



# ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

## [Mary Help of Christians Church]

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stedwardsouthtamworth>

Free Parish App **myFaith** (available in Apple Store or Google Play)



Rev. Fr Paul Aguilar, PP | Mrs. Liz Hearne, *parish secretary* | Rev. Paul Manvell, *deacon*

ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM (B)

15 AUGUST 2021



### First Reading | Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10

#### A reading from the Book of the Apocalypse

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready.

Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 44(45):10-12,16

*R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.*

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.  
 On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.  
 Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
 forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty:  
 He is your lord, pay homage to him.  
 They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
 they pass within the palace of the king.

### Second Reading | 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

#### A reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Mary is taken up to heaven,  
 and the angels of God shout for joy.  
 Alleluia!

### Gospel | Luke 1:39-56

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's

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greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;  
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.  
Yes, from this day forward  
all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Almighty has done great things for me.  
Holy is his name,  
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.  
He has shown the power of his arm,  
he has routed the proud of heart.  
He has pulled down princes from their thrones  
and exalted the lowly.  
The hungry he has filled with good things,  
the rich sent empty away.  
He has come to the help of Israel his servant,  
mindful of his mercy  
– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –  
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'  
Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went  
back home.

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

### **Our History, Our Story 1971-1981**

As the building of a new church became suddenly urgent, fund raising was stepped up. 'Bricks' in the new Church were sold again at 50cents each. The New Church Appeal was officially opened at a concert in Tamworth High School Auditorium, staged by talented parishioners and held in the presence of Vicar General, Monsignor Frank Ryan and the Mayor and Mayoress of Tamworth, Alderman and Mrs Norm MacKellar. The audience of almost 1,000 enjoyed themselves and \$1,200.00 was raised.

An Art Union was suggested and decided upon by the New Church Committee. The main prize was a Holden Commodore car. Tickets at 50c were great value. Parishioners generously gave of their time for ticket selling; they also gave names and addresses of their nearest and dearest so they could receive books of tickets and try their luck. Mike Moroney and Jim Hynes were organisers. Overall supervisor was Jack Dempsey who has been mentioned as the only professional in the early parish. There was plenty of other fund raising going on - Football Pools, a Simple Meal (mainly rice) Music Hall for two nights, bricks were still being sold and a Cocker Spaniel (pedigreed) was raffled and raised \$500.00.

A second art union was organised. This one raised \$8,000.00.

*(Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still...  
Recounted and written by Kitty Thomas)*

*(The Church Upon the Hill – Kitty Thomas)*

## **THE WORD IN OTHER WORDS**

### **First Reading | Commentary**

This vision of the Woman giving birth and of the huge red Dragon is bewilderingly rich in biblical symbolism. The context of the Book of Revelation is the struggle between the Church and the demands of Roman paganism, particularly the demand that all should worship the Emperor as God. The purpose of Revelation is to reassure the faithful of victory, despite the threat of martyrdom. The Woman represents Israel, the people of God, who gives birth to a son, the true ruler of the universe. The Dragon, of great sagacity and immense power, is the Roman Empire. The son is unhesitatingly whipped up to heaven in triumph, frustrating the evil Dragon of its prey and issuing immediately in the hymn of triumph. The perspective is, of course, foreshortened, omitting the details of Christ's earthly life, to show the certainty of the son's triumph. Secondly, tradition sees in the Woman the earthly mother of the Saviour, Mary, mother of Jesus and mother of the Church, who triumphs over all the powers of evil. The secondary symbolism, therefore, is that Mary is the great sign in heaven of triumph over evil. Evil has no hold on Mary, and her children are sure of victory.

### **Second Reading | Commentary**

On the Festival of the Assumption of Mary it is important to get things in the right order. Christ is the first-born from the dead. In him all will be brought to life, but all in their proper order. Mary is the first after her Son, and raised by her Son because she is part of his Body, the Church. The perfection of the Mother of the Saviour is won for her by her Son. He draws her after him in his retinue. In this chapter Paul is the teaching about bodily resurrection. This is not merely immortality of the soul, but the resurrection of the whole person, an animated body, not a soul hidden in a body. It is particularly fitting with regard to Mary, the physical mother of Jesus, who gave to him her genes, her personality, her features and her talents. If any son takes after his mother physically, it must have been Jesus. The declaration by the Church of the Assumption of Mary is an assertion of the saving value of all our activity, the healing touch, the conquest of pain, exhaustion, moodiness and physical temptation in all its forms. That is why Mary goes ahead of us all and leads the way to full resurrection.

### **Gospel | Commentary**

This gospel reading ends with the start of Mary's canticle of thanksgiving for God's gifts to her. But it starts with her bodily attention to the bodily needs of her elderly relative. With her own baby on the way, she would have plenty of other priorities, making her long journey a real act of kindness. Her canticle, sung daily in the liturgy of Evening Prayer, sums up God's faithfulness to his promises, focused on his gifts to this simple peasant girl. It combines a wonderful sense of the holiness of God with warmth of gratitude, showing the thoughts that revolved constantly in her mind. As is fitting in the mouth of a girl whose only knowledge of books was the Bible, Mary's song is a texture of scriptural phrases. We cannot assume that Luke wrote it down at Mary's dictation, for putting words in the mouth of his characters is a feature of Luke the historian; but it must reflect her thinking. If any theme resounds again and again throughout the Bible, it is God's care for the poor, the simple and those in need. It is this which sets the Hebraeo-Christian tradition apart from the ways of the world.

***In your charity, please pray for***

**Our sick**

Shelly Howlett	Barry Winning
Sally Shrago	Fr John Willis
Harryson Rits	Chris Fardy
Petrina (Fardy) Keys	Angela Allan
Ricky Lee Peachy	Jay Peachy
Addison Peachy	Narelle Albans
Julien Ryan	Laurence Hearne
Romeo Polinar	

**Recently Deceased**

+ Patricia Whale

**NEWS**

**Church Building**

Due to the snap lockdown, our church building is CLOSED. Public worship and visiting is suspended until further notice. A shrine was erected in the church foyer for people who wish to make a short visit.

For updates at visit our parish website:

<https://stedwardsparish.org.au/>

or follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stedwardssouthtamworth>

**Church Notices/Bulletin**

Sent out via email, if you want to be in our mailing list please notify us by phone or email:

[southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)

Also available on the parish website:

<https://stedwardsparish.org.au/> Hard copies are available in front of the church: Sat. 12pm-5pm, Sun. 8am-5pm.

**Daily Mass (Missa sine populo)**

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered to God daily (in private) at 12noon for the intention of the parishioners and friends of St Edward's Parish.

**Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests**

Kindly include in your prayers Reverend Deacon Damien Locke who will be ordained a priest of our Lord Jesus Christ for the Diocese of Armidale.

You can watch the Ordination Mass and his First Mass online:

**Ordination Mass | 10:00am Saturday 14 August 2021**

Link: <https://youtu.be/OXN3Xvl20zw>

**First Mass | 10.00am Sunday 15 August 2021**

Link: <https://youtu.be/3rRZ2iQM0o>

**TV / ONLINE MASS**

**HOW TO PREPARE FOR TV/ONLINE MASS**

1. Prepare yourselves well.
2. Do not watch it with a cup of coffee or tea in hand. Mobile phone in silent or flight mode.
3. Before the Mass, read the Mass readings to prepare yourselves to hear them better once they are proclaimed in the Eucharist.
4. Have a few moments too to think what you are to thank the Lord for and what to offer to him during this Mass.
5. Remember that you are praying this Eucharist with many other fellow Catholics not only in our parish but all over the world.
6. Stay in reverend gesture throughout the Mass, standing and sitting up properly when possible.
7. Do not watch the Mass. Join it with your prayers, responses and singing. Join in it with your family.
8. At the time of communion, make the Act of Spiritual Communion. At the end of the TV or online Mass, take some moment of silence.

**TV / ONLINE MASS SCHEDULE**

**TV Mass** - Channel 10, every Sunday 06.00am  
- Channel 44, every Sunday 11.00am

**Online:**

**St Mary's Cathedral (Sydney)** | Sunday 10.30am  
<https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/>

**St Patrick's Cathedral (Melbourne)** | Sunday 11am  
<https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/mass-online>

**Hornsby Cathedral Parish (Broken Bay)**

Daily Mass 7.00am, Sunday Mass 9.30am.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwlf7i14XB9TsVBrLvQ/videos>

**Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**PRAYER IN TIME OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

God our Father, we come to you in our need to ask your protection against COVID-19 that has claimed lives and has affected many. We pray for your grace for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and of stemming the tide of its transmission. Guide the hands and minds of doctors, nurses and all health care professionals that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and of those governments and private agencies that must find cure and solution to this pandemic.

Accord our frontline workers: wisdom, protection and compassion. Sustain all employees and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to shut-downs, quarantines, closed borders, and other restriction. Protect and guard all those who must travel. We pray for those afflicted may they be restored to health soon. Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need. Hold in your gentle embrace all who have died and who will die this day. Comfort their loved ones in their despair.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Mary Help of all Christians, *pray for us.*  
St Roch, *pray for us.*  
St Edward the Confessor, *pray for us.*

St Raphael the Archangel, *pray for us.*  
St Corona, *pray for us.*  
St Mary of the Cross, *pray for us.*

# A PRAYER SERVICE FOR YOUR HOME

*Keeping the Lord's day holy even in isolation.*

## 1. Set up a Sacred Space

*Gather a few religious items from around your house to make a small prayer space. Consider including:*

- A Bible
- A candle
- Holy Water
- A Crucifix, Cross, or picture of Jesus
- A rosary or images of Mary and the saints.
- Paper & pencils for writing prayer intentions
- If you have children, have them draw pictures of Jesus, or a saint and include their drawing.

## 2. Begin with the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## 3. Read and Reflect on the Sunday's Scripture Readings (page 1 & 2)

Begin each reading: A reading from...

End each reading:

*The Word of the Lord,  
R: Thanks be to God.*

End the Gospel reading:

*The Gospel of the Lord,  
R: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Watch a Gospel reflection Sunday Reflection:

<https://stedwardsparish.org.au/homily/>

or use these questions to reflect on one of the readings

For Adults:

- a. What words, images, or ideas stood out for you in the reading?
- b. How do those words, images, or ideas relate to your life right now?
- c. What is God saying to you? What is He asking you to do?

For Children:

- a. What's happening in this Bible story? What are the people thinking or feeling in this story?
- b. How do you see God working in this Bible story?
- c. What did you learn from this Bible story?

## Prayer Moves Us to Action

As we draw closer to the Lord in prayer, He helps us to see the needs of our brothers and sisters. Who do you see in need? • Write a thank you note to workers in hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores, etc. Thank them for working hard to insure health and safety for all of us. • Send snail mail! Make cards for elderly neighbours or the homebound to brighten someone's day. • Contribute towards the social justice initiatives of the parish.

## 4. Share Prayer Intentions

*Consider reading aloud these prayer intentions;*

*then go around and invite everyone present to share a prayer intention.*

Leader: Lord, we turn to you with all our hopes and fears, our joys and our sorrows. Hear our prayers, fill our hearts with hope, and grant us your peace.

Leader: For all people of faith, that we may find closeness to God and His Church, even in times of isolation. We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

Leader: For local and world leaders, may God guide them in making decisions for the common good. We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

Leader: For the sick, the vulnerable, the fearful, and the lonely, may God bring them healing, comfort, and peace. We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

Leader: For what else shall we pray? (Allow each person to share a prayer intention, responding after each prayer with:) We pray to the Lord. *R: Lord hear our prayer.*

## 4. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## 5. An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## 6. Closing Prayer

*Close with the following prayer of thanksgiving - even in difficult times, we can foster a heart of gratitude!*

Lord, we thank you for this time of prayer and for our community of faith who, even in this time of isolation, are drawn together in our continued worship of You. We entrust all our prayers, work, joys, and sufferings to You, Lord Jesus, and ask you to fill our hearts with hope and love.

*For what do we give thanks?*

*After everyone has a chance to share, end with:*

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good

All: His mercy endures forever.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.