The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour St Mary and St John St John the Baptist
Mortimer West End Stratfield Mortimer Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School St John's Church of England School Diocese of Oxford



From a window in the chapel at St Mary's Church, Stratfield Mortimer

The Stratfield Mortimer Parish Festival Eucharist for The Assumption into Heaven of Mary, the Blessed Mother of Jesus.

Trans. from the 15th August

13th August 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

this year at St. John's church, Mortimer.

and online at Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940

Prayer thoughts:

This Sunday marks Stratfield Mortimer's ancient patronal/matronal festival when, with Christians throughout the world, we join to mark 'the passing over' or earthly death of Mary and to give thanks for her life and example to us and all humankind.

The festival is known variously in different traditions and in different places as, for example, 'The Falling Asleep in Christ of the Blessed Mother,' 'The Repose of St Mary,' 'The Dormition of the Holy Mother,' and 'The Assumption into Heaven of our Lady' - to name but a few. The point, of course, is always the same, which is to honour Mary and give thanks for her loving mothering of Jesus and pray that we ourselves may find grace to learn from her example, emulate her brave and gentle virtues, and imitate in our own lives her humility and loving trust - thus honouring the one she honoured. And, perhaps, we might pray too that where she has gone before we might find grace to follow.

God bless, Paul

The Stratfield Mortimer Parish Festival Eucharist

The Assumption into Heaven of Mary,

the Blessed Mother of Jesus.

A warm welcome to the Parish Sunday Eucharist.

An induction loop is provided. To use, please turn your hearing aid to T.

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the vergers who will pass the information on to the clergy.

Online: If you are not able to come to St John's you are warmly invited to share in the Parish's Sunday Eucharist online. And may God bless and renew us as we join together to worship. Thank you.

THIS 'HOLY MEMORIAL' is known by various names: 1) 'The Eucharist' - which means 'Thanksgiving' - because Jesus offered himself in love; 2) 'The Lord's Supper' - or 'Breaking of the Bread' - because we celebrate it as a shared meal; 3) 'Holy Communion,' - because we become one with Christ by receiving him; and 4) 'Holy Mass' - holy sending - because it gives us a mission: to go in peace to serve the Lord.

The 'objectives' of the Eucharist: The community gathers for the public celebration of the Eucharist in order to worship God; ask his forgiveness for sins; thank him for blessings received; listen to his voice in the Scriptures; present the needs of the world and our own needs too; offer our lives to him and his loving service; gain spiritual nourishment and recharge our weakened spiritual batteries by sharing life with him in Holy Communion. The simple structure of the Eucharistic celebration is organized around achieving these goals.

THE GATHERING SONG

For Mary, Mother of our Lord, God's holy name be praised, who first the Son of God adored, as on her child she gazed.

The busy world had got no space or time for God on earth; a cattle manger was the place where Mary gave him birth.

Hail, Mary, you are full of grace, above all women blest; and blest your Son, whom your embrace in birth and death confessed.

THE GATHERING

Priest + In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

THE GREETING - Words of Welcome and Introduction.

The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us.

The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

The priest may introduce the Eucharist.

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The Invitation to Confession - we call to mind our sins that we may repent of them / turn from them and ask fogiveness of God and each other.

Priest My brothers and sisters,

as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's love,

revealed to us in Word and Sacrament,

let us call to mind our sins.

A pause for quiet reflection follows.

All I confess to almighty God,

and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault,

in my thoughts and in my words,

in what I have done and in what I have failed to do.

+ Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All Amen.

THE GLORIA

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Priest Let us pray.

Together we spend a few moments in silence, realising, and giving thanks, that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The prayer 'collects' our thoughts.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

through the loving mothering of Blessed Mary

we have come to see your goodness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Give us grace to find the same humility and trust that was in Mary

that, through our frailty and weakness,

the grace and truth of your love may be made known.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind and all creation.

In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his 'word.' We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern for our lives, 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts' (The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).

Either two or three READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE follow, the last of which is the Gospel.

THE FIRST READING - 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 54 - 57. - To be read by Roger Jones.

Reader A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'

'Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the reading:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Now we prepare to hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

All Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

My soul magnifies the Lord

Luke 1.46,47

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING - ST LUKE'S GOSPEL 1: 39 - 47.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you .

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Of all women you are the most blessed and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And 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.'

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

We are a Eucharistic community - united around word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. The sermon reflects on our readings and relates them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary daily life. After the sermon there may be a short period of silent reflection.

THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED

We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a 'thanksgiving people', a living community of his abiding self-giving love.

All We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world.

We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. Amen

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION

We are invited to pray for all people and for all creation and for the needs of the Church's mission in bringing Christ's Gospel to the world. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his prayer before the Father for the needs of the Church's mission to the world and for of people. Our prayer flows from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.

This Prayer of the Faithful, or General Intercession, is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and for our benefice - our parishes and our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities, families and friends; for the sick and suffering and for all in pain; and we remember those who have died. And in communion with Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people and all creation to God's saving love.

Priest: My brothers and sisters, let us pray to our heavenly Father,

in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in union with Jesus Christ, for the needs of the whole world.

The deacon or minister continues:

Heavenly Father, Mary rejoiced with Elizabeth and sang 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.'

Help us to live humble and joyful lives that sing your praise.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, your prophet of old foretold a day when a woman would bear a son who would be 'God-with-us.'

Help us to discern your presence with us and seek the full goodness of your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, your messenger declared to Mary that she would be the mother of the child who would be called holy and Son of God.

Help Christians everywhere, like Mary, to be open to the wisdom of your word and to trust in your loving will.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, with the example of Mary before them, guide in their ministries Justin our Archbishop, Steven our Bishop and Olivia our area Bishop.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the mission and ministry of your Church in this place dedicated, many centuries ago, to the care and prayer of the Blessed Mother Mary.

We pray for all who live in our parish and for all who see it at as home.

We pray for your blessing on our parish community's responsibilities for our children and young people and for the ministry and work of our village's schools of St Mary's and St John's.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, the poetic scriptures tell that Mary bore a son of David's line, a king whose reign would never end.

Bless our homeland and all the nations of the world with the peace of Christ.

Guide Charles our King, and give grace to our Government and District and Village Councils and to all in authority, that they may govern with wisdom and justice and seek always the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the suffering people of Ukraine, and for all who, like the Holy Family, have fled persecution and seek refuge. Help us, like Mary, to be channels of your peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, the child Jesus grew in wisdom and stature in the home of Mary and Joseph. Strengthen with your love all the homes and families of our parishes.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, Mary's heart was pierced as she stood at the foot of her Son's cross of suffering. And from that cross she received his lifeless body in to her loving arms.

Give comfort and healing to all who suffer and bless those who minister care and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, the scriptures tell how the holy the apostle John beheld a vision of a woman robed with light in heaven. Bring us with all those who have passed over from this life in Christ to share with Mary in the light and joy of heaven.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, Mary said,

'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.'

Help us to pause our lives in your presence and pray trustingly with Mary 'let it be to me according to your word.'

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Mary proclaimed

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.' With Mary, may our souls magnify you and our spirits rejoice in your love.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we rejoice in our communion with Blessed Mary, and with St John the Evangelist, and St John the Baptist, and with all your saints and we commend ourselves, and all humankind, and all creation to your eternal love.

Priest Merciful Father.

All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine - we take our own gifts to the Altar, such as our time and talents and our money for the poor and for ministry. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) - in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful – a sign of the unity which comes through sharing in Christ. 4) And in Holy Communion we receive Christ. In this way, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, the Church tries to carry out what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.

THE PEACE

We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another in Christ and pray for peace and unity (cf Luke 1.78,79).

Priest Christ is our peace.

He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's Son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day,
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us, born as one of us, Mary's Son. Led out to die on Calvary, risen from death to set us free, living Lord Jesus help us see, you are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you, live my life for you, Son of God. All your commands I know are true, vour many gifts will make me new, into my life your power breaks through, living Lord.

THE PRESENTATION AND PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The offerings of money is made and promised to support the wider ministry and work of the Church. Taking the Gifts: We give thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.

BREAD

Priest Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,

which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever. All

WINE

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,

fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our

gratitude and our dedication to your service.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts. The priest washes hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,

the Almighty Father.

All May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name,

for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Priest Amen.

Heavenly Father, you nourished Mary Priest

with the bread of life.

Nourish us, we pray, with that same living bread of life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

In the Preface we praise God for his mighty acts:

Heavenly Father, it is right and good, our salvation and our joy, to give you thanks and praise for the work of your grace in Mary.

By power of your Holy Spirit she conceived and bore the Word made flesh.

At the cross the Blessed Mother kept vigil and witnessed the saving work of your Son's love.

Mary rejoiced in his resurrection and, joining her prayers with those of the apostles, was filled with the gift of your promised Spirit.

We give thanks that, as the Blessed Mother fell asleep in the love of Christ her Son, she became a sign of hope to us your pilgrim people here on earth.

Through the humility and trust of Mary you show the greatness of your love, and the wonderful purpose you intend for all your people.

May our hearts and lives echo Mary's praise as we join with the Blessed Mother and all the company of heaven to sing with joy:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.

Priest We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away

you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

He gave his life for us upon the cross. He shows us now the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine

may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me.'

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit upon us and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with the Blessed Mother Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist, and all your saints, we glorify your goodness,

through Jesus Christ and in the strength of your Holy Spirit, today and for ever.

All

HOLY COMMUNION

The communion rite lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by the love of God manifest in Christ. We can all be confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We bless God and pray for our world, our communities and our lives to be shaped by God's will; we pray for daily needs to be met, for forgiveness for wrongdoings, strength to resist temptation and protection from danger.

Priest Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

All 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.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly: 'May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.' 'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)

Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread.'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. The breaking of the Eucharistic bread becomes a sign of unity and charity as the one bread is distributed to the family of God's people.

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. cf. John 1: 29

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The sign of communion is more complete when given under both 'kinds' since then the 'sign' of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when, if you think right, communion may be received in one 'kind.'

The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ. When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:

+ Amen.

DURING HOLY COMMUNION The Choir may sing anthems, hymns or songs.

During Holy Communion 'Ave Maria' may be sung.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray.

The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in trsansforming our lives and bring us all to God's kingdom. We pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.

Priest Heavenly Father, we thank you that you feed us with the living bread of heaven,

which is the sacrament of our redemption.

Strengthen us to walk with Mary in the way of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, that, like the Blessed Mother, we may bring forth the fruits of holiness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All Amen.

THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

THE BLESSING

Priest May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world,

shed that love upon you his children.

All Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,

fill you with joy and peace.

All Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,

give you grace to carry the Good News of Christ to others.

All Amen.

+ And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you for ever.

All Amen.

Let us go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SENDING OUT or RECESSIONAL HYMN

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his word; in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission and work. The church here needs your help in order to serve our villages, our diocese, our nation and our world in the future. Our doors have been closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding we have lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently. Thank you.

