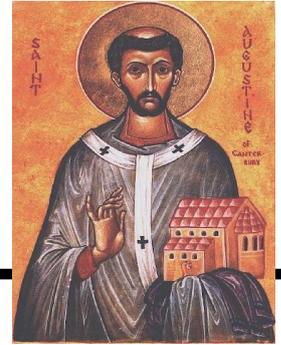




Anglican Catholic Church of St Augustine
Eastling Road, Painters Forstal, Kent ME13 0DU



PARISH NEWS

Sunday: 11 am Sung Mass (1st Sunday: Healing Service) Holy Days: As Announced

**A Very Warm
WELCOME
This Sunday is
The Assumption
of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
(Commemorate Trinity XI)**

15th August 2021

The **Propers** of the Mass today are taken from the **English Missal**. The Ordinary of the Mass will be according to the **Anglican Missal** with the Gregorian Canon.

HYMNS

- 185
- 183
- 182
- 188

At the end of Mass you are invited to venerate the **Relic of the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary** in the Lady Chapel.



**Please
Turn off Your
Mobile Phones**

Our Organ doesn't like them

Thank you

Dear Friends,

August 15 is the day that the Church has long celebrated the feast of the Dormition (falling asleep) or Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

The Feast of the Assumption celebrates both the happy departure of Mary from this life by her natural death, and her assumption bodily into heaven.

Occurring at the end of the summer season, the Church celebrates the most glorious "harvest festival" in the Communion of Saints -- Mary, supremely blessed among women, Mary, the most precious fruit which has ripened in the fields of God's kingdom, is today taken into heaven.

Although it was almost universally believed for more than a thousand years, the Bible contains no mention of the assumption of Mary into heaven. The first Church writer to speak of Mary's being taken up into heaven by God is Saint Gregory of Tours (594). Other early sermons on the Feast of Mary's entry into heaven are those of Ps-Modestus of Jerusalem (ca. 700).

On November 1, 1950, the Feast of All Saints, Pope Pius XII declared as a dogma revealed by God that "Mary, the immaculate perpetually Virgin Mother of God, after the completion of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into the glory of Heaven". However, this particular Marian doctrine is not considered a "dogma" by most Anglican Catholics. This is not to say that we don't believe it, we do. However as with other later dogma proclaimed as such by the Roman Catholic Church we do not believe it is necessary for salvation—which is the ultimate test of what constitutes dogma.

We have no real knowledge of the day, year, and manner of Our Lady's death. The dates which have been assigned to her death vary between



three and fifteen years after Christ's Ascension. Both Jerusalem and Ephesus claim to be the place where she died. (By tradition, Mary lived at Ephesus after the death of Jesus.) It is believed that Mary died in the presence of all the Apostles, but that after her burial, her tomb, when opened, was found empty. Therefore, they concluded that her body had been taken up (assumed) into heaven.

Saint Gregory of Tour provided a rationale for the tradition, which is related to her having been preserved from original sin. He said that it is inconceivable to think Mary's sinless body, likened to the Ark of the Covenant which was made of incorruptible wood, should decay in the grave. The text, 'Rise thou and the ark of thy strength' (Ps 132/1:8) was understood to mean that it was God's will that, as Christ had ascended, so too Mary would be received into heaven.

There is an important difference, of course, between the *ascension* of Jesus into Heaven after His Resurrection, and the *assumption* of Mary. To "ascend" is to rise up under one's OWN power; while to be *assumed* means something that IS-DONE to one. Jesus, being the Second Person of the Trinity, had no need of assistance; whereas Mary did not have this power.

According to one tradition, Mary was warned of her approaching end by Saint Michael the Archangel, who

August

✘

Sunday 22nd

Trinity XII (Comm: Octave of Assumption)

11am Sung Mass

✘

Sunday 29th

*Trinity XIII
(Comm: Beheading of St John Baptist)*

11am Sung Mass

✘

September

✘

Sunday 5th

Trinity XIV

11am Sung Mass

Followed by our monthly

Healing Service

✘

Wednesday 8th

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

12 noon Low Mass

✘

Sunday 12th

*Trinity XV
(Comm Holy Name of Mary)*

11am Sung Mass

✘

conducts souls to Heaven, and was surrounded on her death-bed by the apostles, who were miraculously transported to her bedside from their various mission-fields. It was said that Jesus appeared, bore away her soul, and returned three days after her burial, when angels carried her body to Paradise where it was reunited with her soul under the Tree of Life.

The title "Mother of God" (in Greek, *Theotokos*), was officially conferred upon Mary at the Council of Ephesus, in 431. (As an Anglican bishop once responded to Protestant objections to this title for Mary, "If she was not the mother of God, who was she the mother of?")

The Feast of the Assumption has always been loved dearly by the faithful who are children of Mary. It is a sign to us that someday, through God's grace and our efforts, we too may join the Blessed Mother in giving glory to God. The Assumption is a source of great hope for us, too, for it

points the way for all followers of Christ who imitate her fidelity and obedience to God's.

If you struggle with the idea that Mary was bodily assumed into heaven, or concerned that as it isn't in the Bible you don't want to believe it, that is really actually okay. It isn't dogma as we have already said. But remember Our Lady isn't the only person the Church teaches was assumed, body and soul, by God at the end of this earthly life. One finds in the the Bible that at least two other people have received a similar gift: Enoch and Elijah.

At the end of Mass today we are to venerate the relic we have of the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you wish to do this but have concerns about kissing the reliquary, as is the usual custom, you may bow and touch the relic with your forehead.



YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR ...

Fr Don & Di Walker, Chris Bosworth, Margaret and Laurence Mead, Paul Fletcher, Barbara Henderson, Todd, David and Sheila, Colin Rumens, Frederick Chadwick, Ann Chapman, Diane Young, Megan Young, Pauline Allison, Harrison and Edward Eckert, Margaret and Peter Martin, Margaret Bendelow, Dorothy Hipkiss, Fr Miles Maylor, Elizabeth Bell, Vickie Wall, Pat Johnson, Fr Ed & Liz Bakker, Deb Stuck, Angela, Hazel, Karl, Millie Armstrong, Sarah and David Winterburn and their daughters Nicole and Corrina, Robert and Kathleen Dunford, Br Botolph OSB, Deacon Jong, Malcolm Munn. All those effected by the Coronavirus.

For those who read these Parish Notes on the Notice Board outside and all who receive email or paper copies.

- For our neighbours and the people of **Painters Forstal** and the surrounding countryside and villages, the **growth** of our **Church Family**.
- For **persecuted Christians** especially in Africa, Pakistan, the Middle East and China.

For those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

- Diocese of the Congo, Bishop Ordinary - Rt Rev Steven Ayule-Milenge;
- Our Lady and St Edward, Bolton, Greater Manchester, Fr Howard Marsh,
- Those who are dying, especially in dreadful circumstances

And we remember the recently departed: specially, and those whose anniversaries falls at this time:

P: ✘ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord **R:** And let light perpetual shine upon them



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Caretaker: Mr Andy Hall

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(Diocese) www.anglican catholic.org.uk