



SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY **SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST 2021**

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

For her courageous discipleship, God blessed Mary during her difficult life, and at her death, God assumed her bodily into heaven, where she now enjoys full union with her Lord. Mary, as one of us, points to what awaits the Church and all disciples who wait in hope for full union with God. While not in Scripture, Mary's bodily assumption into heaven is an ancient Church belief. The solemnity not only celebrates Mary's assumption but as she is the primary symbol of the church, Mary's assumption points to the fullness of salvation that will be given to the entire Church with the Lord's Second Coming.

As the Israelites travelled through the desert they carried the Ark of the Covenant, a large, ornately carved chest. Inside were the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a symbol of God's covenant with them. A chair rested on top of the ark as a representation of God's throne, a sign that God dwelled among his people. After King David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel, he brought the ark into the city to signify that God was with his people, blessing and protecting them.

Mary is the ark of the new covenant. As Elizabeth exclaims in Luke 1:42, Mary is blessed because she bears the living God. Tablets of stone are superseded by flesh and blood.

To picture Mary, still alive and with her son, our Lectionary turns to the Book of Revelation. In its Biblical context, this passage refers to the nation, Israel, and to the Church, who gave and till gives birth to Christ, the Saviour of the world. We see, however, that the passage applies to Mary too. Mary, in a literal rather than in a metaphorical sense, gave birth to a son, a son who was "caught up to God and his throne" through his own Resurrection from the dead.

Today's psalm also presents a powerful image of Mary as a new queen leaving her (earthly) home and entering a (heavenly) palace. Reunion with God is pictured as a marriage.

The reading from Luke reminds us of why we honour Mary. She is the "mother" of our "Lord" Elizabeth says, and we also learn that Mary is the preeminent disciple when Elizabeth exclaims, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

Our celebration of Mary's Assumption into heaven is a celebration of eternal life. Because she kept God's Word so faithfully, Christ "clothed" his mother "with immortality", thereby keeping her body from decay. There was probably a bigger, louder celebration when Mary entered heaven than there was when the ark of the first covenant entered Jerusalem. We pray that we will hear and observe God's Word so that we too will be joyously welcomed into eternal life.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday 15th August 2021

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 15 th August	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Solemnity)
Friday 20 th August	St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the church
Saturday 21 st August	St Pius X, Priest
Sunday 22 nd August	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Time Table of Masses:

Sunday Masses 10am & 12pm

Both the 10am and 12pm masses are now open for *People's Physical Participation*. The 10am mass will also be livestreamed.

Weekday Masses

Mondays	9am	Adoration & Rosary
	9.30am	Mass for Parishioners
Tuesdays	9am	Adoration & Rosary
	9.30am	Mass for Parishioners
Wednesdays	9am	Eucharistic Service
Thursdays	9am	Adoration & Rosary
	9.30am	Mass for Parishioners
Fridays	9am	Adoration & Rosary
	9.30am	Mass for Parishioners
Saturdays	9am	Adoration & Rosary
	9.30am	Mass for Parishioners

As the pandemic is still not gone away completely, we are still asked to be careful with regard to safety procedures. So please continue wearing masks and keep safe distance and sanitise your hands.

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 15 th August	10.00 am	Mollie Cummins – RIP (donor – Greta Street)
	12.00 pm	Sr Elizabeth Murphy – RIP (donor – Margo Fuller)
Monday 16 th August	9.00 am	Audrey Eileen Pollard – RIP
Tuesday 17 th August	9.00 am	
Wednesday 18 th August	9.00 am	
Thursday 19 th August	9.00 am	
Friday 20 th August	9.00 am	
Saturday 21 st August	9.00 am	Brendan Murphy – RIP/Anni (donor – Greta Street)
Sunday 22 nd August	10.00 am	Marie & Patrick McEvoy – 40 th Wedding Anniversary

Parish Notice Board

Returning to Normal

As of now, one half of the church has been changed back to full capacity to allow more parishioners to return for live Mass. The other side will remain restricted for those who feel more comfortable being socially distanced still.

There will no longer be a requirement to give contact details to the steward when attending Mass. The QR code will remain available and parishioners are encouraged to continue to use it.

From the first Sunday in September, it is intended that live streaming of Mass will cease and we will return to normal Mass times.

Many thanks for your continued support to English Martyrs in helping the parish return to as near a normal as possible.

Baptisms will return to Saturdays with immediate effect

'Together Again' Parish Event

We are hoping to organise an open-air mass and picnic at 12pm on Sunday 5th September in the English Martyrs Presbytery Garden.

Bring your own picnic plus food for sharing. Food for sharing may include the following: Desserts and Drinks (water/fruit juice/ beer/wines). So that all may not bring a mountain of only desserts !!!, please email the parish office above to let us know what you wish to bring for sharing.

Volunteers will be needed to prepare the garden or the church and hall, depending on the weather on Saturday 4th September.

Please contact the church either by email hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org or telephone 01708 507020 if you are willing to help and if you are bringing food to share.

Let us build our community by our willingness to participate in the above "Together again" event, and inaugurate the new academic year 2021-2022.

Together In Hope,

Fr. Britto

English Martyrs Donations/Financial Support for your Parish

We wish to thank those who have been most generous in your contributions to the parish finance. Those who have not yet thought about giving, you have the option of either donating on line, information below or simply pop your envelope through the Presbytery letterbox.

For those who wish to pay direct from your bank account to the Parish funds, you can now use the following Bank details in future:

HSBC UK

Account No. 11019198

Sorting Code 40 13 22

Kindly make your monetary contributions by cheque in the following way:

1. For 'Mass intentions' to the parish, please make your cheques payable to 'English Martyrs Stipend' account only.
2. For all other donations and contributions to the Parish, please make your cheques payable to 'English Martyrs Catholic Church'.
3. Any personal remuneration for Father should be payable to 'Fr. Belevendran'.

Parish Finance

Sunday 8th August 2021 Gift Aid £84.00 Loose Plate £90.40 Total £174.40

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish: David Calder, Kathleen Clifford, Anna Heneghan, Paul Hogan, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Sheila McCurdy, Sheila Murphy, Don Muscat, Rachel, Mary Scully, Mary Thurgood, Mary Wright. Rose Yates and Claire Ryan in Emerson Court.

Communication Desk

St Therese's Feast Day Celebration

Although we are unable to arrange anything as a Parish, please see the advertisement on the noticeboard should you wish to make your own arrangements.

The Cry Of Creation – A Study Day On Laudato Si

As the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), to be held in Glasgow in November, draws nearer, and at a time of unprecedented danger for the world, the 2015 encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, on care for our 'common home', could not be more relevant. Fr Ashley Beck, priest of the archdiocese of Southwark and associate professor at St Mary's University, Twickenham specialising in Catholic Social Teaching, will explore its contents and explain its crucial relevance. To access this free live event go to www.whatgoodnews.org – the event is scheduled for 11.00 to 12.30 BST on Saturday 4th September. No registration is needed. The talks will be available subsequently on the same website.

Living *Laudato Si'* – Online Retreat – 15th – 18th October 2021

Open to all, this retreat will help personal prayer and reflection, and parish action, on the critical issue of care for God's creation. Bishop Alan will open the retreat, which will be led by expert speakers. For more information see the poster at the back of church or email laudatosi@dioceseofbrentwood.org

The Gospel Of Mark

"On Most Sundays Of 2021 we shall be reading from the Gospel according to Mark. In two new video presentations Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, demonstrates the skill with which Mark put his gospel together, and how Mark's material was used by later evangelists. The talks are accessible free of charge from the home page of www.whatgoodnews.org and also on the page entitled 'Faith Talks'.

CAFOD

Cafod offers resources to the whole Catholic community through our website. Do pass them on to anyone interested.

Family Prayer Resources for Summer - We will be offering a prayer focus for each week of the summer holidays with some simple ideas, designed to help parents explore faith with their children,

in solidarity with our global family. They will be available from mid-July at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources>

Resources for the [Season of Creation](#) and Harvest Fast Day (Friday 1st October) will feature some of our partners' work in the Amazon and will be available from September at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources>. Join us in praying the joyful mysteries of the Holy Rosary as we seek to nourish our commitment to care for the earth.

[Laudato Si' encyclical resources | CAFOD](#) – this link will take you to a range of resources for study, reflection, prayer and action.

[Livesimply award | CAFOD](#) – one of our most popular community actions, this award is given to parishes and communities who have taken significant steps in response to the call to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with others. Several parishes in the diocese have recently registered to become Live Simply parishes.

Many Catholics have been meeting with their MPs this summer in response to Pope Francis' call for a better kind of politics. Dialogue has focused on debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries, action to tackle the climate crisis and vaccine equity. Thank you if you have supported this or promoted our [petition to the Prime Minister](#).

Thank you once again for your prayerful leadership and solidarity with our sisters and brothers in need.

USEFUL WEBSITES

For those who have access to a computer, you may find the following websites of help in keeping up to date with developments:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net>

<http://walsingham.org.uk> (For Live stream masses)

Parish Priest : Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)
Parish Administrator : Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri (10am-1pm) (01708 507020)
Diocesan Safeguarding Representative : Katie Nash (07825293308)
Finance : Mr Graham Daniels (01708 452406)
Parish Gift Aid Organiser : Dr Steve Pinder (01708 445443)
Hall & Lounge Bookings : English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)

The English Martyrs Catholic Church (Diocese of Brentwood)

Parish address: 240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ

Parish tel no: 01708 507020

Parish email: hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Parish website: <http://englishmartyrshx.weebly.com/>

Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409

