



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

Excerpts of the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII

MUNIFICENTISSIMUS DEUS

November 1st 1950, *defining the dogma of*

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



The Assumption of the Virgin, about 1392–1402, Niccolò da Bologna, from the Gradual of Niccolò di Lazzara for Santo Spirito in Farneta (Lucca), Getty Museum

Now God has willed that the Blessed Virgin Mary should be exempted from this general rule. She, by an entirely unique privilege, completely overcame sin by her Immaculate Conception, and as a result she was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body.

Thus, when it was solemnly proclaimed that Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, was from the very beginning free from the taint of original sin, the minds of the faithful were filled with a stronger hope that the day might soon come when the dogma of the Virgin Mary's bodily Assumption into heaven would also be defined by the Church's supreme teaching authority.

Actually it was seen that not only individual Catholics, but also those who could speak for nations or ecclesiastical provinces, and even a considerable number of the Fathers of the Vatican Council, urgently petitioned the Apostolic See to this effect.

During the course of time such postulations and petitions did not decrease but rather grew continually in number and in urgency. In this cause there were pious crusades of prayer. Many outstanding theologians eagerly and zealously carried out investigations on this subject either privately or in public ecclesiastical institutions and in other schools where the sacred disciplines are taught. Marian

Congresses, both national and international in scope, have been held in many parts of the Catholic world. These studies and investigations have brought out into even clearer light the fact that the dogma of the Virgin Mary's Assumption into heaven is contained in the deposit of Christian faith entrusted to the Church. They have resulted in many more petitions, begging and urging the Apostolic See that this truth be solemnly defined.

This belief of the sacred pastors and of Christ's faithful is universally manifested still more splendidly by the fact that, since ancient times, there have been both in the East and in the West solemn liturgical offices commemorating this privilege. The holy Fathers and Doctors of the Church have never failed to draw enlightenment from this fact since, as everyone knows, the sacred liturgy, *"because it is the profession, subject to the supreme teaching authority within the Church, of heavenly truths, can supply proofs and testimonies of no small value for deciding a particular point of Christian doctrine."* [Encyclical Mediator Dei promulgated Pope Pius XII in 1947]

Often there are theologians and preachers who, following in the footsteps of the holy Fathers, have been rather free in their use of events and expressions taken from Sacred Scripture to explain their belief in the Assumption. Thus, to mention only a few of the texts rather frequently cited in this fashion, some have employed the words of the psalmist: *"Arise, O Lord, into your resting place: you and the ark, which you have sanctified"*; and have looked upon the Ark of the Covenant, built of incorruptible wood and placed in the Lord's temple, as a type of the most pure body of the Virgin Mary, preserved and exempt from all the corruption of the tomb and raised up to such glory in heaven. Treating of this subject, they also describe her as the Queen entering triumphantly into the royal halls of heaven and sitting at the right hand of the divine Redeemer. Likewise they mention the Spouse of the Canticles *"that goes up by the desert, as a pillar of smoke of aromatic spices, of myrrh and frankincense"* to be crowned. These are proposed as depicting that heavenly Queen and heavenly Spouse who has been lifted up to the courts of heaven with the divine Bridegroom.

Moreover, the scholastic Doctors have recognized the Assumption of the Virgin Mother of God as something signified, not only in various figures of the Old Testament, but also in that woman clothed with the sun whom John the Apostle contemplated on the Island of Patmos. Similarly they have given special attention to these words of the New Testament: *"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women,"* since they saw, in the mystery of the Assumption, the fulfillment of that most perfect grace granted to the Blessed Virgin and the special blessing that countered the curse of Eve.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ Canon Wiener will be leaving Shrewsbury between August 8th and August 28th to visit Germany and to attend the chapter in Gricigliano. Please pray for the superiors of the Institute and all canons attending this year's chapter as also for Canon Wiener's safe return to Shrewsbury.

✦ During Canon's absence Father Anselm Gribbin will return to Shrewsbury to celebrate all weekday Masses between Wednesday, August 11th, and Sunday, August 22nd (incl.). The Masses on August 9th and 10th had to be cancelled.



Procession during a chapter at Gricigliano

✦ During the chapter meeting, Father Gerard McGuinness most generously agreed on coming to St. Winefriede's to celebrate the daily Masses between Monday, August 23rd and Saturday, August 28th (incl.). The usual Mass schedule applies. However, the Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday, August 24th and August 26th had to be cancelled.

✦ On Sunday, August 29th, Father Stephen Goodman of the Archdiocese of Birmingham (Wolverhampton) will come to us to celebrate the Mass at 12:30pm. We are most grateful for Father's generous offer to assist Canon Wiener who, due to COVID travel restrictions, will not be able to celebrate publicly for several days after his return. Father Gribbin will celebrate the weekday Masses of August 30th to September 4th.

SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS	
				CANON WIENER	FATHER GRIBBIN
Sun*	8 th Aug	12:30 pm	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	PI	PI
Mon	9 th Aug	10:00 am	MASS CANCELLED*		
Tue	10 th Aug	6:30 pm	ADORATION & MASS CANCELLED*		
Wed	11 th Aug	10:00 am	Commemoration of SS. Tiburtius & Susanna, Virgin, Martyrs	PI	George Rayment
Thu	12 th Aug	6:30 pm	St. Claire, Virgin	PI	Jack
Fri	13 th Aug	10:00 am	Commemoration of SS. Hippolytus & Cassian, Martyrs	PI	Kati
Sat	14 th Aug	10:00 am	The Vigil of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	PI	Anna-Maria Rayment 5 th birthday
Sun*	15 th Aug	12:30 pm	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	PI	PI

***Attention: On August 9th and 10th Masses and Adoration/Benediction had to be cancelled.**

**All Masses (incl. Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday and Thursday) are at
St. Winefride's Church, 187 Crowmere Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 5LA.**

Note that Adoration and Benediction on Tuesdays and Thursdays start at 5.30 pm before the 6.30 pm Mass.

St. Winefride's Presbytery, Mynd Close, Shrewsbury SY2 5RA
 Rev. Canon Michael Wiener, Prior of the House of Saint Chad
 email: canon.wiener@institute-christ-king.org telephone: 07311 44 33 23
 Rev. Anselm Gribbin, Assisting Priest - email: jagribbin@hotmail.com telephone: 07952 963641
 ICKSP website: <https://icksp.org.uk/shrewsbury/>