

FAITH



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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love
in the heart of the family!



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20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Apocalypse 11:19, 12:1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 44(45):10-12, 16

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Gospel:

Luke 1:39-56

*"The Almighty has done
great things for me. Holy
is His name"*



Assumption of Mary, Jan Frans Bescheij, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [here](#).

Watch [this 2-minute video](#) for a proclamation of the Gospel for all the family

Pray

As the Mother of God, Mary occupies a special place in Heaven. Today's Feast is a reminder that Mary is in Heaven with Jesus and that she can intercede for us before her Son. Take some time this week to visit your local Church to pray in front of a statue or picture of Our Lady if there is one. Light a candle in front of Our Lady, if possible. Spend some time talking to her about your needs and your worries about this upcoming week. Tell her about your struggles, your strengths and your hopes. Ask her to be with you and to protect you in your life. Consecrate yourself and your family to Mary by reciting the following short prayer:

"Mother, I am yours now and forever. Through you and with you I want to belong always and only to Jesus. Amen".

Talk

Reflect on how Mary reacts to being chosen to bring the Son of God into the world. Imagine if you were tasked by God with a challenging but important mission. Share with your family:

- What do you find most inspiring about Mary and/or Elizabeth in this encounter?
- Is there a "mission" or a "task" that you feel God is giving you to do in your life right now? If so, what is it?
- How do you feel about this? How confident do you feel about your ability to fulfil this mission/task?
- Do you think you can accomplish this mission/task by yourself or do you need God's help with it?
- What would you ask God for in order to be able to accomplish this mission?

Family Challenge!

Download and print this [PDF](#) of the Magnificat prayer and consider framing it and hanging it in a prominent place in your home. Pray the Magnificat together regularly as a family

Mission: Today we celebrate Mary being brought to heaven. Can you imagine the celebrations! All the angels singing and rejoicing! Let's honour Our Lady by praying a decade of the rosary today. [Click here to pray along with Campa Mhuire Mháthair!](#)

Song of the Week!
SING THE AVE TO MARY

Please email us at faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie [or click the [subscribe](#) button] if you would like to receive Faith@Home direct to your inbox each week!

"To the Heights" Post-Primary / Youth Version also available: click [SUBSCRIBE](#) / email youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie

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WHAT IS THE ASSUMPTION?

Today's Solemnity of the Assumption celebrates the Catholic belief that Our Lady "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed *body and soul* into heavenly glory." It wasn't until 1950 that Pope Pius XII formally defined this teaching as an article of faith that must be believed by Catholics. In doing so Pope Pius XII was not declaring the belief in the Assumption as something new. The earliest references to this belief date from the fourth century. In declaring Mary's Assumption body and soul into Heaven as a dogma of the Catholic faith, Pope Pius was simply giving formal recognition to what the faithful already believed and practiced for many centuries.

The Gospel for this holy day recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the Angel Gabriel. She goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who herself was pregnant with John the Baptist. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favour upon the people of Israel. Today's Gospel also highlights Mary's faith. Mary's faith enabled her to recognise the work of God in her people's history but also in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to all.

Mary is a model of what it means to surrender our lives to God. She shows us what it looks like to put our faith in God and to trust that his plan for our lives is better than we could ever ask or imagine. Mary did not know what her life would turn out like when said "Yes" to the Angel Gabriel. She could not have known the extent of the pain, loneliness and suffering that would come with being the Mother of God. She surrendered each moment and each day to God, trusting Him with every aspect of her life and the life of her family. This is not always easy for us to do but Mary shows us that if God calls us to something he will always give us what we need to accomplish that task. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan of salvation.

EVENTS

Campa Mhuire Mháthair: Free Online Catholic resources for Children aged 5 - 12. Great for Sacramental Preparation too. For more info, [click here](#)



Campa Mhuire Mháthair: Into the Deep!

Family Prayer

Remember O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother. To you I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful, O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your clemency, hear and answer me. Amen.



HONOURING MARY
"Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."
St Maximilian Kolbe

How did Jesus come into the world? Through Mary. Who gave birth to Jesus, raised Him, cared for Him? Mary. Who did Jesus work his first miracle at the request of? Mary. Who was with Jesus throughout His ministry, as His most faithful follower? Mary. Who was with Jesus at the foot of the cross, the one Jesus entrusted John to (and through John, all of us) when He said, "Behold your Mother!" Mary! Hopefully you've seen the pattern by now!

Throughout the history of the Church, Catholic faithful have always had a special devotion and love for Mary. Catholics are sometimes wrongly accused of worshipping Mary. Catholics do not worship Mary, since worship is reserved for God alone. But Catholics honour Mary and hold her in a special regard, since she is the Mother of God. We follow the example of God, who honoured Mary with the grace of becoming the Mother of His Son, preserving her from Original Sin, and assuming her body into heaven at the end of her life. Mary is the greatest saint in heaven, beloved by all the saints and angels. This week, take some time to get to know St Maximilian Kolbe, whose love for Our Lady inspired him to great ideals and great actions.

- Bobby Angel: St Maximilian Kolbe
- "Until the Whole World Hears" (Casting Crowns)
- Handout: Gamechanger - St Maximilian Kolbe

CHECK IT OUT: ST MARY'S ABBEY, GLENCAIRN

St Mary's Abbey, Glencairn is the only Cistercian monastery for women in Ireland, located in the Blackwater Valley, near Lismore, Co. Waterford. "At the heart of the monastic life is the search for God. We seek God and follow Christ in a life of prayer and community, solitude and simplicity, work and hospitality. We follow the Rule of St Benedict, an ancient source of monastic wisdom that continues to guide many people in search of an authentic spiritual path in today's world."





Mary is assumed into Heaven!



"The most deadly poison of our times is indifference."



St Maximilian Kolbe

SAINT & MARTYR OF AUSCHWITZ

"No one in the world can change Truth. What we can do and should do is to seek truth and to serve it when we have found it. The real conflict is the inner conflict. Beyond armies of occupation and the hetacombs of extermination camps, there are two irreconcilable enemies in the depth of every soul: good and evil, sin and love. And what use are the victories on the battlefield if we are ourselves defeated in our innermost personal selves?"

JCR: LD 18 / 22 / 28 / 29 / CBAT
SENIOR RE NON-EXAM: A1 / A3 / B2 / B2 / H1 / H2

WHAT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO FOR A FRIEND?



- Give them your last Rolo?
- Give up your free time helping them study for a test?
- Give up social media for them?
- Donate blood or an organ for them?
- Give up your life to save them?

NOW APPLY THE SAME QUESTIONS TO A COMPLETE STRANGER



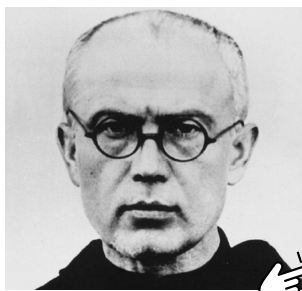
- Give them your last Rolo?
- Give up your free time helping them study for a test?
- Give up social media for them?
- Donate blood or an organ for them?
- Give up your life to save them?

THE HOLOCAUST



What do you know about Auschwitz Concentration Camp and the Holocaust? Maybe you've studied World War II in History class, or read John Boyne's "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" or Morris Gleitzman's "Once"? Maybe you've seen movies like "Schindler's List"? What were conditions like in these camps? _____

In the face of of such horror and brutality, evil and cruelty, many people lost hope. Others turned on each other in a desperate effort to survive. All had their dignity stripped from them in the most savage ways possible. How do you think some people were able to mentally and psychologically survive the horrors they experienced before the camps were liberated? _____



In the midst of such evil and torment, some were still able to perform incredible acts of selflessness and love. St Maximilian Kolbe is one such individual. His self-sacrificial love and compassion despite being surrounded by hate is an inspiration. **Saint Maximilian Kolbe is without a doubt, a Game-Changer.**

Click here and see what you can first guess out about his life from this painting.

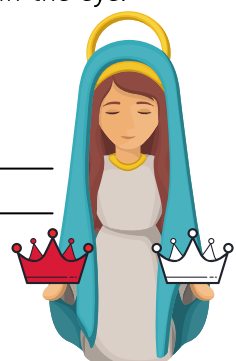
Fr Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan friar, was imprisoned in Auschwitz Concentration Camp and died there in a starvation bunker in 1941, famously offering his own life to save a stranger. This decision was no surprise given the type of life and priesthood Fr Maximilian had lived previously. He gave completely of himself tirelessly for Jesus, Mary and for others, despite illness and persecution. At Auschwitz, he sacrificed himself daily for his fellow prisoners, and was so filled with love that even the SS Guards found it difficult to look him in the eye.

NOW WATCH BOBBY ANGEL: ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE (ASCENSION PRESENTS)



What is your initial response to the life and death of Maximilian Kolbe in Auschwitz? _____

Did you know that as a child, Raymond Kolbe was unruly and wild? His mother once said to him in despair: "What will become of you?" This struck Raymond to the core, and he turned to Our Lady for guidance. It was after this that he had the vision of Our Lady and the crowns!



- ASCEND YOUTH MINISTRY (DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE) -

1. Where was St Maximilian Kolbe born?
2. What was his name originally?
3. In his vision of Our Lady offering him two crowns, what colour were they and what did they represent?
4. What disease of the lungs seriously affected St Maximilian's health?
5. What religious order did St Maximilian belong to?
6. What did St Maximilian use a huge printing press for?
7. What is significant about the number 16670?
8. What concentration camp was St Maximilian led to?
9. Why did many of the camp guards find it difficult to look this physically weakened Polish priest in the eye?
10. Explain the events that led to St Maximilian's death in a starvation bunker?
11. St Maximilian died on the 14th August. This was the eve of which great Catholic solemnity?
12. St Maximilian had a tremendous devotion to Mary. He said we should never be afraid of loving Mary too much because we can never love her more than whom?



DID YOU KNOW?

- As a teenager, St Maximilian was torn between a desire to be a priest and a soldier. He had a huge interest in the military, and actually sketched plans for airplanes and war-craft. Instead, he dedicated himself to spiritual warfare and began the Militia of the Immaculata. **Why do you think he called the *Miraculous Medals* he would distribute "bullets"?**
- St Maximilian Kolbe established a friary with a printing press near Warsaw which eventually grew to a full-scale evangelisation operation, called *Niepokalanow* (the "City of the Immaculata"). By 1938, it had expanded from 18 friars to 650, the largest religious house in the world! The friars produced a monthly magazine with a circulation of over one million to counter the messages of the Nazi-Regime, a daily newspaper with a circulation of over 230,000 and other religious tracts using the latest printing technologies. He also started a radio station and planned to build a movie studio. His continuous and relentless dissemination of Catholic and anti-Nazi material resulted in his capture by the SS.
- St Maximilian also established **a monastery in Nagasaki**, Japan, stubbornly advising an unusual location on the outskirts of the city. The location of the monastery later ensured its survival when the atomic bomb was dropped in 1945. **Do you think this was merely coincidence?**
- The Catholic Church venerates him as the patron saint of amateur-radio operators, drug addicts, political prisoners, families, journalists, and prisoners. **Why do you think Maximilian was chosen as patron for each of these?**



LOOK UP JOHN 15:13 - HOW DOES THIS QUOTE RELATE TO THE LIFE OF MAXIMILIAN KOLBE?





Prisoner's Prayer to Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Sometimes we can feel imprisoned by life too, by the choices we have made, the situations we find ourselves unable to change, the way that others treat us. We can pray this prayer too!

St Maximilian Kolbe, introduce me to Mary, the Immaculata, Mother of God. She prayed for Jesus in a Jerusalem jail. She prayed for you in a Nazi prison camp. Ask her to comfort me in my confinement. May she teach me always to be good. If I am lonely, may she say, "God is here." If I feel hate, may she say, "God is love." If I am tempted, may she say, "God is pure." If I sin, may she say, "God is mercy." If I am in darkness, may she say, "God is light." If I am unjustly condemned, may she say, "God is truth." If I have pain in soul or body, may she say, "God is peace." If I lose hope, may she say: "God is with you all days, and so am I." Amen!

YOU CAN BE A GAME-CHANGER LIKE ST MAXIMILIAN!

- Ask God for the grace and desire to put others before yourself!
- Wear a Miraculous Medal around your neck.
- How would St Maximilian use social media today? Post a bible or saint quote or good video. You'll never know the effect it could have!
- Ask Our Lady to guide your future, like young Raymond did.
- Research what happened to Franciszek Gajowniczek, prisoner of Auschwitz.



Game-Changer Playlist!

Listen to and think about how they reflect the life and witness of Maximilian Kolbe. Click the titles.

- "Christ is Enough" (Hillsong United)
- "I believe in love" (Barlow Girl)
- "Until the Whole World Hears" (Casting Crowns)
- "While I'm Waiting" (John Waller)
- "The Battle Belongs to You" (Phil Wickham)