

# Feast of the Assumption – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022

*We have a mother in Heaven. And the Mother of God, the Mother of the Son of God, is our Mother. He himself has said so. He made her our Mother when he said to the disciple and to all of us: “Behold, your Mother!”. We have a Mother in Heaven. Heaven is open, Heaven has a heart.” – Pope Benedict XVI*

## Acknowledgment of Land, Seas, Skies and Waterways

We acknowledge the First Nations peoples of the lands, waterways and seas that make up the Cairns Diocese. We pay respect to the elders past, present and emerging. These lands, waterways and seas, always were, are and will be those of the First Nations peoples of these places.

## Introduction

The Feast of the Assumption, celebrated on August 15<sup>th</sup> acknowledges the Catholic teaching that Mary, born free of original sin, was assumed, body and soul to be with her Son and God in Heaven. Mary is a Saint that is honoured by believers, both past and present in the Catholic Tradition. She is considered not only to be the Mother of Jesus but Mother of the Church.

## Scripture – Gospel reading: Mary Visits Elizabeth [Luke 1: 39 – 56]

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be <sup>[a]</sup> a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

## Mary’s Song of Praise

<sup>46</sup> And Mary <sup>[b]</sup> said,  
“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”  
<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.



*Magnificat 1909. Fine Art. BritannicaImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016. [quest.eb.com/search/107\\_3349222/1/107\\_3349222/cite](https://www.britannica.com/search/107_3349222/1/107_3349222/cite). Accessed 8 Aug 2022.*

## Reflection by Bec Burns

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We may be familiar with the first part of this Reading, as the Visitation, where Mary sets off to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The second part is known as the Magnificat and is taught within the Religious Education Curriculum in Year 5 in Primary School and Year 10 in Secondary. These beautiful words from Mary remind us of the many women in the Bible who have sung songs of Praise to God, including Hannah, who like Mary, faced many obstacles and hardships in her life. However, both these women had the gift of faith, the strength of spirit and the foresight to know that love, gratitude, and humility is one of the most beautiful ways to show gratitude and love to God.

The assumption can place many images and questions in our minds. When I consider the Assumption and Mary being lifted into Heaven, I get a glimpse of hope in my world. A world which can at times be so full of fear and daunting. In the same way God shares a bountiful love with Mary, God shares that same love with me, and as God lifts Mary towards Heaven, I too can be assisted by God to be lifted out of the heaviness that the everyday world can bring. When I think and pray in this way I am lifted above my fear and doubt and because I am lifted, I can look down and see my life and supposed problems with new eyes, from new heights and I can gain a sense of the bigger picture. The Assumption can be for us a reminder that God is there, to lift us up, to help us see clearly and to give comfort when hope may be hard to come by and we are starting to see the world in ways other than the way God intended.

## Prayer

Father in heaven,

all creation rightly gives you praise.

In the plan of your wisdom, you gifted Mary to us who gave birth and cared for your son Jesus. She was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven.

May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Call to action

- Read Mary's Song of Praise together as a family, discuss what character strengths they see in Mary – and who in their lives also displays these strengths.
- If there is a relative you haven't made contact with for a while, contact them, perhaps alone or perhaps as a family – in person, by phone or facetime or perhaps even by letter.
- Talk with your children about what they do when they are finding the world they live in tough, or they have fears or doubts. Do they ever talk to God to see if God can help their spirits lift, give clarity to a situation or just remind them that they are loved?

