



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

ASSUMPTION 2018 Padstow, Bodmin

**Most Blessed of All Women**

*Readings: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2, Psalm 131, 1 Corinthians 15: 54-57, Luke 11:27-28*

To those outside the Universal Church the proclamation of the Dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary may seem 'a matter of indifference' at best and, at worst, Catholic cultic creativity.

Coming, late as it did (in 1950) simply adds to the confusion of the outsider.

A word then on its timing why we do what we do.

The Assumption itself (or the Dormition as Eastern Orthodoxy prefers) is no 'jenny come lately' doctrine. It is attested from the earliest writings and liturgies of the Church in her post persecution settlement. The certainty of the Assumption may be established by the simplest 'negative checking'. Imagine, if you will, the body of Mary somewhere lying in a tomb. The demand for relics for the altars of Christendom would have been overwhelming. No such place is known. No such cult ever obtained. The Immaculate, who conceived Christ by the Holy Spirit, is taken Heavenwards as the fruit of Her Son's Resurrection and as a forerunner of the destiny of her children.

When Pope Pius XII proclaimed this dogma in 1950 he did not do this as some imperial Papal whim. He consulted the Scripture. He consulted the tradition. He listened to the lives and witness of the Saints- what Chesterton once described as 'the democracy of the dead'. He consulted the bishops and, through them, the Universal Church. Only when all that evidence was in did Pius XII publish the ex cathedra teaching 'Munificentissimus Deus', the Apostolic Constitution defining the Assumption.

That the Assumption was always part of the teaching and belief of the Church is not in doubt. The urgency to proclaim it as de fide (required belief) sprang directly from the tragedy through which the world was living in his pontificate and his prophetic insights into what was to come in our age.

Pius XII had witnessed the horrific degradations of two great materialistic and demonic creeds, National Socialism and Soviet Marxism. Both slaughtered their people and others on an industrial scale, reducing humanity to economic counters and disposable slaves. Human bodies, in the death camps, were recycled into soap of boiled fat and lampshades of skin. The materialist and idolatrous follies were rightly dubbed by Pius XII as 'infernal'.

This dark Satanic vision of humanity was set in stunning contrast to the Christian vision.

Pius XII put his declaration in the context of 'the very severe calamities that have taken place' and 'the flight from truth and virtue'.

He added that 'while the illusory teachings of materialism and the corruption of morals that follows from these teachings threaten to extinguish the light of virtue and to ruin the lives of men by exciting discord among them, in this magnificent way (the Assumption) all may see clearly to what a lofty goal our bodies and souls are destined.'

The Dogma of the Assumption remains then a timely reminder that, in the loving purposes of God, the destiny of Man does not lie in the crematoria of Auschwitz, nor in the waste pits of the Gulags, not in the killing fields of the Khmer nor in the medical waste bags of the state sponsored eugenicists. The enemies of God are always the enemies of Man

The Assumption is a call to arms against the 'humanophobic' wickedness of materialism and a rallying cry of hope to the Faithful in the proclamation of the Resurrection hope for the eternal future of Man.  
Maria Assumpta , Mater Dei- ora pro nobis.

 2018 Fowey Retreat