



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A sign of sure hope and comfort

Readings: Ap 11:19;12: 1-6, 10; Ps 44, 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, Luke 1: 39-56

The Church delights always and everywhere to rejoice in the example of our Blessed Mother, Mary and above all in the great feasts which the Church gives us.

The Assumption of Mary declares, beyond all doubt and question, the fate of the God bearer, the immaculate mother to whom God entrusted Himself in the incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Sinless from her conception, by the grace and virtue of the sacrifice of Christ, Mary retains that purity throughout her earthly life, ever pondering the mystery of her call and the Eternal Word which she has presented to the world, herself being the very portal of salvation.

In her coming to the end of her mortal life it is inconceivable that the Father would leave her to see corruption but rather sweeps her up into eternity.

In the great Orthodox ikons of the Dormition, the falling asleep as our Eastern friends call it, we see the disciples of Christ gathered round the the body of Mary at the very moment of her earthly life ending.

There, beside her, is her beloved Son holding the soul of His mother in His arms. The roles of the Nativity are reversed. Where the Immaculate Mother welcomed the Divine Saviour into humanity, now the Risen Lord welcomes her into His divinity and eternity.

Why does this matter for us? The answer will be given to us in the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer today. Mary was 'assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church's coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people'.

In short, beyond the purification which awaits us at the end of our earthly life, lies the reality that we are taken into the arms of our Saviour and become part of the glorious resurrection of the Body, revealed to us in the miracle of the Third Day.

Our fate is to share the destiny of Our Lady and dwell in eternity with her beloved Son and all the saints in light.

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