

Great Feasts of the Church

The Assumption



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Coronation

The Assumption

Jesus was gone. The Blessed Mother and the Apostles had watched Him going up to Heaven. Mary would have liked to go to Heaven, too, to be with Jesus. But she knew that He wanted her to stay down on earth for a while. She knew that Jesus had work for her to do before she could be with Him again.



Jesus had told the Apostles to take His place and teach the people the way to Heaven. Mary had to help the Apostles.

Mary always knew how to help the Apostles. She prayed for them. And often, when the Apostles had finished their work for the day, they would ask Mary to tell them stories about Jesus when He was a little Boy. She told them many things. The Apostles loved to listen to Mary talk about Jesus and sometimes they wrote down the stories she told. Some of these stories are in a book, called the Bible, and we can read them.

Mary never stopped thinking about Jesus. She wanted to be with Him very much. She wondered how much longer she would have to wait before she could go to Heaven. At last it was time for her to go. So Mary died.

The Apostles were sad. They would miss Mary very much. They put her body in a grave, very carefully.

But Mary's body did not stay in the grave. Jesus took it straight up to Heaven. Then the Apostles were very happy. They knew how glad Mary was to be with Jesus. They knew that Mary would help them even more in Heaven than she had here on earth.

~ Taken from: The Catholic Mother's Helper. 1948 ~

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin

Next to our dear Lord and Saviour, there is no one whom we should love and honour so much as Mary, the Mother of God. The Blessed Virgin Mary is truly the Mother of God. God loved her so much that He chose her to be, after Jesus, the highest being on earth. To be the Mother of God is surely a wonderful grace. And the Blessed Virgin Mary was so pure and holy that God chose her to be the Mother of the Redeemer.

Why the Blessed Virgin Is Honoured So Highly

I have often spoken to you of loving and honouring the Mother of Jesus. Jesus Himself, although He was God, obeyed Mary in all things. He loved her dearly and showed her every honour. Now we cannot please Jesus better than by showing His Blessed Mother our love and honouring her as Jesus wishes us to honour her.

When some one speaks well of your mother and tells you that you have a good mother, you are pleased, are you not? Certainly. It pleases you to hear someone say good things about your mother. When your little friends come to your house to play, you are glad when they treat your mother with kindness and respect.

Jesus, too, is well pleased with those who love His Blessed Mother. Jesus wishes us also to look on the Blessed Virgin as our mother. When He hung bleeding on the cross, He lovingly turned to St. John and said, "Son, behold thy Mother." Jesus meant by this that St. John was to look on Mary as his own mother. But Jesus thought also of the thousands of children who would come into the world after His death, and by the words he spoke to St. John, He gave to all of us Mary as our loving Mother. Therefore, love and honour the Blessed Virgin, dear children. She is your heavenly Mother. Your mother at home does everything she can to make you happy. Day and night she works for you. So also Mary, your heavenly Mother, shows at all times her great love for her faithful children.

~ Taken from: *Practical Aids for Catholic Teachers. Imprimatur 1928* ~

Above, above, in Paradise,
That city of God's peace,
Where evil cannot enter in,
Where sorrow hath surcease;
The silver moon beneath her feet,
Our Lady sits as Queen,
Crowned with a starry diadem
And clad in glorious sheen.
God grant us of His blessed grace,
An entrance there to win,
That we may see her face to face,
Our Lady without sin.



Mother Mary, keep my soul
Pure from every sin,
So my little Lord will smile
When He enters in.

Word Search

D	G	E	H	F	U	S	H	G	V
A	S	S	U	M	P	T	I	O	N
J	U	R	Y	J	F	Y	D	D	W
E	S	F	R	H	R	H	J	Y	O
N	E	V	A	E	H	T	F	S	R
O	J	J	M	N	R	R	Y	T	C
R	J	Y	I	F	G	A	E	N	O
H	S	E	H	U	F	E	D	I	U
T	Q	U	E	E	N	J	L	A	R
S	E	L	T	S	O	P	A	S	L
J	E	J	A	D	K	V	D	U	A
N	R	U	G	M	E	D	A	I	D
K	U	D	S	F	U	F	G	R	Y



Word Bank:

Assumption Mary Jesus God Heaven Crown
 Angels Saints Earth Diadem Our Lady Gate
 Queen Throne Apostles

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Why is this feast so called?

Because on this day the Blessed Virgin was taken up into heaven.

Why are plants and fruits blessed on this day?

The Church does this to manifest her joy at the glorious victory which Mary achieved over death, the world and the devil, and at her splendid triumph when she, adorned with virtues as with so many flowers, entered heaven; and that God may so sanctify and bless the plants and fruits, that their use may serve to our welfare.

Epistle (Ecclus. 24:11-20). In all things I sought rest, and I shall abide in the inheritance of the Lord. Then the creator of all things commanded, and said to me; and he that made me rested in my tabernacle, and said to me: Let thy dwelling be in Jacob, and thy inheritance in Israel, and take root in my elect. And so was I established in Sion, and in the holy city likewise I rested, and my power was in Jerusalem. And I took root in an honourable people, and in the portion of my God his inheritance, and my abode is in the full assembly of saints. I was exalted like a cedar in Libanus, and as a cypress-tree on Mount Sion. I was exalted like a palm-tree in Cades, and as a rose-plant in Jericho. As a fair olive-tree in the plains, and as a plane-tree by the water in the streets was I exalted. I have a sweet smell like cinnamon and aromatic balm: I yielded a sweet odour like the best myrrh.

Explanation: The Holy Ghost uses these words in praise of eternal wisdom, but the Church applies them to Mary also, to describe the glory and splendour of her assumption. Mary found her rest only in God, the Creator of all things, who created her, and preserved her from original sin, and lived in her womb as a tabernacle. On this day God seems to say to her: "Possess the

abode destined for thee from all eternity, and the inheritance designed for thee as the first of the elect." Thus Mary is exalted as Queen of the saints and angels in the heavenly Sion; and now in this holy city, she enjoys an undisturbed peace with God, shares His happiness with Him, and is second only to Him in power and glory; there she shines in the most radiant garments, like the ever-blooming rose of Jericho, from there she lets flow upon the wretched children of Adam the oil of her mercy as from a fair olive tree, shades them with her protection like a plane-tree, and refreshes them with the sweet fragrance of her virtue of grace.

Gospel (Luke 10:38-42). At that time, Jesus entered into a certain town: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house: and she had a sister called Mary, who sitting also at the Lord's feet heard his word. But Martha was busy about much serving: who stood and said: Lord, hast thou no care that my sister hath left me alone to serve? Speak to her, therefore, that she help me. And the Lord answering, said to her: Martha, Martha, thou art careful, and art troubled about many things. But, one thing is necessary. Mary hath chosen the best part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Why does the Church cause this gospel to be read today?

Because it can be well applied to Mary, who more worthily and tenderly even than Martha, received, nourished and served the Son of God, and more fervently and attentively than even Martha's sister, listened to His words, preserved them in her heart and sought to fulfill them. In both ways has she chosen the best of all parts, because in both she walked in perfection, and so gained the greatest of rewards which can never be taken from her.

What may we learn from these two sisters?

That like Martha, who is a type of active, stirring life, we should be energetic in performing the duties of our vocation, but not on that account forget to practice good works, to do all for the love of God, seeking in all things His pleasure, and, since we can no longer administer to Christ in a material way, we should serve the poor, of whom He says that whatever we do to the

least of them, He will consider and reward as of done to Himself. We are also like Mary who represents the contemplative life, to be fervent in prayer, in listening and meditating upon the word of God, upon the divine Majesty, its perfections and our frailty, thus to sanctify ourselves and to become more worthy of eternal happiness. This contemplative life Christ calls the better part, but does not, herefore, set aside the active life. We can easily unite both, but must never lose sight of the better part.

Why does Jesus reproach Martha?

Because she was uneasy and distracted by her overcarefulness and anxiety, and forgot to hear the divine word. Thus do many Christians who find no time to work for the salvation of their soul, and even during divine service and the sermon are thinking of their domestic affairs, and so leave the church without having gained anything for their soul.

What is the one thing necessary?

To seek the glory of God and the salvation of our soul. He who attends to this, attends to all his duties, he is busy and active, but not uneasy and disturbed, and calmly directs his mind to God in all his labours, offers his every step to Him, and draws His grace upon himself.

St. Bernard's Prayer to Mary

We accompany thee, on this day, with our most ardent wishes to thy Son, O glorious Virgin, Queen of Heaven! And follow thee from afar, O happy Virgin! Give thy mildness to the world, give of the grace thou has found with God. Obtain by thy blessed intercession, grace for the guilty, recovery from the sick, strength for the faint-hearted, aid for those in peril! Dispense to us thy servants, who on this glorious festival-day invoke thy sweetest name, O gentlest Queen, the grace of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord and God, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

~ Taken from: *The Church's Year. Imprimatur 1926* ~

The Crowning of the Blessed Mother in Heaven

Heaven was a busy place on this special day. All the Angels were busy. All the Saints were busy, and Saint Joseph most of all. Jesus, too, was very busy. Everyone was busy because Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was coming Home. The Blessed Mother was coming Home! Everybody was very happy.



A beautiful throne was made for Mary. It had to be grander than any throne had ever been on earth because Mary was to be Queen of Heaven and Earth.

When everything was ready all the Angels, and all the Saints stood at the gate of Heaven to welcome Mary. Jesus stood at the head of them all, and Saint Joseph was right beside Jesus. Mary was on her way, from earth to Heaven! The Angels sang their loveliest songs.

When Mary entered the gate, Jesus led her to her throne. It was right near the throne of God. Then Jesus placed a crown on her head. This showed that she was the Queen of Heaven and Earth.

The Angels were happy to have their Queen. And Jesus, Mary and Joseph were happiest of all!

The Angels call Mary *Queen of the Angels*; the Saints call her *Queen of All Saints*; and we call her *Queen of Heaven and Earth*.

~ Taken from: *The Catholic Mother's Helper*. 1948 ~