

## **THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

*Apocalypse 11: 19,12: 1–6.10 1 Corinthians 15: 20–26; Luke 1: 39–56*

The glorious taking up of Mary into heaven, has been celebrated since the sixth century and is now part of recognised Roman Catholic doctrine. The feast of the Assumption is celebrated in mid-August and some other denominations also keep this day as a special Feast of the Virgin Mary. The readings for today's celebration are all triumphant in tone. In the First Reading, a woman, in whom we can see Mary, defeats the evil dragon with the help of God, bringing the Messiah safely to birth. In the Second Reading, Paul tells us that Christ, raised from the dead, has put all his enemies under his feet, including death. In today's feast we celebrate the fact that Mary, mother of Jesus, also enjoys the fruits of the Resurrection. The Gospel recounts Mary's visit to Elizabeth, where she voices her triumphant hymn of praise: *'The Almighty has done great things for me.'* This week, like Mary, we might also wish to praise the Lord for the great things he has done for us, and for the people around us.