

HOMILY ASSUMPTION YRB 2018

Today we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so I want to talk about that today. This doctrine was proclaimed *ex cathedra* by the Pope in 1950. Ex Cathedra is an infallible teaching from the Pope. A Pope has only done this twice in the history of the Church. There is no specific Scriptural basis for this doctrine that is why we do not hear about it in the readings. Mary was conceived without original sin. This is the other doctrine of the Church called the Immaculate Conception. Mary did not sin in her lifetime. Therefore Mary did not have to experience death. She was assumed into heaven, body and soul. This is called the Dormition of Mary in the Eastern Church. These doctrines have significance to each one of our lives.

First of all, Mary found herself in a situation that she felt totally unprepared for as we can see from her reaction to the Annunciation. She was troubled. But in fact, God had prepared her from the moment of conception. She was created without original sin. We sometimes find ourselves in situations that we feel totally unprepared for. In fact, God has prepared us. He gave us the gifts and charisms that we will need to cope with what comes in our lives. God also gives us the experiences in our lives that we need to be prepared for what is to come. As I look back on my life now it is clear to me that some of the things I went through prepared me for my life today. It was not clear at the time, but it is now. And God continues to help us if we are doing his work. Secondly, Mary is already experiencing what we have to look forward to. Mary shared in the Resurrection of Jesus. Mary has been born to new life, just as Jesus did. Because of the Assumption we know that our true home is with God in heaven, body and soul. We will maintain our individual identity. We will recognize our loved ones in heaven. We will be incomplete until we are joined with our glorified body and that will not happen until the end of time. The length of time that this will take is not an issue as there will be no real concept of time in eternal life. Time only has meaning in this life because it is limited. So remember, God has prepared us for what we face in this life from the beginning of time and he will continue to prepare us and care for us. Our true home is with God in heaven, body and soul, a reality that Mary already experiences.