



The Parish of the Assumption
West Oxfordshire
Holy Trinity Chipping Norton
St Teresa's Charlbury

Fr Clive Dytor

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The Assumption is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 23rd August 2026 – Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time

Readings: Year A

Dear Friends,

Coming down from the high mountain of *The Assumption*, and last Sunday's glorious celebrations in both parishes (early doors cake, midday bubbly), we run straight into that decisive moment when the die is cast for St Peter.

In our First Reading from the prophet Isaiah, we hear how the faithless Master of the Palace, Shebna, is displaced from his high office and replaced by Eliakim, a true servant of the king not a self-seeker after his own fortune. The symbol of this mighty position, effectively the enforcer of the king's will, is the heavy key carried on the Steward's shoulder, to open the Palace doors but also to demonstrate who wields the delegated power in the kingdom. The king cannot be everywhere doing everything and he relies on trusted men to carry out his orders, such as Eliakim in the Old Testament.

Then we turn to the New Testament... who should Jesus choose to continue the work He has begun? The close disciples are a motley bunch, not a united body, and the one who speaks the loudest and the most frequently is a blowhard fisherman who flees from danger at the questioning of a servant girl around a camp fire... He steps out of the boat onto the water then immediately sinks as he loses faith in Jesus... Where is he at the foot of the Cross when only three women and a teenager, St John, have the courage to accompany the Lord in His final Agony? Not really suitable leadership material, yet Jesus chooses him and renames him. No longer Simon but *Petros*, the Rock.

Why oh why him? St Paul reminds us in our Second Reading:

"How unsearchable are His judgements and how inscrutable are His ways!"

Peter does one thing right which demonstrates that he has indeed been chosen for this mighty work, to carry the keys of heaven on earth:

"But who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter replied: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God'."

Peter recognises and acknowledges Jesus as more than the carpenter's son, and now he will be converted into the great Prince of the Apostles, the Rock of the Universal Church. He is a model for all the disciples of Jesus, Galilean fishermen or we folk of the 21st Century. We just need to answer that simple question:

"Who do you say I am?"

God bless everyone, Fr Clive

P.S. The next few weeks are a little disjointed during the week as I am on Annual Leave. My great thanks to Frs Paul, Martin and Aldo for celebrating the Saturday/Sunday Masses. I am taking some time away, then returning, then away again. My voice has been failing this Summer and the medical analysis is "Preacher's throat", also known as "Singer's nodules", so a rest is needed.

Masses & Rosary:

	Holy Trinity	St Teresa's
Monday	9.15am Mass	
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday	9.15am Rosary for Peace	
Saturday	6pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday	11am Mass	9.15am Mass

Hosting Fr Tony: if you are interested in hosting Fr Tony, a new list can be found at the back of church should you want to put your name forward.

St. Teresa's - Volunteers Desperately Needed to provide tea & coffee after the 9.15am Sunday Mass. No expertise needed! Please speak to Sharnalee, Trevor or Brek after Mass, or you can email sharnaleefoster@gmail.com.

Saturday 12th September for OHCT's Ride and Stride is being organised at St Teresa's by *Suze Mathews*. You can participate either as a rider/strider or helping as a Welcomer for an hour to sign people's forms. Suze will be available after Mass on Sundays in August so you can sign up.

Annual Pilgrimage to Harvington Hall, Shrine of the English Martyrs, Sunday 6th September. Principal Celebrant: His Excellency *Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia*, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, assisted by The Most Reverend *Bernard Longley*, Archbishop of Birmingham. **Mass 3pm, Confessions 1.45-2.30pm**. Free Parking, free timed tours of Harvington Hall are available to pilgrims on the day, and can be booked at the table in the Hall's courtyard on arrival. **It is essential that you bring your own chairs and packed lunch.**

In August, let us pray with the Holy Father that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of our Parish, in particular Hilda and Anne Clifton of St Teresa's. In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones. The repose of the souls of those who have died. People whose anniversaries occur at this time.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are **Tina Short** (sg.holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk) and **Sharnalee Foster** (sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.