Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm
 Office Telephone: 9401 6330 – after hours Fr John: 0490 956 610
 Office email: essendon@cam.org.au Website: www.stthereses.org.au
 School email: info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au
 St Vincent de Paul helpline: 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm
Tiny T's Playgroup: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com

Weekday Mass 10.00am Tuesday Liturgy of the Word and Mass Wednesday to Friday 10.00am

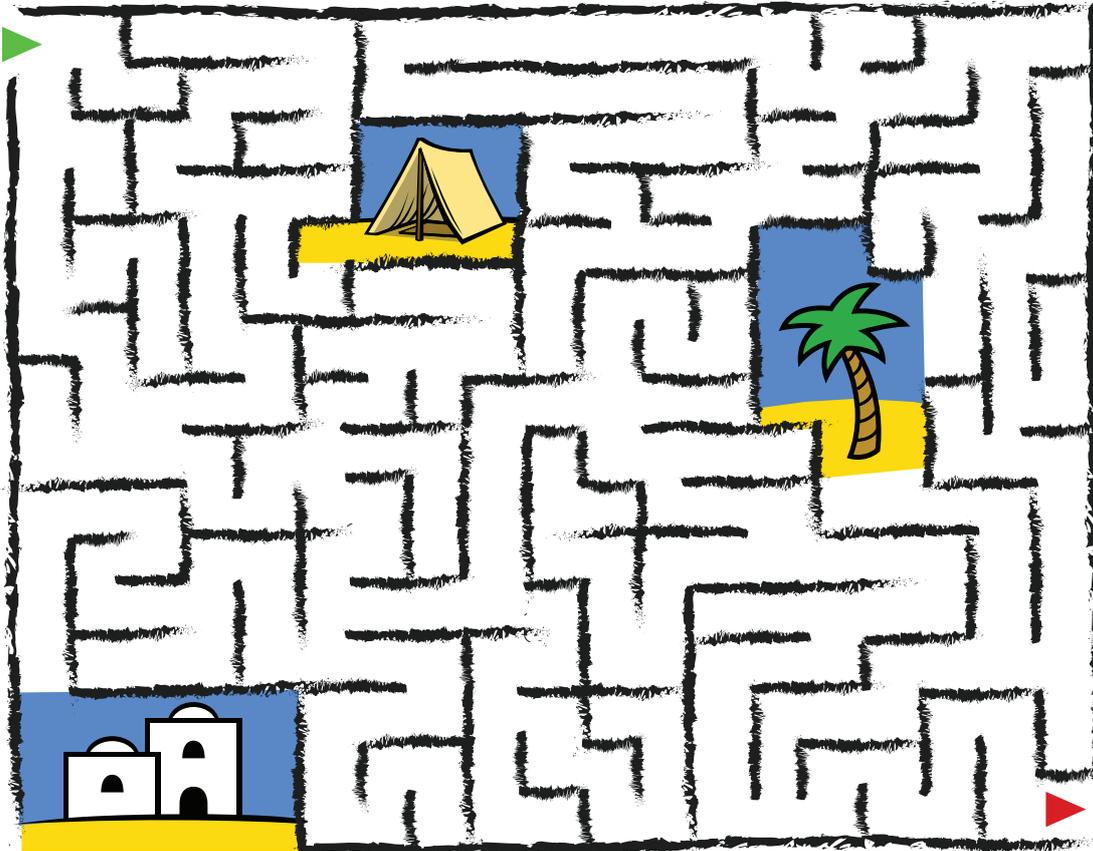
Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am

St Therese's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country of the land on which our church stands and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and to Elders past, present and emerging.

God has done great things for me

Help Mary find her way as she travels to see her cousin, Elizabeth.



With all my heart I praise the Lord,
and I am glad because of God
my Saviour.

He cares for me, his humble servant.
All people will say God has blessed me.
God All-Powerful has done great things
for me,
and his name is holy.



Mary was assumed into heaven.
Colour the picture of Mary.

God has done
great things
for me



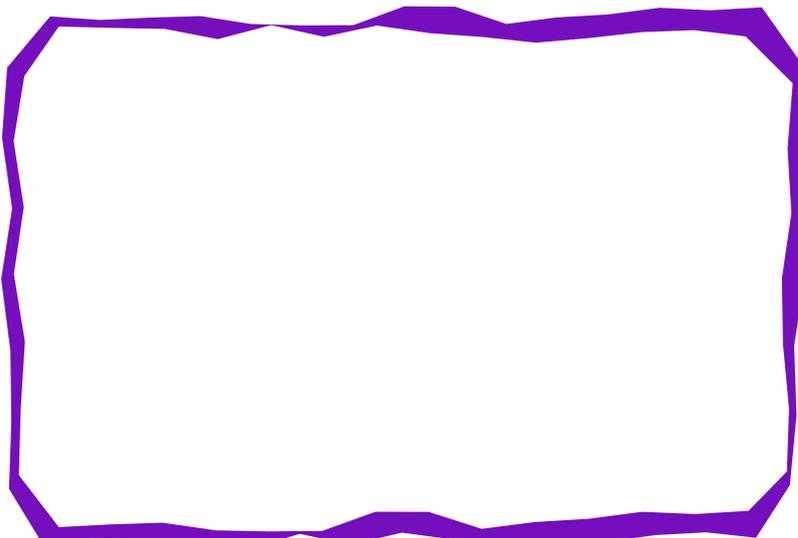
The Assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven

The angel Gabriel visited Mary. Draw the angel.



Mary
travelled
to Judea
to see her
cousin

Mary gave
birth to
Jesus
in the
town of
Bethlehem.
Draw Jesus
in the
manger.



Gospel Lk 1:39-56

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 scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

When Jesus died on the cross Mary stood by him. Draw Mary standing at the foot of the cross.

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven.



*With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Saviour.
He cares for me, his humble servant. All people will say God has blessed me.
God All-Powerful has done great things for me, and his name is holy.*