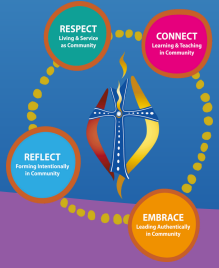


# Family Prayer



## Feast of the Assumption and Ordination of Bishop Joe Caddy 15 August 2024 by Rachel McLean, Director: Identity and Outreach

### Speaking to Country

Speaking to country is a way of connecting to the land, seas, skies and waterways which have held the ways of knowing, being, doing and valuing of First Peoples of the space we now call Australia for millennia.

In the North we listen for the winds that bring story, culture, song and dance that celebrate the First Peoples of Zenadth Kes, also known as Torres Strait, particularly, the Kaurareg peoples of Waiben and Kirriri. From the mainland, the winds come across the country of the Algnith, Kuku Yalangi, and Guugu Yimithirr Peoples.

From the South, we honour the Sovereign owners of the lands of the Jirribal, Gulngay, Wanyurr Majay, and Mamu People. We honour and hold the stories whispered in the seas, skies and waterways and commit to listening deeply and learning from this wisdom when it is shared with us.

In the West, we acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands of the Muluridji, Tableland Yidinji, Djungan and Mbar-Barrum Peoples. We witness the tenacity and strength of the First Peoples of the West, and all First Peoples of Australia.

In the East, we feel the Spirit of the First Peoples and revel in the wonders of reef and rainforest country, the lands, seas and waterways of the Yidinji, Gunggandgi, Bulway, Yirrigandji and Djabugay Peoples. We acknowledge that we are guests on Country and commit to live, learn and worship in these, and all spaces, with respect and hope.

Through connecting with Country and honouring relationships with each other, we encounter Christ and share our joy. As you enter into prayer you might like to call to mind the lands, seas, skies and waterways that are important to you, perhaps the ones that grew you up or the places that you now live, work and worship.



## Context: Assumption

Universally, in Catholic Churches both East and West[1], the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on 15th August – at the heart of the month. Embedded in the faith story of the early Church for centuries[2], the Dogma of the Assumption was declared by Pope Pius XII in 1950 – the second time that the infallibility of the Pope was invoked. Pope Pius XII's proclamation is known as “divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory[3].”

In eastern churches, it is known as the “Dormition of the Virgin” – or the ‘falling asleep’ of Mary. Ancient artwork, such as the Russian icon from the 19th Century pictured, “portrays the Apostles, who, alerted by Angels of the end of the earthly life of the Mother of Jesus, gathered at the Virgin’s bedside.

In the centre is Jesus, who has a little girl in his arms: she is Mary, who has become “little” for the Kingdom, being taken to Heaven by the Lord[4].” Those who gaze upon it contemplatively are invited to ponder the mystery that Pope Benedict XVI spoke of as: “A mystery of hope and joy for all of us: in Mary we see the destination for which are bound all who can interpret their life according to the life of Jesus, who are able to follow him as Mary did[5].”



Figure 1: The Dormition of the Virgin. Fine Art Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopedia Britannica, 25 May 2016. [https://quest.eb.com/images/108\\_239778](https://quest.eb.com/images/108_239778). Accessed 14 Aug 2024.

## Scripture

### A reading from the Gospel attributed to Luke

[LK 1:39-56](#)

Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”



Figure 2: Magnificat 1909. Fine Art. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016. [quest.eb.com/images/107\\_3349222](https://quest.eb.com/images/107_3349222). Accessed 22 Aug 2024.

And Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.”

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## Reflection

### by Maureen Gaul - Leader formation

**“Mary was assumed into heaven, and Joseph was assumed into Cairns”.**

Pope Francis explained that when Elizabeth spoke the words “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” to Mary during the Visitation ([Luke 1:42](#)), she expressed joy and hope[6] for the world to come, through the birth of the Son of God. This echoes the writings of Pope Benedict XVI, who reflected, “This Feast, then, speaks of our future. It tells us that we too shall be beside Jesus in God’s joy and invites us to take heart, to believe that the power of Christ’s Resurrection can also work in us, making us men and women who seek every day to live as risen ones, bringing the light of goodness into the darkness of the evil in the world[7].

Jesus, the perfect revelation of God, continued “the work of God in the entire history of his people”; moreover, “to tell us something much more important: that God, through her, has inaugurated a historical turning point; and has definitively established a new order of things[8]”.

This seems especially pertinent for the Catholic community in the Diocese of Cairns, where on the Feast Day of the Assumption, the eighth Bishop of Cairns, Bishop Joseph Caddy, was ordained. At the Episcopal Ordination, a ‘new order’ for Cairns was made clear by Archbishop Mark Coleridge’s opening remarks: *“Mary was assumed into heaven, and Joseph was assumed into Cairns”*. While it brought about a ripple of laughter, it does herald the beginning of a new era for the Cairns Diocese.

And what an enthralling liturgy it was to witness! To me, the experience of the ordination ceremony was simply intoxicating – such a heady mix of exquisite ritual, sacred song, rich prayer and fragrant incense... and all of this beneath the expansiveness of the Creation windows within St Monica’s Cathedral and surrounded by members of the local and national Church community. It felt mysterious, powerful and breath-takingly beautiful.



*Images: Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns (2024) Bishop’s Ordination photographs posted on Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns Facebook 19th August 2024.*  
<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicEducationCairns/>



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While the announcement and ordination were such gifts for the community to receive, there were priceless gifts of giving that were shared with Bishop Joe too. Prior to the mass there was a spectacular and moving Welcome to Country delivered by Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Elder, Uncle Henry Fourmile, and Sagerau Poenipan, the Gudamalu dance team from Boigu Island in the Torres Strait. The other heart-filled gifts were the hymnal tributes performed by Bishop Joe's father, John Caddy. John sang Rev Christopher Willcock's (SJ) specially-composed Responsorial Psalm "Sing to the Lord" (Psalm 98), and Post Communion Hymn "Magnificat", strongly and proudly. Dare I say, another gift could be the glorious location and (winter) weather of the Tropics?

At the intersection of two momentous occasions in the Church– the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the ordination of Bishop Joseph Caddy to the Diocese of Cairns – there seems to be a feeling of presence and accompaniment in the faith life of believers in the region. So, we turn to prayer through a Litany to Mary of Nazareth as we rejoice in our great blessings and ask her for a gaze capable of glimpsing Heaven on earth[9]:

## Prayer

Glory to you, God our Creator... **Breathe into us new life, new meaning.**

Glory to you, God our Savior... **Lead us into the way of peace and justice.**

Glory to you, healing Spirit... **Transform us to empower others.**

Mary, wellspring of peace...**Be our guide.**

Model of strength...**Be our guide.**

Model of gentleness...**Be our guide.**

Model of trust...**Be our guide.**

Model of patience...**Be our guide.**

Model of courage...**Be our guide.**

Model of risk...**Be our guide.**

Model of openness...**Be our guide.**

Model of perseverance...**Be our guide.**

## Call to Action

- How will you make Bishop Joe welcome to the glorious space we call home? How will you reach out to connect with our Diocesan Church as we enter a new era? Perhaps it will be to visit St Monica's Cathedral, or engage with the [Diocesan Social Media pages](#), or attending a Sunday Mass.
- Perhaps you could sit with some music that celebrates the Assumption: [Divine Praises](#) by Matt Maher and Audrey Assad or [Magnificat](#) by Beth Doherty.

## References:

[1] Pope Benedict XVI (2011) *Angelus on Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin's Assumption into Heaven 15th August 2011*. © Copyright Dicastery of Communication.

[https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/angelus/2011/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_ang\\_20110815.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/angelus/2011/documents/hf_ben-xvi_ang_20110815.html)

[2] Pope Benedict XVI (2011) *Angelus on Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin's Assumption into Heaven 15th August 2011*.

[3] Pope Pius XII (1950) *Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII Defining the Dogma of the Assumption November 1 1950*. © Copyright Dicastery of Communication. [1 Robert Macfarlane in Julia Baird, Bright shining: how grace changes everything. Harper Collins Pty Ltd. 2023.](#)

[2 Bruno Van de Vliet, The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ. South Asia Institute of Theology, March \(4\): 2017.](#)

[4] Pope Benedict XVI (2011) *Angelus on Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin's Assumption into Heaven 15th August 2011*.

[5] Pope Benedict XVI (2011) *Angelus on Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin's Assumption into Heaven 15th August 2011*.

[6] Pope Francis (2023) *Angelus on Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin's Assumption into Heaven 15th August 2023*. © Copyright Dicastery of Communication.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2023/documents/20230815-angelus.html>

[7] Pope Benedict XVI (2011) *Angelus on Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin's Assumption into Heaven 15th August 2011*.

[8] Pope Francis (2023) *Angelus on Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin's Assumption into Heaven 15th August 2023*.

[9] Pope Francis (2022) *Angelus on Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin's Assumption into Heaven 15th August 2022*.

