

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



## The Parish Mass

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021

10.15 am



## ¶ Keeping everyone safe at St Matthew's

**If you have any of the recognised Covid-related symptoms, please self-isolate immediately and seek a test.**

For all others we respectfully ask you to:

**Wear a face covering whilst in church** unless you belong to one of the medically exempted groups. To be effective this should cover your nose as well as your mouth.

**Orders of service are available in the porch,** please pick one up having first used the hand sanitiser provided.

**Nave seating** You may sit where you wish. Couples, households and former 'bubbles' in particular are now able to sit together if they wish. More generally, **we ask you to respect one another's space**, spread out, and take advantage of our spacious environment. Individual chairs remain available in the transepts. As far as possible, we ask that you keep the touching of other surfaces to a minimum.

**The church toilet facilities are available for use.** Please follow the directions on the signs, and leave the cubical light on and the door open after use, to facilitate ventilation.

**Holy Communion** will be administered in one 'kind' only, standing, at one or two 'stations' at the front of the nave. Please approach via the centre aisle and return via the side aisles. For mutual protection, we ask that you keep your face covering on until the words of administration have been spoken, and you have responded by saying 'Amen'. If you have difficulty being mobile please let us know, sit on the end of a row, and we will come to you.

**After the service** - please depart via the main porch sanitizing your hands as you leave. (Weather permitting the north porch door will be left open to facilitate ventilation).

**Please do join us on the green** for fellowship afterwards.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

*All stand at the sound of the bell*

Priest † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**All Amen.**

## The Greeting

**All** This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Words of welcome and introduction are said*

## Invitation to Confession

Today the Church honours the humble maid of Nazareth  
through whom the world received its Saviour.  
We rejoice that she shares in the glory of her Son in heaven,  
from where she watches over us still.  
Let us turn to God who, as Mary said,  
is rich in love and mercy.

*Silence is kept*

## Kyrie Confession

**All** You made us to be one family,  
yet we have divided humanity.  
Kyrie eleison.  
**Kyrie eleison.**

You were born a Jew to reconcile all people,  
yet we have brought disharmony amongst races.  
Christe eleison.

**All**            **Christe eleison.**

You rejoice in our differences,  
yet we make them a cause of enmity.  
Kyrie eleison.

**All**            **Kyrie eleison.**

## Absolution

*Priest*        May God our Father † forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to the fellowship of his table in heaven  
with Mary and all his saints for ever.

**All**            **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

**All**            **Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray that we will join Mary in the glory of heaven.

Almighty God,  
whose mercy is from age to age,  
we praise you for the working of your grace  
in Mary, Mother of the incarnate Word.  
As she has been welcomed into your heavenly dwelling,  
so let our hearts be set heavenward,  
and our lives be open to the power of your Spirit,  
so that with Mary we may glorify your name for ever.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

*All*

**Amen.**

*All sit*

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading                      Revelation 11.19 - 12.6,10

*Reader*                      A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavily hail.

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birthpangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.'

*All* This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 45.10-17**

Hear, O daughter; consider and incline your ear;  
forget your own people and your father's house.  
So shall the king have pleasure in your beauty;  
he is your lord, so do him honour.

*All* **At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

The people of Tyre shall bring you gifts;  
the richest of the people shall seek your favour.  
The king's daughter is all glorious within;  
her clothing is embroidered cloth of gold.

*All* **At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

She shall be brought to the king in raiment of needlework;  
after her the virgins that are her companions.  
With joy and gladness shall they be brought  
and enter into the palace of the king.

*All* **At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

'Instead of your fathers you shall have sons  
whom you shall make princes over all the land.  
'I will make your name to be remembered through all generations;  
therefore shall the peoples praise you for ever and ever.'

*All* **At your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

# Holy Gospel

Luke 1.46-55

## Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

**All Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

And Mary said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Homily

**All sit**

# The Nicene Creed

*Please stand*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

*All may  
bow* **For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of the Faithful

*Priest* Let us pray to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
with Mary and with the Church,  
interceding for the grace to do his will.

**All sit**

*Intercessor* We say with Mary:  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

**All Holy is your name.**

For the God-fearing,  
that God will look with favour on them  
from generation to generation, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

**All Holy is your name.**

For justice in all the earth,  
that with a mighty arm God scatter the proud,  
cast down the haughty, and lift up the lowly, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

**All Holy is your name.**

For the hungry, that they may be fed, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

**All Holy is your name.**

For those who hunger after righteousness,  
that they may be filled with good things, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

**All Holy is your name.**

For the just distribution of the wealth of the world,  
that none go hungry while others are surfeited, let us pray  
to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

**All Holy is your name.**

For the Jews, the descendents of Abraham,  
that they be faithful to their ancient covenant with God  
and that we with them inherit the promises of God,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All** Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.  
**Holy is your name.**

*Here other intercessions, for the acutely ill and departed are offered.*

For all the people of God, that with blessed Mary,  
the virgin mother of our Lord, and with all the saints,  
we rejoice as children and heirs of God,  
redeemed by Christ her son,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All** Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.  
**Holy is your name.**

*Priest* The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Christ have come.  
We proclaim the greatness of the Lord,  
and we rejoice in God our Saviour,  
praising God in his Son our Lord, now and for ever.

**All** **Amen.**

**All stand**

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Sign of Peace

Jesus said, 'Whoever does the will of God  
is my brother, and sister and mother.'  
As we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all,  
especially members of the household of faith.

**All** The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

As you feel able, let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

# Hymn

**All**

**Sing we of the blessèd Mother  
Who received the angel's word,  
And obedient to his summons  
Bore in love the infant Lord;  
Sing we of the joys of Mary  
At whose breast that child was fed  
Who is Son of God eternal  
And the everlasting Bread.**

**Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
Of the sword that pierced her through,  
When beneath the cross of Jesus  
She his weight of suffering knew,  
Looked upon her Son and Saviour  
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,  
Saw the price of man's redemption  
Paid to set the sinner free.**

**Sing again the joys of Mary  
When she saw the risen Lord,  
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
Waited for his promised word:  
From in high the blazing glory  
Of the Spirit's presence came,  
Heavenly breath of God's own being,  
Manifest through wind and flame.**

**Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
When on earth her work was done,  
And the Lord of all creation  
Brought her to his heavenly home:  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessèd,  
Raised on high and crowned with grace,  
May your Son, the world's redeemer,  
Grant us all to see his face.**

Words: George B Timms (1910-1997)

Music: Abbot's Leigh  
Cyril Taylor (1907-1991)

## Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,  
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**All** **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, receive this offering of our service.  
You raised the Virgin Mary to the glory of heaven.  
By her prayers, help us to seek you and to live in your love,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

**All** The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

**All** Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

**All** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today the virgin Mother of God was taken up into heaven,  
to be the beginning and the pattern of the Church in its perfection,  
and a sign of hope and comfort for your people  
on their pilgrim way.

You would not allow decay to touch her body,  
for she had given birth to your Son, the Lord of all life,  
in the glory of the incarnation.

In our joy we sing to your glory  
with all the choirs of angels:

**All**      **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please remain standing*

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**All**

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Lord of all life,

help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,

gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,

St Matthew and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,

for ever and ever.

**All**

**Amen.**

*The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung*

## The Lord's Prayer

**Please sit**

Let us magnify the Lord

as we pray together in the words he taught us:

**All**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the Light of the world.  
*All* **God here among us, light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## Agnus Dei

*All* **Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace.**

## Invitation to Communion

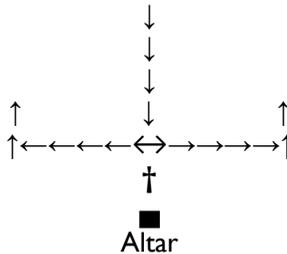
I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia!  
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.  
*All* **Blessed are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb. Alleluia!**

## Giving of Communion

All generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me.

*Holy Communion, or God's blessing, is administered standing  
at a 'stations', as indicated.*

*Please approach the priest via the centre aisle and return to your seat  
via the side aisles whilst maintaining physical distancing.*



## Spiritual Communion – for those at home

*It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:*

### Act of Reception

**All**      **In union, blessed Jesus,  
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church  
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,**

*(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)*

**I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,  
for creation and all the blessings of this life,  
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,  
and resurrection,  
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.**

*(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)*

**I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,  
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,  
I pray you to come into my heart.  
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,  
my soul, and my mind.  
Let nothing separate me from you;  
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,  
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.  
Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

*There may follow a period for silent prayer and reflection*

*Priest* Let us pray:

O God,  
you have made us partakers in the food of heaven.  
On this feast of blessed Mary,  
let us rejoice in the fullness of your grace  
and your desire to lead us to the glory of heaven.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

## Notices for the Community

## ¶ Sending Out

*Priest*            The Lord be with you  
*All*                **and also with you.**

### Solemn Blessing

*All*                May the Father,  
                      who has loved the eternal Son  
                      from before the foundation of the world,  
                      shed that love upon you his children.  
*All*                **Amen.**

*All*                May Christ,  
                      who by his incarnation gathered into one  
                      things earthly and heavenly,  
                      fill you with joy and peace.  
*All*                **Amen.**

*All*                May the Holy Spirit,  
                      by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
                      give you grace to carry the good news of Christ,  
                      and find with her your home in heaven.  
*All*                **Amen.**

*All*                And the blessing of God almighty,  
                      the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,  
                      be upon you and remain with you always.  
*All*                **Amen.**

*All turn and face the Madonna and Child sculpture*

# Angelus Domini

(Luke 1:28 ff)

**All** The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,  
**and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. (3 rings)  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All** **Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**All** **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary ...

(3 rings)

And the Word was made flesh,

**All** **and dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary ...

(3 rings)

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

**All** **that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray.

Lord, open our hearts to your grace.

(9 rings)

Through the angel's message to Mary  
we have learned to believe in the incarnation of your Son.

Lead us by his † passion and cross

to the glory of his resurrection.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

The Mass is ended, go in peace.

**All** **Thanks be to God.**

# Organ Voluntary

Toccata in F major

*Johann Pachelbel (1653 – 1706)*

*The Procession departs*

**Please take this booklet home with you**

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