

St Teresa & St John Southworth Churches, Cleveleys

Fr Chris Cousens—Phone: 853340

Rev Bernard Ward (Deacon) (Tel: 858346)

Enquiries for St John Southworth: Phone: 853340

16 August 2020

<http://www.st-teresas-church.co.uk>

Email: st.teresas.cleveleys@gmail.com

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 23433

Sunday : Feast of the Assumption of Mary

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Gospel:

Luke: 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 the 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 believes 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 handmaiden.

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.

Gospel Reflection : for the Feast of the Assumption

Mary was a very humble person. A humble person is a transparent person. She or he receives praise and thanks the way a clean window takes in the light of the sun. The brighter and more intense the light is, the less you see of the glass. It attracts no attention to itself, because it keeps nothing of the light for itself but lets it shine through.

Humble people know that without the light of God's love they themselves would be in darkness. Such an attitude helps them to be open, and so to receive the help and the gifts God wants to give them.

So it is with Mary, the mother of Jesus. As we hear today, she said "All generations will call me blessed - because **God** has done great things for me". So her soul was filled with joy and serenity, and the light of God shone through her.

"Mary, teach us to be humble and trustful before God, so that we will find rest for our souls, and so that the light of God's love will shine through us too".

Notices

We Remember In Our Prayers Vivien Hopcroft whose Funeral was last week, and Andrew Baker whose Funeral has yet to be arranged. We remember them and their families, and all those whose anniversaries are at this time. May they be in God's peace.

The World Day Of Prayer For The Care Of Creation, and The Season Of Creation :

Pope Francis established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in 2015, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home.

The day is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth. He calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

This World Day of Prayer this year begins the Season of Creation, which runs until 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. This is an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

The key messages from Pope Francis include the following:

- We are called to protect creation—and we are missing the mark. "*Something good* in the eyes of God has become *something exploitable* in human hands."
- The Season of Creation is a time for prayer in nature. "This is the *time to re-acquaint ourselves with praying* immersed in nature, where our gratitude to the creator God arises spontaneously."
- The Season of Creation is a time to grow in sustainability. "This is the *time to reflect on our lifestyles* . . . Let's change and adopt simpler and more respectful lifestyles!"
- The Season of Creation is a time to urge governments to enact better climate policies. "This is the *time to take prophetic actions*" and governments have the task of "demonstrating political will to drastically hasten their measures to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible . . . in line with the Paris Agreement goals."

"There are many resources available to help us, including through CAFOD, www.cafod.org.uk."

Daily Reflections for this week

Monday (John Main, OSB)

We have ourselves to recognise the life of God in all situations and peoples and to identify it for a sceptical generation looking for signs elsewhere

We are numbed by the extravagance of the claims put by the New Testament writers and we read them as metaphor or tone them down in safe theological formulae. But the essence of the message of Jesus is an unlimited generosity, a complete self-giving of the infinite God. By his very nature, he is impelled to give all of himself, and the power, the urgency of the love-impulse radiating from the Father make it impossible for Jesus to retain any area of special privilege, of non-communication.

Scripture (Matthew 15:21-28)

Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman and started shouting, 'Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he said not a word in answer to her. And his disciples went and pleaded with him, saying 'Give her what she wants, because she keeps shouting after us.' Jesus said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was bowing before him. 'Lord,' she said, 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to little dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah, yes, Lord. But even the little dogs eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Jesus answered, 'Woman you have great faith. Let your desire be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Tuesday (Henri Nouwen)

Voluntary displacement as a way of life rather than as a unique event is a mark of discipleship. The Lord, whose compassion we want to manifest in time and place, is indeed the displaced Lord. The mystery of the incarnation is that God did not remain in the place that was proper for him but moved to the condition of a suffering human being. God *gave up* his heavenly place and took a humble place among mortal men and women. God displaced himself so that nothing human would be alien to him and he could experience fully the brokenness of our human condition.

Scripture (Ephesians 3:8-12, 20-21)

I have been entrusted with the special grace of proclaiming to the gentiles the unfathomable treasure of Christ and of throwing light on the inner workings of the mystery kept hidden through all the ages in God, the Creator of everything. The purpose of this was, through the Church, the principalities and ruling forces should learn how many-sided God's wisdom is, according to the plan which he had formed from all eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Wednesday (A Carthusian)

We believe that Infinite Love (and note well the word infinite – let it sink ever deeper) has seen us from all eternity, has loved us and wanted us; has given us being and life and maintains us therein; is directing our every step, overshadowing us at all times and in all places with the loving care of a father and mother. We believe that our weaknesses and spiritual miseries, our obstacles and difficulties, cannot prevent this union but, on the contrary, that God uses them as a means to bring about the realisation of his love's designs.

Scripture (Philippians 2:6-11)

Make your own the mind of Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not count equality with God something to be grasped. But he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are; and being in every way like a human being, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. And for this, God raised him high and gave him a name which is above all names; so that all beings, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Thursday (Evelyn Underhill)

God, everywhere present, pours out his undivided love on each of his creatures, and calls each into an ever-deepening communion with him. He rides upon the floods. It is because of our own limitations that we seem only to receive him in trickles. In the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector, the tax collector knew he was an imperfect, needy man without any claims or rights. That opened a channel, started a communion with the rich God and the poor soul. But the Pharisee's accurate statement of his own excellent situation started no communion. He was dressed in his own spiritual self-esteem; and it acted like a mackintosh. The dew of grace could not get through.

Scripture (Isaiah 56:1.6-7)

Thus says the Lord: have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who adhere to the Lord and serve him, to love his name and to become his servants, all who observe the Sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant: these I shall lead to my

holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Martin Bennett