

ALL SAINTS NEWS

16th August 2026
11th Sunday of Trinity

Reflection on the Solemnity of the Assumption

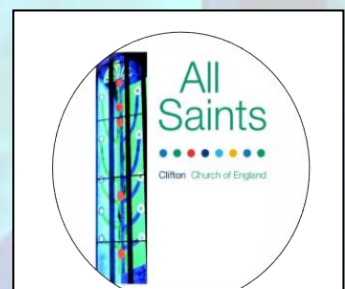
Sr Elizabeth Ruth (Carmelite Monastery, Quidenham, Norwich); An extract from the Reflection

The Assumption is Our Lady's Easter. Her Easter in high summer complements the springtime Easter of her son. He died prematurely young in the springtime of his life; she died full of years in a blessed old age.



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The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the All Saints Church community.

In Mary's Assumption, what and who she is shines through... in the radiance of Christ's Resurrection. (Stained glass roundel in our Monastery depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary's Coronation)

At the Transfiguration, Jesus' divinity shone through in his flesh. Who he really was as Son of God was revealed to his disciples. Here, in Mary's Assumption, what and who she is shines through. On earth she was just one woman among many, whose son had suffered, who lived a life like ours in its day-to-day routine. But now that her earthly life has been completed, who she really is reflected in her body, in her whole being. She exists now in the radiance of Christ's resurrection, and forever.

This feast reminds us that we, too, are destined for glory; that one day who we really are will shine through. Not what we pretended to be, not the image we tried to project, not our disguises and dissimulations. We will live in the light of God where the truth shines out. If Julian of Norwich is to be believed, even our forgiven sins and failings will appear on us, not as disfigurements but as *"honourable scars, so that we do not forget our creaturehood and all that we owe to God's mercy."*

Each one of us carries the radiance of Christ within, but we do not see it in ourselves or in one another because we are taken up with appearances, whereas the reality is different.

In the Gospel of the Feast's day Mary sings her Magnificat; that God has blessed her; that He has done marvellous things in her and for her. The Magnificat should be the song of each one of us.



Let us end with a hymn by Hildegarde of Bingen, a woman who also knew how to sing the Magnificat in her own life, and communicate joy, hope and healing to others in preparation for the blessings of eternity.

Mary, luminous Mother,
Holy, healing art!
Eve brought sorrow to the soul,
But by your holy Son
You pour balm on death's wounds and travail.
You have indeed conquered death!
Ask for us life. Ask for us radiant joy.
Ask for the sweet, delicious ecstasy
That is forever yours. Amen



In Greek, five letters make up the word for fish
ΙΧΘΥΣ (ichthys). The letters stand for
the words of one of the earliest creeds:
Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour.

At Early Worship Services of the Word during the we have been exploring the theme of Prayer. Here we share the Reflection by Dr Sandy Gale at our Service on August 9 2026.

Thomas Merton's Honest Prayer.

Thomas Merton 1915-1968, was a Trappist monk. His writings pushed traditional boundaries, drawing intense reactions from both religious conservatives and progressives.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

Perhaps someone asks you, 'How are you?' when things are difficult in your life and you just don't have the words, so you smile, you pretend, you say you are fine. Or you've wanted to say thank you, or sorry, or 'I love you' but somehow the words felt too small. Children know this feeling too. Sometimes something wonderful happens and all they can do is laugh. Sometimes something really hurts and all they can do is cry. Prayer can be like that – we all pretend, or we don't have the words, sometimes our laughter and tears speak for us.

Yet we think that prayer is about finding or repeating the right words. We imagine that some people have a special gift for praying, that they have a special power, or can say beautiful words, or pray with the right confidence, or the right faith, while the rest of us stumble along, wondering if we are doing it properly. But St Paul writes in his letter to the Romans: "The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." (Romans 8:26) He says we don't know. All of us. Even the great saints we have read from so far in this service. Even Apostles like St Paul, even those who have prayed for years every day, such as monks and nuns.

Prayer is not about saying the perfect thing. It is about honestly bringing our real selves, what is really in our hearts, before God, and he

will send his Spirit to help us. The monk and writer, Thomas Merton, begins one of his most loved prayers with these words: 'My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going...' This is Merton trying to be honest. He admits he cannot see the road ahead or know where it will end. Yet his prayer is not one of despair. It becomes a prayer of trust. He believes that even when he can't see the way, God can. His admission of uncertainty is not a failure, it is faith. This is familiar to us all. Life often feels like walking through mist. We don't know what tomorrow will bring. We can't control things. We don't know how to solve every problem. We don't know what to pray for ourselves or for the world. God is not waiting for us to become experts. Jesus reminds us that God our Father knows what we need before we ask him. Imagine a small child walking through a forest. The child doesn't know where the path leads. They have no map. They don't need one, they simply hold the parent's hand. Prayer is like holding God's hand. It is not a performance. We are not informing, impressing or persuading God when we pray. By praying we change, we slowly learn to trust God, to listen to him. God is here waiting for us when we pray, and we can all bring to God honestly what is in our hearts.



Our next Early Worship on August 23rd at 9am will be inspired by the Taizé community's tradition of prayer through music and silence. The Taizé community is ecumenical and international. Their worship features short periods of silence, and the repetition of simple chants repeated many times to help quiet the mind and enable reflection..

There will also be a Tea and Taizé service at All Saints at 4.30 pm on October 18th.



Please join Fr Paul Hawkins
for drinks
after Mass on Sunday
to celebrate his 80th Birthday.

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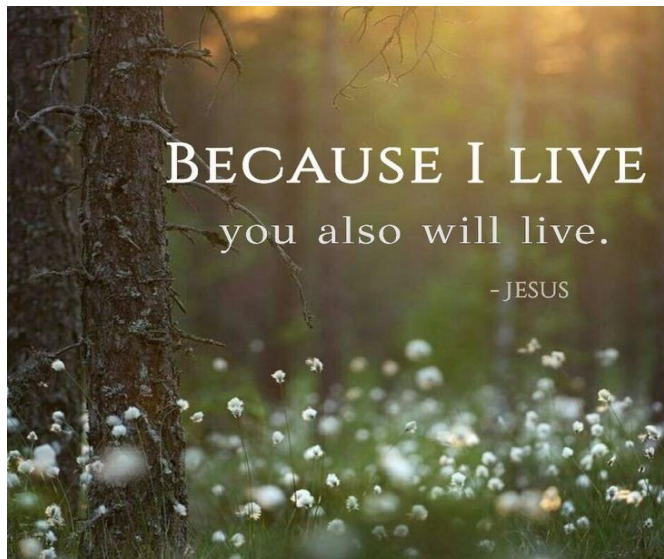
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Prayers Requests

'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

(John 14: 19).

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who would like to be remembered within the weekly prayer list or anyone who you would like to be remembered in prayer.



Those of the parish and our hearts whom we remember in our Prayers:

Sunday

Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Nicky Epinaý Sarah Jean Bradford Ossama & Clare Sader Debbie Gibbs Sara Maitland Jessica Smith Sue Gaylard-Hughes Georgina Harford

Monday

Tuesday.

Wednesday

Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Samantha Tucker, Maureen Mumford Jennie Williams

Thursday

Friday

Charlotte Hopkins, Caroline Semon, Nadine Benn The O'Sullivan family

Saturday

The Departed

Brian Davage Jean Payne Jeremy Younger (Pr) Judith Bramhall Andrew Densham

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Anthony Wade Pr John Simpson Nesta Thomas David Machin Christopher Trelawney Ross Helen Reynolds Stanojko Milenković [pronounced: Stanoiko Milenkovich) Gill Cottell Kathleen Raikes

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 17	Flying Ambulance Services. Pray for all those who work to deliver this life-saving service, pilots, medical specialists, volunteers, fundraisers. And those who have been (and will be) served by their dedication
Tue 18	Pray for brewers and all those engaged in the brewing industry. Pray for the publicans and landlords in this parish, for the work of pubs in providing centres for community and meeting. In particular remember the work of and those who will work in the Alma Tavern
Wed 19	Mass 10.00am Young people and teachers on school and university holiday. Pray for our school, St Johns, children, teachers, staff and volunteers. Also all those families in the parish and our university staff and students.
Thurs 20	Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux 1153 World Humanitarian Day is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe. Pray for the work undertaken by humanitarian organisations; that they are able to address the huge challenges they face.
Fri 21	Mass 10.00am Pray for the work of the Salvation Army, it is an integral part of the Christian Church, although distinctive in government and practice. The Army's doctrine follows the mainstream of Christian belief and its articles of faith emphasise God's saving purposes. Its objects are 'the advancement of the Christian religion... of education, the relief of poverty, and other charitable objects beneficial to society or the community of mankind as a whole.
Sat 22	All of us have the power to make the world a better place. Today is an internationally recognised day to carry out acts of kindness, care and support. Pray that these behaviours do not need a 'special day' to be recognised, but are regular features of the way we live.
Sunday 23	Trinity 12 Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your Word: Grant that your Church may love what he believed and preach what he taught; Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am

If you would like to give regularly to the Church, please set up a standing order to the church account, details below

Parochial Church Council of All Saints

Account No. 65256747

sort code 08 92 99

Gift Aid forms are available from the office
office@allsaintsclifton.org

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults.

If you have any Safeguarding concerns please contact :
The Parish Safeguarding Officers - Caroline Davenport
& Janice Callow at safeguarding@allsaintsclifton.org