

**SATURDAY 15th** THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
 17:00 at Greenstead Solemn Mass

**SUNDAY 16th** THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
 09:00 at Greenstead Solemn Mass *Ann Chapman Int (MW)*  
 10:45 at Greenstead Solemn Mass *Our Parish Community*  
 16:00 at Greenstead Solemn Mass (Ordinariate)

**MONDAY 17th** Feria  
 09:15 at Greenstead Mass *Robin Carpendale – RIP (KP)*

**TUESDAY 18th** ST HELENA, Widow  
 09:15 at Greenstead Mass *Prisca Hastings – RIP (SS+KP)*

**WEDNESDAY 19th** St John Eudes, Pr  
 09:45 at Greenstead Mass

**THURSDAY 20th** St Bernard, Ab, D  
 NO MASS

**FRIDAY 21st** St Pius X, P  
 19:00 at Greenstead Mass

**SATURDAY 22nd** The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 12:00 at Greenstead Mass *Rajendram and Atputham Philomena Int.*

Because numbers are limited to 30 in the church, all parishioners must pre-register their details and Mass preferences in writing to Fr Jon before attending.

CONFESSIONS are now available, but by appointment only.

#### Chantry List for the coming week:

We pray for the happy repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially for those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: *Charles Sales (96); Florence Farrell (02); Daniel Farrell (87).*

*May their souls rest in peace. Amen.*

#### Our prayers for the Sick & Suffering include:

Ellen Kirby, Violet Felton, Lily Dopson, Pat Croucher, Angela L, Barry S, Kerri H, Betty B, Sid B, Maura G, John F, Gary R, Marjorie S, Elaine S, Genette F, John W, Teresa H, Noel K, Christopher D, Dean K, Carmelo S, Peter W, Gina O, Samantha B, Jenny C, John, Isaac Nelson, Ann Mary B, Alice R, Brian B, Steve F, Kay Shaw, Sophia, Jasintha Anton de Madonsa, Catherine Ford.

**THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST.** The Maritime World: We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

#### CONTACTS:

Fr Jon Ravensdale: – Parish Priest – 21 Blackthorn Ave, Colchester CO4 3QD

☎01206 870460 e-mail: [sjpchurch@btinternet.com](mailto:sjpchurch@btinternet.com)

Web Site: [www.stjohnpayne.org.uk](http://www.stjohnpayne.org.uk)

Ann Roughan – Lay Pastoral Assistant & Steward of the Gospel. - ☎07889101762

Gene Horgan – Hall Administrator – ☎07939 086034

Petrina Murphy - Health and Safety Officer.

The Canonesses: 74, Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD – ☎867296

Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 234092

# St John Payne Catholic Parish

## Greenstead, Ardleigh and Mistley



*We of St John Payne Catholic Parish seek to reflect the joyful life-affirming power of Christ's Living Presence among all where Essex meets East Anglia.*

## THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020

In Mary's glorious assumption we celebrate the fulfilment of our Christian destiny, and with her we proclaim the greatness of the Lord.

*Entrance Antiphon: A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.*

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

1<sup>st</sup> Book of the Apocalypse 11:19;  
 12:1-6. 10

#### Responsorial Psalm

*R/. On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.*

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:

St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-26

#### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*Mary has been taken up into heaven;*  
*all the choirs of angels are rejoicing.*  
**Alleluia!**

#### Gospel Reading:

Luke: 1:39-56

The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly.



*We would respectfully ask that you please ensure that all mobile phones are switched off while you are in church.*

**FR JON WRITES:** If you haven't yet made your request for registration to attend a Mass, or are unsure about returning to church, for whatever reason, I am happy to talk through any anxieties or questions. – I would remind those who just haven't got around to writing in, that in compliance with the Government's 'Track & Trace' requirements, it is mandated that people must register before they can attend. As I have pointed out in previous Newsletters, **if you are not registered, you CANNOT come to Mass!** So, please write or email your preference as soon as you can.

It has come to my notice that a few people are registering for Masses on the 'off-chance' that they **might** attend. As we edge towards the maximum number allowed in church at any one time, this unfairly prohibits other people attending Mass whilst leaving empty pews. This is especially the case for the Sunday Masses. It is my absolute number one priority to enable as many as possible to have access to Mass. Accordingly, I respectfully ask that people only register for Masses they **mean** to (not **may**) attend.

**Please note, as of the 8<sup>th</sup> August, facemasks MUST be worn in church.** Of course, these will have to be removed in order to receive Communion. The protocol for this is as follows; On leaving your seat, and just prior to entering the centre aisle, you should remove your facemask (not merely pulling it down under your chin) and approach the Communion station in the usual way. You should replace your facemask once you have retaken your seat.

If you have a medical exemption certificate from wearing a facemask this must be shown to the steward when entering church.

Children under the age of 11 years are not required to wear face masks.

**Also, once you have been allocated a seat, you must remain there throughout Mass, only leaving your seat to receive Communion or a blessing.** Baskets for your offerings are placed at both the entrance and exit to the church.

**Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or who has any reason to believe that they have been in contact with someone who has, should not attend church or volunteer in any capacity until they have received medical advice that it is safe to do so.**

**HOME COMMUNION:** As the more vulnerable members of our parish will not be able to attend Mass in church due to shielding, Fr Jon will continue to bring Communion to individuals, or to groups of up to five, in open areas and private gardens (weather permitting).

#### AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things  
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you  
now and forever.*

**OFFERTORIES:** Last week's offertory collections amounted to £226.20, Fr Berhane £132.50; Donation £5,000.

You can make regular or one-off donations at any time. By going to the following website <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=greenstead-with-ardleigh-and-mistley> where you can also find Gift Aid forms if you are a taxpayer. To set up a standing order please email [sipchurch@btinternet.com](mailto:sipchurch@btinternet.com) for details.

**THE LECTIO DIVINA GROUP** (Sacred Reading) have changed their meeting day to **Tuesday** of every week in Judy's garden/carport at 10.00a.m. for about 45 minutes to pray the following Sunday's Gospel. If you would like to join us there or spiritually from your own home phone Judy on 01206 869601 for details and to enable group numbers to be arranged in line with present rules.

**FR TOM JORDAN, RIP:** After 31 years as a priest of Brentwood Diocese, serving in Grays, Leigh on Sea, Basildon and Romford, Fr Tom sadly passed away on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August. His funeral will take place at 11am on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August; however due to Covid-19 restrictions this is by invitation only. The funeral Mass will be livestreamed, and there is also the opportunity for people to come to the parish church of St Edward the Confessor, 5 Park End Road, Romford RM1 4AT between 6pm and 9pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August, for prayer. On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> everyone is warmly invited to line Park End Road as the cortege leaves the church at 12.30pm. Full information, including the link to the Mass, is at [www.stedwards-romford.org.uk](http://www.stedwards-romford.org.uk)

**CARITAS DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR:** The Diocese is diverse, vibrant, and full of dedicated volunteers running projects which bring to life the Gospel mandate to recognise and serve Christ in the poor and those on the edges. If you have a heart for such work, and the skills to develop and strengthen it, this could be your perfect job! Application deadline 2nd October 2020; Start January 2021. Full details: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/developmentcoordinator>

**NEWSLETTER:** Send items for next week's newsletter by Wednesday evening to Carol Batchelor in the Church Office at [sipchurch@btinternet.com](mailto:sipchurch@btinternet.com) For GDPR reasons emails should not be sent to Carol's private email address.

View newsletters online at [www.stjohnpayne.org.uk/weekly-newsletters](http://www.stjohnpayne.org.uk/weekly-newsletters)

#### FR JON'S PRAYER FOR THE WHOLE PARISH:

*May Our Lady's love embrace us;  
May St Michael guard and protect us;  
May St John Payne, and all the saints pray for us;  
And may Almighty God bless us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

# The Assumption of the BVM

## *Mary's Assumption Into Heaven.*

*In Mary's gracious assumption  
we celebrate the fulfilment of our Christian destiny,  
and with her we proclaim the greatness of the Lord.*

*(Reading: Apocalypse 11: 19, 12: 1-6, 10. 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26. Luke 1: 39-56.)*

“Mary, the immaculate and ever-virgin Mother of God, when the course of her earthly life was over, was taken up, body and soul, into heavenly glory.”

With these words, Pope Pius XI declared, in 1950, that the doctrine of our Blessed Lady's Assumption into heaven was an ‘essential truth of the Catholic faith’.

At the time, it caused an outcry, and provoked widespread protests. Many Christians – and of various denominations – were angry, even *distressed*, that the Pope had seemingly placed yet another, formidable, obstacle across the path to Christian unity.

Fearing the consequences, and the potential end of ecumenism, there were many Catholics who wondered whether a solemn definition in this matter was either necessary or wise. However, history has shown that from that moment, work for Christian unity began to be taken rather more seriously and was given fresh impetus.

Even so, some have continued to ask the question; “Is the doctrine of Our Lady's Assumption really that important?” For nineteen and a half centuries, or so, the Church had managed quite well enough without insisting that people should believe that Our Lady is already glorified in her body, as is Jesus her Son. What point, some asked, was there in making so contentious an issue an ‘Article of Faith’ in 1950? – There were those who thought, surely Christians, in such a pagan world as ours, have far more urgent problems to worry about?

In order to answer that we have to consider what makes our present age so different from all the preceding centuries in the history of the world. I would suggest two things. – Firstly: Never in human history has there been such appalling bloodshed, such cruelty, and torture, and inhumanity, as in the first fifty years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

In Europe alone, sixty million men, women and children lost their lives in two World Wars.

Yesterday (15<sup>th</sup> August) marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V.J Day. It is the day which marks the true end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. And it brings to mind such names as Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Auschwitz, Bergen Belsen, Sobibor, and other concentration camps. It is a day on which we are reminded that never before, on such a large, indeed, industrial scale, have human beings shown such utter contempt for the human body.

The second feature which distinguishes our own age from all the preceding centuries can also be summed up in one word. Let us label it, “glamour”. It is a word that epitomizes, and assimilates, the whole idolisation, and worship, of the ‘body beautiful’, particularly the beauty of a young woman’s body.

In the vast majority of films and T.V. shows, in advertising and marketing, even in computer games, the *character* of the person is subordinate to the primary importance of how they look. And so, a whole industry has been built on the overtly narcissistic ideology of that single word, ‘GLAMOUR’.

There you have the first half of the 20th century at its most destructive and most distinctive. Never before has the human body been so corrupted and despoiled. It has been treated both as an insignificant *thing* and as an avaricious *object*. On the one hand, in war, it is treated with the cruellest of *contempt*, and on the other hand, in egocentric glamorisation, it is *idolized*.

Pope Pius XII’s solemn proclamation of the doctrine of the ‘Assumption of Our Lady’, is nothing short of a cry to the Church and, indeed, to the world, that both these ways of looking at the body are intolerably wrong. Our bodies are neither to be despised, nor are they to be idolized. They are to be treated, at all times, with reverence and respect, because they are an essential part of a person, created in the very image of God himself. And *that* is the importance of Our Blessed Lady’s Assumption.

If you were to ask a Christian why Jesus rose from the dead, almost invariably, the answer would be, “Because he was God.” That, of course, couldn’t be further from the truth. Jesus rose from the grave because he was a perfectly sinless man. And the doctrine of Mary’s Assumption stops us making the similar mistake of saying that ‘Mary was God.’ She enjoys the glory of heaven in her body because she was a perfectly sinless woman.

Our own final destiny is, also, to enjoy the resurrection of the body, when we too, are cleansed from all sin. In the meantime, our bodies are to be used in the service of God and neighbour. They may be ugly to some; they may be old to others; they may be viewed by society as disfigured or crippled; they may be black or white, pink or blue, yellow or green. But that doesn’t matter. Nor does it matter whether they are handsome, young, healthy and strong. **All** that matters to our Maker is the person inside!

We must never demean or despise the body. For each one of us, our body is an essential part of what makes us uniquely us. And, therefore, we look forward to the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

If the doctrine of our Lady’s Assumption was relevant to the Church and, therein, to society at large in 1950, it is every bit as relevant to our world today! For in *our* time, the body is still *despised* through bloodshed; in increased abortions, and in an ever-growing acceptance of euthanasia. It is still *idolized* in the blatant and unashamed display of pornography, in exploitation, and in child abuse, and in so many other, awful, damaging ways.

*Heavenly Father, may the purity of Mary be as a beacon to us;  
attracting us to a right and proper attitude to our bodies;  
an understanding that our bodies are the shrines of our souls,  
completing us as the human person you created.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*