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The reading was meant to encourage the early Christians by assuring them that God would finally triumph. It should assure us in the same way. Even though the figure of the woman in the first place represents the Church, it can be seen as representing Mary. As the mother of Jesus, she was at the heart of the battle between God and the powers of evil. Therefore it is entirely fitting that (through her assumption) she should share in the spoils of victory.

FEASTS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday: St Bernard

PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 8.00pm: Parish Prayer Group

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for George Henry Dyke who died on 23rd July 2016. His funeral service will be at Teddington Cemetery on **Monday 22nd August at 12noon.** May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. AMEN

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Grace Gibbs, Simon Leo, Paul & June McMahon, Michael Boyle, Maureen Allen, Eileen Hurley, Elizabeth O'Daley, Ellen Basci, Joan Gallagher, Kay Kennedy, Stephane Patten, John Sewter, Ryan Morison, Keith Fraser, Ronnie Xavier, Marie Elsey, Christopher Browne, Mary Wallace, Rosa Vitolo, Elsie Malone & Colette Patten.

ANNIVERSARIES

Vincent Fucco, Josephine Teresa Ferritto, Francis Duckett, Bernard O' Neill, Marmaduke Valentine Smith, Annie Grealish, Bernard Joseph Bull, Cyril Francis Harriott, Mary Agnes Matkin, Bridget Crosby, Harry Walter, Sidney Selleck, Christina & Joshua Gordon, Dorothy Mercer, Alfred Godfrey, Mary Lewendon, William Walsh, Bridie Mapstone, Roger Edward Cubitt, David Brayshaw, Henry McArdle, Tessa Pitts, Thomas Flaherty, Wilfrid William Hayward, Josephine Carroll, Ann Power, Giuseppe Sammarco, Libera Ricci Strafino, Marie Louise Crunelle, William Fry, Marion Sim, Eileen Porter, Bridget Barlow, Bill Marsh, Andrew de Quidt.

+++ May they rest in peace +++

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Christ Yesterday, Today & Forever

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard O'Brien

Deacon: Rev. Robert Beresford

Please visit our website regularly to keep abreast of important current issues.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 14th August 2016

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	Sarah & Louis Cronin
Sunday	9.00am	Arthur & Robin O'Connor
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Vincenzo Straccialano
Monday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	9.00am	Pauline Welham
Wednesday	9.30am	Dorothy Hall
Thursday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Friday	9.30am	In Thanksgiving
Saturday	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	John Chandler

Confessions: Saturday 10.00-11.00am, 18.00-18.15pm and at call

Baptisms: By previous arrangement

Marriages: Six months notice required - Diocesan rule

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MASS TIMES ON MONDAY & TUESDAY

The Book of Revelation describes the ultimate battle between God and evil represented here by the dragon (the serpent of Genesis). The woman represents the Church, and the child represents Christ (the Messiah). Like the woman in the vision, the Church was undergoing suffering and persecution. The dragon confronts the woman to devour her child. But the child is taken up to God - a reference to the ascension of Jesus. Jesus defeated the dragon and was exalted to God's right hand. The woman (the Church) flees to the desert to escape the persecution. There she is nourished by God, just as the Israelites of old. The final verse praises the triumph of God and Christ.

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PARISH NOTICES

Parish Prayer Group

The Parish Prayer Group meets every **Tuesday** at **8.00pm** in the church for rosary, praise and intercession. All parishioners are most welcome to join us.

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

This nationally accredited certificate provides an introduction to Catholic theology for teachers, catechists, chaplains and school governors. To find out more, come to the introductory evening on **Thursday 15th September** at the Centre for Catholic Formation, 21 Tooting Bec Road, London SW17 8BS from **7.30pm—8.30pm**. For enquiries ring 020 8672 7684 9 or go to www.ccftootingbec.org.uk. Further information may be found on the notice board and at the back of the church.

Mustard Seed

The next evening of renewal with an opportunity to grow in faith in the power of the Holy Spirit will be on **Saturday 27th August** at St Margaret's RC Church, East Twickenham, TW1 1RL, at **7.45 pm** for **8.00pm** until **10.00pm**. The evening will include praise, reflection, teaching plus individual prayer ministry for those wishing for it. The church is just by St Margarets railway station (with direct trains from Kingston). All are welcome.

Healing Signs and Wonders

On **Saturday 3rd / Sunday 4th September** The Cor et Lumen Christi Community are holding a Healing Signs and Wonders gathering at the City of London School for Girls, St Giles Terrace, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8BB. The event will comprise teaching from international speakers, praise and worship, adoration, reconciliation, prayer for healing, empowerment and consolation and holy mass. Booking is compulsory because only 600 places are available. The booking fee is £15.00. To book or for further information on this and other Cor et Lumen Christi events please go to www.coretlumenchristi.org or call 01932 565747.

Annual Southwark Day of Renewal

This will take place on **Saturday 8th October** at St George's Cathedral from 9.45am to 4.45pm on the theme of Charismatic Renewal and the Father's Mercy. The day will include a keynote presentation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a gentle Eucharistic Healing Service, and concelebrated Mass. Previous days have attracted large numbers of people from across the diocese who have been uplifted by a great atmosphere of prayer as well as being challenged and encouraged by the keynote speakers. The day is highly recommended. All are most welcome.

Parish Men's Group

The parish men's group will not meet during August. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 21st September**.

REFLECTIONS

Life's journey

For each of us life is a journey.

Birth is the beginning of this journey,
and death is not the end but the destination.

It is a journey that takes us from youth to age,
from innocence to awareness, from foolishness to wisdom,
from weakness to strength and often back again,
from loneliness to friendship, from pain to compassion, from fear to faith,
from defeat to victory and from victory to defeat,
until, looking backwards or ahead,
we see that victory does not lie at some high point along the way,
but in having made the journey, stage by stage.

Adapted from an old Hebrew prayer

First Reading: Apocalypse (Revelation) 11: 19, 21: 1–6,10

Many members of the congregation will find this reading distasteful if not offensive. It is full of symbolism and imagery that might not speak as powerfully today as when it was first written and read. But in this graphic depiction there is an extraordinary message of hope: the followers of Jesus will suffer, but evil will not triumph.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20–26

An extract from Paul's theology of Christ as the new Adam, Christ reverses the consequences of Adam's sin and brings to fulfilment God's plan in creating Adam: 'Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man.' All are destined to share in Christ's victory over death – this is our Christian hope and Mary is our sign.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 39–56

The story of the Visitation requires us to stretch our powers of interpretation to make the link with the Assumption. Luke describes the joy that characterises the encounter between these two pregnant women, their solidarity with one another, and how each is a sign to the other of God's fidelity to his promise of salvation for his people. Of course we can echo today Elizabeth's greeting: 'Of all women you are the most blessed'. But perhaps we can also see in these two pregnant women an image of ourselves today, the followers of Christ pregnant with the Good News of Christ's victory over death, called to set out with haste to bring that news to others and to share the joy of that hope.