

SUNDAY *Plus*

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

The Mother of the Son



She who embraced Jesus as a vulnerable child also embraced him as the man who had fulfilled his mission through suffering.

The death of Jesus plunged Mary into the most intense anguish that has ever been lived by a human being, except for Jesus himself. She is truly the compassionate mother. Her heart is pierced by the suffering and death of her son in and through whom all human anguish is lived. The purity that made Mary the mother of the child Jesus also made her the mother of the man of sorrows. She who could not wound her son was most sensitive to his wounds. Therefore she, whose peace was deepest, also lived in the deepest anguish. Her anguish and the anguish of Jesus are as intimately connected as her peace was connected with

the peace of Jesus. Peace and anguish are both part of her motherhood...

Mary calls me back to where I'm most want to be: to the heart of God which, as you know, is also the heart of the world. She calls me to let the passion of Jesus become my passion and his glory become my glory. She calls me to move beyond the dos and don'ts of the morally correct life into an intimacy with God where I can live the sadness, pain and anguish of this world while already tasting the gladness, joy and peace of the glorified Lord... She will teach us at every moment of our lives how to choose the narrow road and so become more and more disciples with a heart [which is] broken for the world.

Henri Nouwen, *Jesus and Mary: finding our sacred centre*

God of joy and mercy, lift those who feel forgotten and downtrodden, hungry and hopeless. May we celebrate your love.  Amen.

God's Mother – and ours

"It was fitting that she, who had kept her virginity in childbirth, should keep her own body free from all corruption even after death. It was fitting that she, who had carried the Creator as a child at her breast, should dwell in the divine tabernacles... it was fitting that God's Mother should possess what belongs to her Son and that she should be honoured by every creature as the Mother and the Handmaid of God."

St John Damascene (675-749)

In order to live eternally, we do not need to cheat death, but to serve life, by caring for others in this, our time together.

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week Wednesday 19 August

Blessed Hugh Green (c. 1584-1642)

Blessed Hugh Green was a courageous English priest and martyr, whose life bore witness to steadfast faith amid persecution. Born in London and raised Anglican, he converted to Catholicism and studied at Douai College, France, where he was ordained in 1612. Returning to England, he served covertly as chaplain at Chideock Castle, ministering to Catholics in Dorset during a time of intense repression. In 1642, while attempting to obey a royal edict banishing priests, he was arrested and condemned for his priesthood. His execution in Dorchester was brutal, yet he remained serene, offering absolution to fellow prisoners before death. Beatified by Pope Pius XI in 1929, Hugh Green is remembered as a symbol of fidelity, mercy and pastoral courage. His example calls us to stand firm in faith, even when the cost is great, and to serve with compassion in the face of injustice.



READINGS

Today:
Apocalypse 11:19;
12:1-6, 10
1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Luke 1:39-56

Monday:
Ezekiel 24:15-24
Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday:
Ezekiel 28:1-10
Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday:
Ezekiel 34:1-11
Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday:
Ezekiel 36:23-28
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday:
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday:
Ezekiel 43:1-7
Matthew 23:1-12

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 22:15, 19-23
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20