

MAY THE BLESSED MOTHER PRAY FOR US

Today's feast, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven, raises our hearts and minds to the future, to the glorious destiny to which in Christ you and I are called, to our true home, heaven. Every human being wants happiness, wants heaven, but we know we cannot find it in this world, for true happiness is possible only when we are united forever with God our Creator. That's what heaven is, union with God, and why today's feast should fill us with joy, for where Mary has gone, we too in Christ are invited to follow. Mary of course had a special privilege; as St. Elizabeth said to Her: *Of all women you are the most blessed and blessed is the fruit of your womb.* Just as God gave Mary a singular privilege at the beginning of her life, her Immaculate Conception, so too He gave her a singular privilege at the end of her life: that of being raised into heaven in the flesh as well as in spirit. It must have been a glorious moment, when *the choirs of angels rejoicing* Jesus welcomed Her into His arms. But heaven and the resurrection of the body is our calling too. So in this Mass, in which we thank God for giving us His Mother to be our Mother too, let's ask Her prayers. Let us pray for the grace to persevere in practicing our faith, so that one day we may be found worthy of a place in heaven.

Let me finish with a request for your prayers. For today in the parish of St. Anne on Alderney in the Channel Islands, I am pleased to announce a new initiative, called the Adoremus Centre. The Adoremus Centre, which will open next month with a resident priest and a community of contemplative nuns, will be a house of prayer to support the priests and people of our Diocese, especially praying for vocations and for God's blessing on the work and mission of new evangelisation. It will host a daily Conventual Mass, with Eucharistic Adoration and the Divine Office, live-streamed over the internet. As Catholics we face many serious challenges in contemporary culture, but this project, important for the spiritual well-being of our Diocese, shews our complete dependence on God and His providence. I thank God we can announce it today, and I place it under the patronage of Mary the Blessed Virgin. In this Mass, please pray to Her for God's blessing.