
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY –

YEAR A

16th August 2026

Vestment Colour: White

The Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh has a website that contains further resources, information and plans for Children's Liturgy for use by Children's Liturgy Leaders. A full template is available on the website.

Health & Safety: *Once you are all assembled, take a head count in case of the need to evacuate (if possible, roster of names). Candles are permitted if they are included in your risk assessment.*

Introduction:

Leader: Today, we celebrate the 'Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary' into heaven. We hear about the visit of Mary to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

The Gospel Acclamation: All stand to welcome the Gospel. (*You can encourage the children to sing the Alleluia*).

Alleluia, alleluia.

Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoice.

Alleluia.

Alternatively, you can use the following (*Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It'*)

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

Gospel: Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary (Year A). Alternatively use an approved translation of the Bible (the ESV-CE version or Good News Bible for Children). *Do not paraphrase the Gospel; however, you may need to explain unusual or difficult words and names to the children.*

Luke 1: 39-56

Leader: "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke".

All: "Glory to You, O Lord."

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

Leader: "The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ". Ask everyone to be seated.

Gospel Reflection: *the following are some suggestions to help with a discussion around the Gospel.*

- **What did you hear in the Gospel today?** Give the children time to relate what they have heard.
- **Who did Mary visit?** Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah. Elizabeth and Zechariah are the parents of John the Baptist. Explain that Mary and Elizabeth were cousins.

- **What happened to Elizabeth when she heard Mary's greeting?** The baby within her became happy and moved. The baby was John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus.
- **Discuss the response of Mary to Elizabeth?** How this response is the prayer 'The Magnificat'. Discuss how this prayer tells of the glory of God and His mercy and goodness to all who are humble and poor.
- **Remind the children that Mary had faith to believe and follow God's will.**

Prayers of the Faithful:

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

We now ask Our Lord to hear our prayer

- Just as Mary had faith in in you; may we follow her example always.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

- May we shine your light in the world through our love for one another.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer:

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Or recite the Magnificat

My soul glorifies the Lord,

My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her lowliness;

henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy is his name!

His mercy is from age to age,

on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

All: Amen.