THE CATHOLIC CHURCH of SAINT BIRINUS
DORCHESTER-on-THAMES

SUNDAY 16th AUGUST 2026
MONTH OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN
PENTECOST XII
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

SUNDAY At Dorchester	**16**	**SUNG ENGLISH MASS at Berinsfield** **SUNG LATIN MASS**	**9.30am** **11.00am**	***for the people of the Parish*** ***Jacquie Harding (A)***
Monday	**17**	**Feria II**	**9.30am**	***Vincent Keown (A)***
Tuesday	**18**	**Feria III 9.30am**		***Suzanne Hurley (sick)***
Wednesday	**19**	**Feria IV Votive Mass of St Joseph (*Latin)***	**8.00am**	***BPMF****
Thursday	**20**	**St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church 9.30am**		***BPMF****
Friday	**21**	**Pope St Pius X *Fast & Abstinence***	**9.30am**	***Patricia Sunley (sick)***
Saturday	**22**	**Immaculate Heart of Mary (*Latin)***	**9.30am**	***Joseph & Emma, Wedding***

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY 6.00pm ***Margaret Wileman (A)***

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 5:15-5.45 pm or by appointment with the Priest. * Birmingham Perpetual Mass Fund

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING GENEROSITY TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE GLORIOUS ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

In England, before the Protestant Reformation, the Feast of Our Lady's Assumption into Heaven was celebrated with great solemnity and was called by our forefathers "the feaste of Our Ladye Seynt Marie in Harvest." The Church teaches that the Immaculate Virgin Mary, preserved 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 Her Divine Son as Queen over all things, so that, She might be the more fully conformed to Her Son, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Conqueror of sin and death.
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a singular participation in Her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians.
JESUS CHRIST the SAVIOUR is the "First Fruits", and Mary His Mother is the beginning of the Harvest, of which, one day, please God, we shall be part.

"In giving Birth You kept Your Virginity.
In your dormition You did not leave the world O Mother of God,
But were joined to the Source of Life. You conceived the Living God,
And by Your Prayers, You will deliver our souls from death."
The Byzantine Liturgy : Troparion: Assumption of the Mother of God.

In Her complete obedience to the Father's will, to His Son's redemptive work, and to the "ever prompting of the Holy Spirit, Mary is the Church's model of faith and charity. Thus, She is the pre-eminent and wholly unique member of the Church. She is the exemplary realisation or "type" of the Church. Her role in relation to the Church and to the whole of humanity goes still further.
In a wholly singular way, Mary cooperated by Her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity in the Saviour's work of restoring supernatural life to our souls. For this reason, She is Mother to us in the order of Grace.
"Taken up to the Glory of Heaven , the Blessed Virgin intercedes for us to receive gifts
Of eternal salvation…therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked under the titles of:
ADVOCATE, HELPER, BENEFACTRESS, AND MEDIATRIX."

"We cannot love Mary too much, for we cannot love Her more than Jesus did"
St Maximilian Mary Kolbe – martyred in Auschwitz in 1941.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Jane Grenfell. 07833915724
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