



Saint Michael's Parish

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Parish Priest: Rev Vincent Toal



MASS THIS WEEK:

**Sunday 16th August 2026, *THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY* – 8am & 11am; Mon 17th–10am; Tuesday 18th – 10am; Wednesday 19th – 8.15am; Thursday 20th – 4.30pm, St Mahew's; Friday 21st – 10am; Saturday 22nd – 5.30pm, Vigil, 21st Sunday of Year
Carmel: 9am Mon-Sat**

Father Abba

As announced, last Sunday, Archbishop Nolan has asked **Fr Isaac Abba** to replace Fr Toal here in Saint Michael's when he moves to Our Lady & St George, Penilee, on 18th September. Fr Isaac is from the diocese of Minna in Nigeria and has served in Glasgow since July 2023, including the past 30 months at Saint Peter's, Partick. He was ordained priest in 2018. On a visit to Saint Michael's, during the week, he met the Sisters at Carmel, Mrs Mulvenna and the staff at Saint Michael's Primary, and joined us for Mass at Saint Mahew's. It was the day before his 35th birthday (14th August) – *ad multos annos!*



Parting gift

The Parish Pastoral Council is inviting anyone who wishes to contribute towards a parting gift to Fr Toal, make their own farewell gift, or simply place a message on a card, to place their envelope in the box provided at the back of the church – boxes will appear next Sunday and the following. An expression of thanks for his eight years of service in Saint Michael's will be delivered at the Sunday Masses on 12th/13th September. There will also be an evening celebration in the hall to mark Fr Toal's departure and welcome Fr Abba to the parish – date to be arranged.

Holidays over!

After the summer of fairly decent weather, the holidays are over and it's back to school. The start of the new term, especially for children in Primary One, is a time of excitement at the great adventure that lies ahead. We pray for all our children, parents and teachers as they share in the work of Catholic education and faith formation.

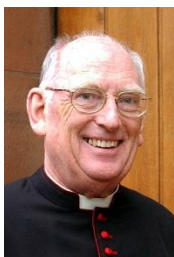
Altar Servers

Over the summer, we lost one half of our altar server duo, so could do with a few new recruits. Duties consist mainly of serving at one of the Sunday Masses – so you would need to be faithful to the practice of coming to Mass. Parental permission and encouragement are necessary. If interested, speak with Fr Toal.

Sunday Mass

In his general audience at the Vatican, Pope Leo described Sunday as “the weekly Easter,” and explained that in order to sanctify Sunday, it is fundamental to celebrate the Eucharist, making visible the Christian community's communion with the Lord. Such an assembly, he warned, cannot be substituted by a solely virtual presence, nor can it be reduced to a passive gathering.

Monsignor Dan Hart



The death occurred last weekend of Mgr Dan Hart (94), a long-serving priest of the archdiocese of Glasgow whose family roots are in Dumbarton. Ordained in Rome on 17th March 1956 by his uncle, Bishop William Hart of Dunkeld (one of four Dumbarton brothers who became priests), Mgr Dan's ministry included long spells in education at Blairs College, Aberdeen, and Notre Dame teacher training college, Bearsden, before being appointed parish priest of St Helen's, Langside. His sister, Margaret Cardle, is a parishioner of St Michael's, living in Cardross.

- Mgr Hart's remains will be received into St Patrick's church on Thursday 20th August at 6pm, with Requiem Mass on Friday 21st at 12 noon; burial in Dumbarton cemetery. *Requiescat in pace.*

TRUE BEAUTY LIES IN REVEALING THE SIGNS OF LOVE

Homily of Pope Leo XIV for The Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary

The Church teaches us that Mary having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory and points out to us, in this Mystery, the fulfilment of the most perfect grace that God bestowed upon her at her Immaculate Conception.

For this reason, many works of art depict her as a beautiful young woman physically rising from the earth toward the heavens at the end of her earthly life. These works are inspired by the scene described in the passage from the Book of Revelation that we heard in the Reading: “A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet”, signifying that in Mary’s heart, heaven and earth, time and eternity, meet.

On the surface this image seems to contrast with our experience of what the passing of the years does to us. As we age, our bodies do not become more agile, but heavier; our skin does not become fresher, but shows the signs of old age; our hair does not gain colour and lustre, but turns grey and then white. So, what do we have in common with the beautiful young woman depicted in the art of our churches?

To understand this, we must unite the two signs: the incorrupt body of the Mother of God and her immaculate heart. For it is the purity of the soul that, in Mary — as in us — by the grace of God, illuminates and transfigures the whole person, leading us to the glory of Heaven.



The glorification of Mary, body and soul, teaches us that our true beauty does not lie in hiding the signs of aging, but in revealing the signs of love that never end, and are even impressed on our flesh.

With this in mind, we are invited to reexamine many of the aesthetic standards, predominantly hedonistic and consumerist in nature, that the world imposes on us. These standards risk trapping us in burdensome expectations, causing us to waste precious energy on what does not really matter and does not last forever.

In everyday life, we encounter people whose faces are marked by the years and by suffering, yet who are capable of radiating serenity, kindness and peace around them; just as we may observe others who are perhaps outwardly attractive but hard and cold at heart. It is easy to see where true beauty lies and where, on the other hand, there is still a need for conversion, forgiveness and healing.

If we truly wish to discover and nurture the divine beauty that surrounds us and for which we were made, and to share it with those around us, we must learn to see it in the wrinkles of an elderly person as in the tender face of a child as well, in the maturity of an adult as in the liveliness of a young person as well, in work clothes and tools as well as in festive decorations. We must listen to the unique love stories that each of these realities tells us, recognizing in them small glimpses of heaven.

Love is humanity’s most beautiful adornment. Love transfigures, transforms, ennobles and lifts us up, making us light, free and close to God, even amid life’s ups and downs.

The miracle that Mary, the maiden of Nazareth, experienced in her innocent heart, which led her to the glory of Heaven, is a meeting of extremes, as she testifies in the inspired words of the *Magnificat*. In this canticle, through the humble expressions of her faith, the Mother of God speaks to us in simple terms of the magnificent mysteries she experienced, such as God becoming man in her to save humanity.

We need not look far to find the sublimity of the Mystery we celebrate. We can encounter it wherever there is true charity – in the eyes of a father and mother returning home after a long day, tired but happy to be with their children; in the faces of grandparents who, despite the aches and pains of old age, are filled with unexpected energy as they care for their grandchildren; in the commitment of young people who strive to grow in morality and sincerity, ready even to go against the grain of “what everyone else does.” Finally, in the daily work of so many men and women who, with faith and dedication, help bring a little bit of Heaven to earth and the earth closer to Heaven.

Dear friends, the beautiful face of Our Lady of the Assumption is unique; it transcends any possible representation, and yet, at the same time, is familiar to us. In her holy human nature, we see our nature; we too are called to live the same grace-filled life that she lived and to share in her glory.

Let us look to Mary, whom God has crowned with glory in body and soul, and whom he has given to us as Mother, guide, companion on our journey, and protector on the path to Heaven.