

## Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 15/8/2021.

When you're in trouble, whenever you're in a battle as we are in this world war against the Covid pandemic, then you need all the allies that you can find, and we have no better ally than Mary. She's always on our side, always inspiring us by her example, always praying for us and pointing us in the right direction towards her Son, the Saviour of the world.

Every year in August Mary offers us a poignant reminder about the hope of our faith; that our present lives and our final destiny are forever bound up with that of Jesus and the good He has achieved for us through his self-giving death and resurrection. Mary, who listened and said her continual yes to God's will and plan, shows us that in doing likewise we can find peace here and now and the fullness of life in the world to come.

When uncertainty abounds and fear and despair abounds as is the case in this time of ours, Mary offers us a deep well of hope that never dries up. As we heard in her Magnificat, she looked to all that wonders that the Mighty God had done for her. She focused on the graces, gifts and blessings that God bestows, praising God's holiness. She put aside her own humble efforts, fears and doubts, for she knew that God would be faithful, setting people free just as God had promised from of old.

Mary grasped the truth that her trials and challenges, while not small, were nothing when compared to the mercy of God which has the power to put people at rights with God and one another, in justice and peace. This is what mattered most of all to Mary. Her confidence in God is what merited her crowning with glory, the heart of this Solemnity of her

Assumption. As the Preface opening the Eucharistic Prayer of thanksgiving says; She is the beginning and the image of God's church, God's faithful people coming to perfection. She is also a sure sign of hope and comfort to us, God's pilgrim people.

Which is precisely what we are and how we have to think of ourselves in this and every time and age; as a pilgrim people on a journey of faith through this ever changing world whose attention is firmly fixed on our destination and the glory of the resurrection that is coming.

In this celebration of the Mass let's take a moment then to count up and be grateful for our many blessings and gifts, offering thanks to God for our wellbeing and for all who are helping us to keep safe and secure in the midst of this global crisis. Adopting the heart and meaning of Mary's Magnificat, we choose with her to magnify the great kindness of God towards us, while travelling towards our home with the Lord, where the proud hearted are routed, the exalted made lowly, the hungry are filled with all good things and the least and last are made great and first of all.