

Preston, Friday 15th August 2025

Assumption of Our Lady

“Signum magnum”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

“A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars¹.”

We should know really well the feast of the Assumption through our meditation of the 4th glorious mystery of our rosary. After her life on earth, Marie was taken by the angels to meet again with Her Son and receive from His sacred hands the imperishable crown of the glorification. She received even more, as, alongside the resurrection of Her body, she was also crowned queen of Heaven and Earth.

The Fathers of the Church are not all in accordance whether Our Lady died or just passed from this world to the glorious one. However, I would like to share with you these thoughts received from our Fathers and repeated by numerous saints that we cherish dearly:

“‘God wanted the Blessed Virgin to die, but a happy and peaceful death,’ which the Fathers called a sweet sleep, a Dormition. This death was real, but it was a death of love, a death whose immediate cause was Mary's love for God, as St. Francis de Sales, Bossuet, and St. Alphonsus Liguori stated.

The Blessed Virgin died, the Blessed Virgin rose again, the Blessed Virgin was raised in body and soul to the glory of Heaven, where she sits at the right hand of her Son. Abundant fruits of grace are flowing for us since the Assumption of Our Lady. Entirely dependent on the mystery of Christ, the mystery of Mary is written in all things as an extension of the mystery of Christ, of which it is like a replica. The Holy Mother of God, united from all eternity to Jesus Christ in a mysterious way by ‘one and the same decree’ of predestination, has been and remains the associate of her Son in each of the mysteries of the redemptive Incarnation². And the Assumption of Mary corresponds to the Ascension of Jesus³.”

Following in all things Her Son, Mary has been victorious over the Devil and his numerous tricks and traps. Her path of salvation was a total union with Her Son, throughout His life, and when He went to Heaven, she suffered the grief of not seeing Him anymore, like she used to for the 33 previous years. Silently, she consumed herself in an offering of Love to God and Her Son. And when the time came, she went to see Him again forever.

¹ Apoc., 12, 1. Introit.

² Pius 12, *Munificentissimus Deus*.

³ Dom Roy, *Contempler Marie*, Chpt 5. (translated with www.deepl.com).

We celebrate this year the 75th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Assumption. On the 1st November 1950, Pope Pius 12 declared that Her Assumption was part of the mysteries of our Faith, and we had to hold it for certain. In doing so, the Pope also desired to strengthen our devotion to our Mother in Heaven who was granted such a privilege because she was the Mother of God. Being the Mother of Our Creator, she was also to become our own mother, and so is She. Therefore, as a dutiful and loving thanksgiving, we would like to renew again our consecration to Mary, as true sons and daughters of Her:

“Hail, then, O immaculate Mary, living tabernacle of the Divinity, where the Eternal Wisdom willed to be hidden and to be adored by angels and by men! Hail, O Queen of Heaven and earth, to whose empire everything is subject which is under God. Hail, O sure refuge of sinners, whose mercy fails no one. Hear the desires which we have of the Divine Wisdom; and for that end receive the vows and offerings which in our lowliness we present to thee⁴.”

I finish these few words with an excerpt of Pope Pius 12’s prayer on St Peter’s square, on the day this marvel of the Lord was solemnly proclaimed:

“We believe (...) that, in the glory where you reign, clothed in the sun and crowned with stars, you are, after Jesus, the joy and gladness of all the angels and saints... Draw us with the sweetness of your voice, to show us, one day, after our exile, Jesus, the blessed fruit of your womb, O merciful, O compassionate, O gentle Virgin Mary⁵.” Amen.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

⁴ St Louis-Marie Grignion de Monfort, *Total consecration to Mary*.

⁵ Pius 12, *to the faithful on St Peter’s square*, 1st Nov. 1950.