THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

CO-PATRON OF OUR DIOCESE

This Sunday we celebrate this wonderful Solemnity. Given this is a summer Newsletter there is a little more space to include a reflection by Pope Leo as holiday reading!

Dear brothers and sisters, happy feast day!

The Fathers of the **Second Vatican Council** left us a marvellous text on the Virgin Mary, a part of which I would like to read to you today as we celebrate the Solemnity of her Assumption to the glory of heaven. At the end of the document on the Church, the Council says: "the Mother of Jesus in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven is the image and beginning of the church as it is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise, she shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come (cf. *2 Pt* 3:10), a sign of certain hope and comfort to the pilgrim people of God" (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church ***Lumen Gentium***, 68).

Mary, who the risen Christ carried body and soul into the glory, shines as an *icon of hope* for her pilgrim children throughout history.

How can we not think of Dante's verses in the last *canto* of the *Paradiso*? Through the prayer put on Saint Bernard's lips, which begins "Virgin Mother, daughter of thy Son" (XXXIII, 1), the poet lauds Mary because here among us mortals she is "the living fountain-head of hope" (ibid., 12), that is the living spring, gushing with hope.

Sisters and brothers, this truth of our faith is perfectly in line with the theme of the present Jubilee: "Pilgrims of hope." Pilgrims need a goal that orients their journey: a beautiful and attractive goal that guides their steps and revives them when they are tired, that always rekindles in their heart a desire and hope. On the path of life, our goal is God, infinite and eternal Love, fullness of life, peace, joy and every good thing. The human heart is drawn to such beauty and it is not happy until it finds it; and indeed it risks not finding it if it gets lost in the middle of the "dark forest" of evil and sin.

Let us consider this grace: God came to meet us, he assumed our flesh fashioned from the earth, and has carried it with him into the presence of God, or as we commonly say "into heaven." It is the mystery of Jesus Christ, who became flesh, died and rose for our salvation. Inseparable from him, is also the mystery of Mary, the woman from whom the Son of God has taken flesh, and of the Church, the mystical body of Christ. It concerns a unique mystery of love, and thus of freedom. Just as Jesus said "yes," so also Mary said "yes;" she believed in the word of the Lord. All of her life has been a pilgrimage of hope together with her son, the Son of God, a pilgrimage which, through the Cross and Resurrection, has reached the heavenly homeland, in the embrace of God.

For this reason, while we journey forward, as individuals, families and communities, especially when the clouds come and the road seems difficult and uncertain, let us lift our gaze, let us look at her, our Mother, and we will rediscover the hope that does not disappoint (cf. *Rm* 5:5).

- THIS SUNDAY -

BAPTISMS

We welcome **Edie Attenborough**, **Isla McCaul, Adeline Ottesen and Leo Shepherd** who will be Baptised this weekend and assure them, their parents, and godparents of our prayers and our support.

- PRAYER -

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Please keep in your prayers:

Deacon John Lamb (**Funeral on Monday 24th August at 12.30pm at St Mary's**

Mairi O'Connell (**Funeral on Wednesday 9th September at 11am at St Edward's**)

Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and let Perpetual light shine upon them,
May they rest in Peace.

RADIO MARIA - BROADCAST PRAYER

We are invited to join hundreds of thousands of people around the world praying the Rosary with Radio Maria UK. On Wednesday 26th August at 3pm Radio Maria stations across the globe will broadcast the Rosary live from the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, London. Join in by listening to Radio Maria.

POLISH MASS IN ST JOSEPH'S

Please note that there will be No Polish Mass at 6:00 pm on Saturday, 29 August and Saturday, 5 September.

MASS INTENTIONS - THIS COMING WEEK

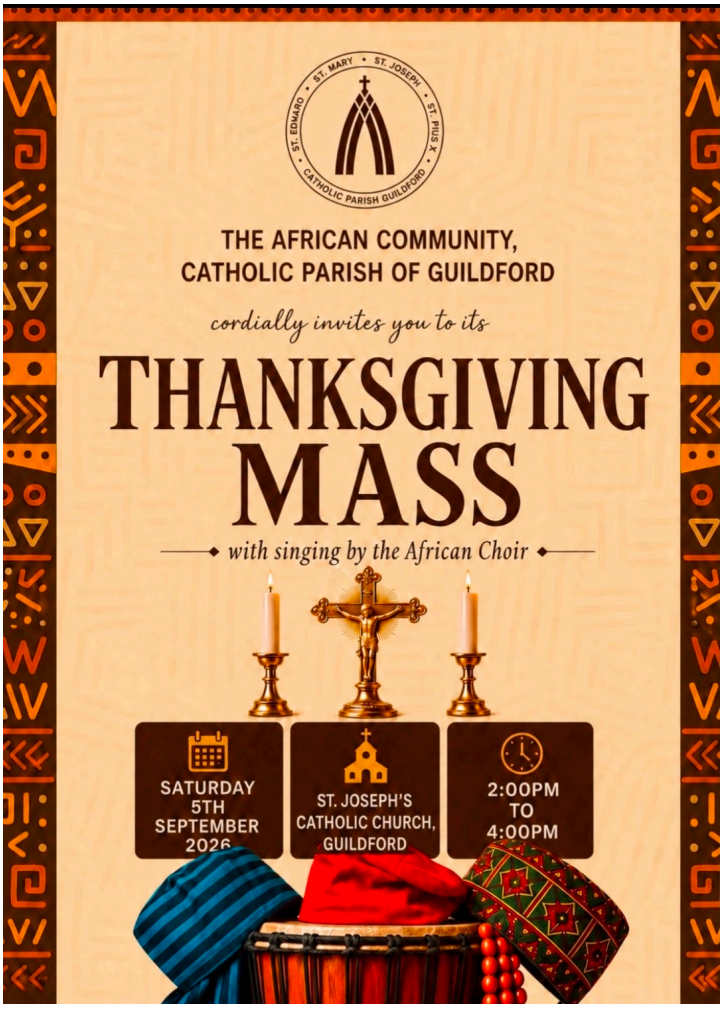
Please click here: Int 15th August 2026..pdf

- MISSION -

THANK YOU FROM THE COLUMBAN MISSIONARY FATHERS

Fr John Boles and Fr Pat O'Beirne have written to thank every one for their warm welcome and hospitality when thy visited in July and for the generous collection of £2454.68

AFRICAN THANKSGIVING MASS



On behalf of Guildford Parish African Community, all parishioners are cordially invited to the first ever African Thanksgiving Mass at St Joseph's Catholic Church, on Saturday 5th September at 2pm".

CAFOD

A better world needs all of us

CAFOD are campaigning for ambitious action from decision-makers, with two specific requests from the UK Government:

1. **Debt Justice**: Almost 90% of the poorest countries debt contracts are governed by English law.CAFOD are asking the UK government for legislationthat would ensure fair and equal treatment for lenders.

2.

The Uk to lead the **reform of the global debt system**, when they become chair of the G20 in December 2026.

Please join us in signing their petition with **This link**

Guildford & District Knights of St Columba

Could you help support your local Catholic community? Join the Guildford & District Knights of St Columba as we work with Catholic churches across Guildford and the surrounding area. New members are always welcome!

We are grounded in four core pillars:

- Faith: Deepen your faith and live your values
- Friendship: Build lasting friendships
- Service: Serve the Church and those in need
- Action: Make a positive difference locally

Get in touch with us at guildfordknightsofstcolumba@gmail.com to find out how you can get involved.

THE THURSDAY CLUB AT ST. MARY'S HALL

If you are at a loose end on a Thursday afternoon and would like to make new friends, why not come along and join us? We meet from 2.00 - 4.00p.m. every week. We know that you will enjoy the tea and cake and the various talks etc. that we have. Come and give it a try. For further information please call Mary Lawrence on 01483 827538.

- CPG LIVESTREAM -

SUNDAY MASS ONLINE: 10.30am and 5pm
DAILY MASS ONLINE: Monday-Saturday - 10 am
EVENING PRAYER 6pm (Mon-Fri)

Please join us by clicking here.

If you have any intentions that you would like the community to pray for: an anniversary, sick family member or friend, someone or something that can be included in the 6pm Evening Prayer Intercessions please email: office@cpg.church or 01483 562704 by 4.45pm

- PRAYER FOR THE BISHOP ELECT -

O God, eternal shepherd,
who lead your Church in countless ways and rule over her in love, grant we pray, that

Stephen, your servant, whom you have set over your people, may preside in the place of Christ over the flock whose shepherd he is, and be faithful as a teacher of doctrine, a Priest of sacred worship and as one who serves them by governing
Through Christ our Lord.

AMEN