

Feast of the Assumption

August 15th



Intentions

For all walking the journey of life alongside young people.

For all seeking comfort amidst despair and guidance within disillusionment.

For all with the courage to enter Mary's story.
For what else shall we pray...

Opening Prayer

Mary, woman of listening, open our ears;
grant us to know how to listen to the word of your Son Jesus among the thousands of words of this world;
grant that we may listen to the reality in which we live, to every person we encounter, especially those who are poor, in need, in hardship.

(Pope Francis, 31 May 2013)



We Listen

Psalm 16 sings, "You will not allow the one you love to see the pit; you will reveal the path of life to me, give me unbounded joy in your presence." Those whom God loves, the psalm promises, will be raised up above the thousand daily deaths that come into every life. When we raise our hearts and souls to God, the things that drag us down will lose their grip on us. When we refuse to become imprisoned by things and status and ambition and self and greed, our souls are set free and our bodies are unburdened. Life becomes livable again. Enough becomes enough. God becomes God again.

But where can we possibly go to find someone, whose life is not tethered to the earth to the point of death? What proof do we have that anyone can rise above what we want to what we can become? The answer surely is Mary of the Assumption whose love of God lifted her far above the goals and gains of those who had never really seen the Christ for what he was, because their mind's eye was taken up totally with what they were themselves.

Mary of the Assumption teaches us to keep our eyes on the things of heaven; to free ourselves from the fetters of anything lesser; to develop a vision outside of ourselves; and to allow ourselves to be lifted up beyond the petty and the transient to the eternal and the unalloyed. Mary of the Assumption is a sign of what we can become if we are willing to let go of what we have planned for ourselves.¹

—from *In Pursuit of Peace: Praying the Rosary Through the Psalms*, by Joan Chittister

¹ To view the full homily offered by Joan Chittister on the Feast of the Assumption [click here](#)

We Reflect

"Those whom God loves will be raised above the thousand daily deaths that come into every life"

Over the past week, where have you experienced God's presence in the form of joy, love, comfort and peace?



Closing Prayer

Join in the litany of praise to Mary, considering what each statement offers to you in your life¹:

Reader: *Mother of God, you risked saying yes to being pregnant with the seed of the Holy One,*
Response: *May I also overcome my fears and take the risks that growth requires of me.*

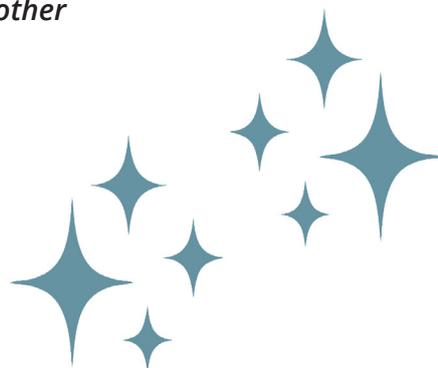
Reader: *Mother of God, you did not know how the birth of your child would affect your life,*
Response: *May I trust in God's presence to protect and guide me when I face uncertainty.*

Reader: *Mother of God, you found kinship with your pregnant cousin Elizabeth,*
Response: *May I recognise the Elizabeths who sustain and encourage me.*

Reader: *Mother of God, you felt the child within you stirring and kicking,*
Response: *May I deepen my awareness of God's stirrings in the midst of my life.*

Reader: *Mother of God, the newly born child in your arms engendered awe, mystery, and wonder,*
Response: *May I, too, reverence and be awed by the way that the Divine One enters my life.*

Mary our Good Mother...*pray for us*
St Marcellin Champagnat...*pray for us*
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop...*pray for us*
And let us always remember...*to pray for one another*



¹ from Joyce Rupp, 'Out of the Ordinary'