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**Newsletter for the week commencing 16th August 2020**

**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Entrance Antiphon: A great sign appeared in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.**

**First Reading: Apocalypse 11: 19; 12: 1-6,10**

**Psalm 44 Response: On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold**

**Second Reading: First letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15: 20-25**

**Gospel: Luke 1: 39-56**

**Communion Antiphon**: **All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

"Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death. *“LG* 59; cf. Pius XII, *Munificentissimus Deus* (1950)

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians. (CCC 966)

As we live through this COVID-19 crisis we are only too aware that life can be a ‘valley of tears.’ This feast of the Assumption fills us with hope. God has a wonderful future in store for all those who put their trust in Jesus.  Let us turn to our Blessed Mother with ever greater devotion and confidence.

Today we ask her to obtain for us the grace of a deep longing for Heaven and a great desire to be perfectly united to Jesus here on earth and for all eternity.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

1. **Those recently deceased**:

**Michael McDermott RIP** - Requiem Mass 10am Friday 28th August, followed by cremation at Charing at 12:15. Unfortunately, because of the COVID pandemic restrictions, the church will be made available for the family ONLY. **There will be NO PUBLIC Mass that day**

**Linda Wolff RIP** - Funeral at Charing Crematorium confirmed for Tuesday 25th August at 15:15 (3:15pm)

1. **Those ill or infirm:**

Jennifer Jorden, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Joe Venables and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19

1. **Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:**

Leonard Holley, George Foster, Mary Cherry and Ian Currie.

**This week’s services (16th –23rd August) until social distancing is relaxed:**

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| **Mass will be held daily at 10am except on Wednesday when there will be**  **a Service of the Word and Holy Communion at 10am** | | | |
| **Feasts during the week** | | | |
| Sunday 16th August | THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY | Thursday 20th August | St Bernard |
| Monday 17th August | Feria | Friday 21st August | St Pius X |
| Tuesday 18th August | Feria | Saturday 22nd August | Queenship of the  Blessed Virgin Mary |
| Wednesday 19th August | St John Eudes | Sunday 23rd August | 21st Sunday (A) |

Dear Friends,

Have you any plastic flowerpots that you wish to give away? A local charity would be most grateful - the larger the better. Please leave at the church for Jolyon's attention. The charity helps people through horticulture. Their website is Hands of Hope in Hawkhurst.

Can I just let you know that the Father John 's retirement present collection is still ongoing. To avoid any confusion, please place your contribution and message in an envelope marked "Fr John gift". The last word is important, so that we do not think it is ordinary mail for him. Thanks Jolyon