



The Assumption of Our Lady

This Sunday we celebrate the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven (transferred from its normal day on the 15th). The First Reading at Mass is taken from the very last book of the Bible – the Book of the Apocalypse (or ‘Revelations’). Both this book, and today’s feast, convey the same message – namely, that our true homeland lies in heaven, and nothing on this earth – however good it may be – can ever give us the lasting and perfect happiness for which we long. By reason of her sinless life and heroic virtue, Our Lady has merited to be taken up into heaven already, to live forever alongside her divine Son. We hope – by striving to live good lives, and trusting in the grace of the Sacraments – one day to join them. Meanwhile, like travellers fixing their eyes on the light of a guiding star, we need to keep our eyes fixed firmly on heaven – and ask the prayers of Our Lady, that where she is now, she may bring us one day to join her.

September – help needed! Please volunteer!

As we reach mid-August, we need to start thinking about September. It is likely that numbers attending Mass will increase, as people return from their holidays and schools resume. Therefore, we have all the more need of volunteers to assist in stewarding on Sundays – increased numbers at Mass will mean more help is needed, and while the situation with COVID-19 remains uncertain and worrisome, we can’t afford to take any risks in church.

Monse and Sara have once again volunteered to co-ordinate a rota of helpers, and I am truly grateful to them for their assistance.

As before, there is a ‘Doodle’ where you can sign up to help out for the Masses most convenient to you. The link is here –

<https://doodle.com/poll/8kacvqsc8nasine>

If you have trouble using the Doodle, or have any other questions, you can email Monse and Sara at this address –

holyghostvolunteers@gmail.com

As I have said before, during this COVID emergency, the parish depends on YOUR help more than ever before. So, if you can volunteer, please don’t hesitate to do so.

Gift Aid envelopes

Several people have asked about new sets of Gift Aid envelopes. These arrived some time ago – but for obvious reasons it has been impossible to distribute them. If you need a new set, please email our Gift Aid co-ordinator, Denis Cross, at this address –

balhamgac@rcaos.org.uk

Denis will then do his best to arrange delivery of your envelopes. Also, there are usually several blank envelopes at the back of the boxes, which you could also use for a few weeks. My thanks to all our Gift Aiders for their continuing support – and to Denis for his tireless work in co-ordinating the scheme here in Balham

Fr Richard away

I will be away, visiting my parents, from 18th – 21st August. Fr Frank Calduch will be supplying while I am away – however, please leave any routine business till after my return.

News of Fr Tom

Fr Tom is doing well and continuing his training prior to taking up his commission as a Royal Navy chaplain. Here are some recent pictures...

