

HOMILY FROM HOME BASE

QUARTETS No. 2: AUGUST

CORONA 32: THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

This year Feast of the Assumption will be held on 16th August (Sunday)

It has been a traditional belief of the Church that Our Lady, Mary the Blessed Virgin, has taken body and soul up to Heaven there to join the Kingdom of her Son. It was never declared that Mary was taken up alive to Heaven nor that she died and was then taken body and soul to Heaven. The principle is that Mary having been so close to her Son on earth was rightly reunited with Him in Heaven without delay. The Feast echoes of that of the Annunciation and in a sense encloses the picture from the 'Fiat' to the journey to Heaven. It includes her part in our Salvation, which would not have happened as it did without her 'Fiat'. This and her totally free from Original Sin makes her very special and make it appropriate that she who had been so close to our Divine Saviour in earth, close unto Calvary and at Pentecost, should be admitted to her Son at the end of her time on earth. There is also a second strand in this Feast: the Feast of the Assumption is also a Feast of Christ's Resurrection and Ascension. We believe, as Jesus, told us that He would go to His Father in the Kingdom and there prepare a place for us (John 14/1-6). We are told that Jesus returned from the dead and that we should in turn return from the dead to join Him in His Kingdom. What more totally appropriate was it was that Mary should be the first to join Him in that Kingdom without delay after her time on earth.

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There is a traditional Prayer—the Litany of Our Lady.

In this Litany we invoke Mary's help under the titles which we use for her: many of these carry different aspects of Mary's support for us. Here are a few:

Mother of Christ	Virgin most venerable	Mirror of Justice	Queen of Angels
Mother of the Church	Virgin most faithful	Seat of Wisdom	Queen of Martyrs
Mother of good counsel	Health of the sick	Ark of the Covenant	Queen of Families
Mother most lovable	Refuge of sinners	Gate of Heaven	Queen of Peace
Comforter of the afflicted	Help of Christian	Morning star	Queen of All Saints

Many of these titles bring Mary into the work of salvation: e.g. the Mirror of Justice reflects the Justice of Her Son: Virgin most Faithful—faithful she was unto death for her Son. Mother of Good Counsel: Mary was always wise and supportive: 'Do whatever He tells you to do.' (John 2). With Mary we are always close to her Son our Redeemer

(There is one final Feast of Our Lady—on 22nd August—where we celebrate Mary crowned in Heaven, and the joy and glory of all the saints.)

There to the Kingdom we shall all be with Jesus. His Mother is with Him and with us: we may be considered her as Queen Mother.