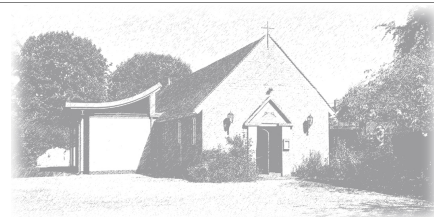


St JOHN FISHER & St THOMAS MORE



Sunday readings from Year A

Sunday 16 August

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

✠

Sunday Mass 9.30 am

Readers: Eleanor Dobson and Carolyn Walton

Organist: Terry McNamara

✠

Please continue to remember the sick and the housebound of the parish in your prayers and continue to pray for the peoples of Ukraine and the Middle East and all those suffering due to oppression, poverty, persecution, violence or war. Remember also those who have died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As the traditional date of 15 August falls on a Saturday this year the feast is transferred to Sunday.

The Church teaches that the Virgin Mary 'having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory'. This doctrine was defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950, in the apostolic constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*. While the Church believes in the Dormition ('the Falling Asleep') of the Mother of God, whether Mary had a physical death has not been dogmatically defined.

The New Testament contains no explicit narrative about the death or Dormition, nor of the Assumption of Mary, but several scriptural passages have been interpreted to describe the ultimate fate in this and the afterworld of the Mother of Jesus. We find

homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. In the following centuries the Eastern Churches held steadily to the doctrine but some authors in the West were more hesitant. However by the 13th century there was universal agreement and the feast has been celebrated under various names – Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption – from at least the fifth or sixth century.

Within Anglican doctrine the Assumption of Mary is either rejected or regarded as *adiaphora* ('a thing indifferent'); it disappeared from Anglican worship in 1549 although partially returning in some branches of Anglicanism during the 20th century.

Although a Marian feast on 15 August is celebrated by the Church of England as a non-specific feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for Catholics it is a Holy Day of Obligation.

We celebrate the Queenship of Mary next Saturday, the former Octave day of the Assumption. Pope Pius XII, having declared the dogma of the Assumption celebrated last week, then established the feast of her Queenship.

The Pope said: "We are instituting a feast so that all may recognise more clearly and venerate more devoutly the merciful and maternal sway of the Mother of God...let all approach with greater confidence now than before, to the throne of mercy and grace of

our Queen and Mother to beg help in difficulty, light in darkness and solace in trouble and sorrow...

Whoever, therefore, honours the lady ruler of the Angels and of men - and let no one think themselves exempt from the payment of that tribute of a grateful and loving soul - let them call upon her as most truly Queen and as the Queen who brings the blessings of peace, that She may show us all, after this exile, Jesus, who will be our enduring peace and joy."

Tuesday 18 August marks the beginning of the Diocesan Novena to pray for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi. It lasts for nine days and concludes on his feast day, 26 August. The annual Novena of Prayer for the Cause of Blessed Dominic Barberi is a moment to pause and to appreciate the work of this holy Passionist in our Archdiocese and to pray for his Canonisation.

It is with sadness we share the news that Hugh Piesse has died after a long illness. A popular parishioner and for many years, during Fr Ian Ker's time, a regular lay reader at the old second Mass here in Burford. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Angela and his children.

Weekday readings from Year II

Monday 17 August

Feria in Ordinary Time

Tuesday 18 August

Feria in Ordinary Time

• Mass 10.00 am - Burford

Wednesday 19 August

Optional Memorial of John Eudes, Priest

• Mass 10.00 am - Carterton

Thursday 20 August

Memorial of St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church

• Mass 10.00 am - Burford

Friday 21 August

Memorial of St Pius X, Pope

• Mass 10.00 am - Carterton

Saturday 22 August

Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

• Vigil Mass 5.00 pm - Carterton

Sunday 23 August

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

• Mass 9.30 am - Burford

• Mass 11.00 am - Carterton

*Hail, holy queen, mother of mercy!
Our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished
children of Eve, to thee do we send
up our sighs, mourning and weeping
in this valley, of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us; and
after this our exile show unto us the
blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus;
O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ. Amen*

Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times.

Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Valerie Copping and she can be contacted at sg.stjf-sttm.burford@rcaob.org.uk should you have any concerns.

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Published in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham and the Parish of SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Burford
Registered Charity No. 234216