Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

Assumption of BVM (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Cf. Rev 12: 1

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.

FIRST READING:

Apoc 11:19, 12:1-6. 10

A woman adorned with the sun standing on the moon.

PSALM: Ps 44:10-12, 16. R.v10

R) On your right stands the queen, in garments of 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. **(R)**

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. **(R)**

SECOND READING:

Cor 15:20-26

Christ as the first-fruits and then, those who belong to him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-56

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Lk 1:48-49

All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

No-one has ever made a greater act of Faith than Our Lady. In the order of Faith, which is in fact the order of reality, she is – after her Son (who is God!) the greatest human being there ever has been or ever will be! After the Son, she is dearest to the Father's heart. *"Yes, from this day forward,"* she sang truly, *"All generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me."* Yet what faith Elizabeth had too, that she recognized the source of the joy that set the baby in her womb leaping. Together, these two women represent Faith-full, believing Israel. It must have been a great comfort to the heart of God, that in these two humble women (and the Gospels will tell of many other similar humble Israelites) all His hundreds of years of teaching and training and love of His Chosen People, had born fruit – such rich fruit. Today we celebrate Our Lady's reward, her glorification: not only of her soul, but of her body: that body whose womb had carried and nurtured the body of her Son, her Redeemer and ours. We too, when *"all is fulfilled that the prophets foretold"*, will one day, in spite of death and thanks to the Faith of Our Lady, find our souls reunited with our bodies, to enjoy with Our Lady the glory of Heaven for ever!

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

Moving Beyond Ourselves

89. Nor can I reduce my life to relationships with a small group, even my own family; I cannot know myself apart from a broader network of relationships, including those that have preceded me and shaped my entire life. My relationship with those whom I respect has to take account of the fact that they do not live only for me, nor do I live only for them. Our relationships, if healthy and authentic, open us to others who expand and enrich us. Nowadays, our noblest social instincts can easily be thwarted by self-centred chats that give the impression of being deep relationships. On the contrary, authentic and mature love and true friendship can only take root in hearts open to growth through relationships with others. As couples or friends, we find that our hearts expand as we step out of ourselves and embrace others. Closed groups and self-absorbed couples that define themselves in opposition to others tend to be expressions of selfishness and mere self-preservation.

Our Father St Benedict*

DISCOVERING THE HEART

What a surprise!

Listening with his inner ear, he can make out a vital impulse within himself, constantly pulsating. Can't you hear its beats? They are even audible.

Yes. He is learning to love with his whole heart, with all his soul. With a bubbling activity. With a great outpouring of the Spirit. Free. Ever-expanding.

The indescribable sweetness of love!

Nothing in its nature is stifled.

Nothing repressed.

Nothing frustrated.

Nothing despised.

The breath of the Spirit moves through him from head to foot and foot to head. Every part of him gets its oxygen.

Everything is centred in his heart, beating with purity, docility and measured harmony. It beats with a single Love which embraces the entire universe.

His minute heart reduces everything to unity. And it puts nothing before the love of Christ.

*This set of mini-reflections is taken from Our Father St Benedict, published by New City

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