

# OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, MUMBLES

## Reflection for

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 16, 2020

(May be used for Home Prayer Service)

Dominican Friars, Swansea

---

*This reflection may be used during the home prayer service. Please see the home prayer service sheet for details.*

### THE CHURCH SINGS THE GLORY OF MARY

With the assumption of Mary, God completes his glorious work in Mary. God's plan in Mary was initiated at the Immaculate Conception when God preserved her from the stain of Original Sin. At her assumption, the Church praises God who glorified Mary, the Mother of His Son and the Mother of the Church.

**Holy Mary, Full of Grace:** The special divine privileges which Mary enjoys have been traced to Gen 3:15 when God declared that redemption would come into the world through a woman. Mary has been understood as that woman who brought redemption into the world in giving birth to the Saviour of the world. This divine promise was fulfilled when God declared Mary as being 'full of grace' through the message of Angel Gabriel (cf. Lk 1:26-28). Mary had to be 'full of grace', 'blessed among women' (Lk 1:42) and incorruptible (1 Cor 15:54-57) for her to bear the Son of God. St John Damascene, writing as early as the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, said that Mary had to be sinless body and soul for her to be full, not half-full, of grace.

**Mary Glorifies the Lord:** After her earthly life, God did not allow the body of Mary, the Mother of his Son, to know corruption. Thus, he took her, body and soul, into heaven, to the place where he had prepared for her (Rev 12:6) so that "where I am, there shall my servant also be" (Jn 12:26). Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI preached thus, "This truth of faith was known by Tradition, was affirmed by the Fathers of the Church, and was a particularly important aspect in the veneration of the Mother of Christ" (Holy Mass on The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15 August 2012). In thanksgiving to the Lord for her Immaculate Conception, Perpetual Virginité and her Assumption, Mary says, "The almighty has done things for me, holy is his name" (Lk 1:49).

**Mary, the Bringer of Joy:** After she received the news that she would bear the Saviour of the world, she was also informed that Elizabeth, her elderly cousin, was also pregnant. Filled the joy of the Holy Spirit, she went with haste to rejoice

with her. Mary is our mother whom we gladly call the "Cause of our joy". When we feel sad about the course of our lives and joy is far from our hearts, she shares her joy with us and restore smiles to our faces.

**We Call her Blessed:** We are proud to call Mary blessed for indeed she is blessed. God declared her to be blessed in the message of the Annunciation when the world eagerly awaited her 'Yes' to the Word of God. Elizabeth called her 'blessed' at their meeting (Lk 1:42-45). Mary also prophesied that all generations would call her 'blessed' (Lk 1:48). In truth, every word of the Scriptures will be fulfilled (Mt 5:18). When we call her blessed, we imitate her humility and her holiness and so prepare to also become blessed like her.

**The Promise of the Church to Come:** The assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary anticipates the state promised to the rest of humankind. God has promised us immortality and eternity through the salvific plan accomplished in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. God took Mary into heaven so that she could enjoy this fullness of life. This is the life that we also hope to enjoy when we leave this earthly dwelling. As expressed on the Preface of the Mass for today, the assumption of Mary into heaven is the beginning and the image of the Church's coming to perfection, a sign of sure hope and comfort to God's pilgrim people. As God defended 'the woman with a child' in Rev 12:1-6, God also defends his Church from all evil so that she (the Church) will attain perfect glory with Mary and all the saints.

**Mary is our Mother:** Mary is our mother who cares for her children. She shares our joy and our pain. While we celebrate her glory today, we also remember that she is also our 'Mother of sorrows' who shared the pains of Jesus her Son. We believe that she is in heaven with her Son where she intercedes for us. With the Church, we joyfully pray, 'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.'