

The Feast of the Assumption

Today is Sunday the 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption, beginning the Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time.

Nóirín Ní Riain sings the Magnificat, the song of Mary: "My soul glorifies the Lord. My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. He looks on his serv-ant in her lowliness. Henceforth, all ages will call me blessed." As I listen, can I sense the Lord looking on me in my lowliness, and can I rejoice in him and in all that he does for me?

Today we celebrate the beautiful feast of the Assumption. From its earliest days the Christian community has celebrated the day on which Mary, the Mother of God entered heaven as the 'yes' she gave at the Annunciation came to its fulfilment in the glory of heaven. This weekend's reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians highlights this promise of the resurrection.

The feast of the Assumption invites us to think about the effects of the resurrection on our life. Mary is an archetype for every disciple – she experiences the power of the risen Jesus in a way that we will all share. Thinking over some of the stories about Mary in the Bible, can you see Mary as the model disciple?

Jesus' death was as real as ours will be real, but we can trust that we will share in his resurrection just as surely. He comes to bring us life in all its fullness. Speak to Jesus now about how this feels...

The resurrection isn't just an historical event and our liberation from death isn't just something on a distant future horizon. The risen life of Jesus is on offer to us here and now. Do you experience any signs of resurrection in your life, in the world around you?

As you hear this reading again, how does it make you feel about the reality of death and the promise of eternal life? What, for you, would life lived to the full look like?

'All will be made alive in Christ' – how do you feel like responding to those words? As you speak to Jesus, or perhaps to Mary, is there a desire in you for something to come alive, or for something to die? What grace do you want to ask for right now?

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Today is Sunday the 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption, beginning the Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time.

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