



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary-August 15<sup>th</sup> 2019

***Readings: Apocalypse 11: 19; 12: 1-6. 10, Psalm 44, 1 Corinthians 15: 20-27, Luke 1: 39-56***

Today, had she been alive, would have been my beloved mother-in-law's one hundredth birthday. We didn't initially hit it off. She thought I wasn't good enough for her daughter and I wasn't particularly interested in what she thought. Over the years and remarkably quickly we became great buddies and unshakeably fond of one another. She was an immensely talented person who, being from a poor family had foregone a place at Cambridge to work. Then wartime intelligence – of which she never spoke. A consummate actress who turned down TV to be a mother to her children and later the most wonderful grandma to ours. When she died, in the eighth year of her dementia, one simple phrase came to mind and we put it on her headstone: 'Iris – A life for others.' Iris came to Faith late in life but it always seemed to me to be appropriate that she shared this great feast day. For today we see in Mary the very highest revelation of that little tribute. Our Lady is the supreme exemplar of 'a life for others'. Everything she did and was and is made ready and safe and loved the revelation of our salvation in her beloved Son Jesus Christ Our Lord. In her obedience, in her faithfulness, in her openness to God, in her hardship, in her exile, in her widowhood, in her suffering, Mary truly lived the sacrificial life – all for others, all for you and me.

So today, on this great holy day, we rejoice that, at the end of her earthly life, this precious gift of Christ Himself from the Cross to His beloved disciples, should be honoured for her purity and fidelity and unfailing heart of love for Jesus, this Ark of the Covenant, this bearer of the Eternal Word, should not see mortal corruption but be lifted Heavenwards in the arms of the One who once rested in hers. For in her Assumption we see the eternal intention of Christ for all who, open to the Spirit, bear Him into the world. All who will become His saints. All who, in obedience to the crucified, risen, ascended and glorified Lord bear that memorial, 'A life for others' How blessed are we to have such a mother