

## Assumption BVM

Today we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A woman to whom the church has had a fantastic devotion throughout its 2,000 year history. But be careful because the traditions of history can obscure, as well as illuminate truth. The romance surrounding this most profound truth can disfigure, as well as emphasise its importance.

At the moment, we have the glory of the Olympic Games. Evenings in many homes are being spent gazing at the glass screen in the corner of the room. This magically transfers images of the Gods of sport, across the globe, and into our living rooms.

One can wonder at the gymnasts expressing years of effort in the Olympic arena. It is easy to become complacent as the synchronised divers enter the water a split second apart, then from the living room couch, dare to comment.

These events are wonderful. However the presentation of these events can obscure, as well as illuminate certain truths. The romance can surrounding these most excellent achievements, can disfigure as well as emphasise their importance.

Each of you will at one time or another be asked to take on the seemingly impossible. When after a hip replacement, the journey between bed and armchair seems like an Olympic challenge. When the self-will, to rise from your bed and get on with the day, demands a seemingly superhuman effort. When you have failed and need to begin again.

The truth is that you are also an athlete. The achievements of your life come as a result of the daily training you are prepared to take on. Be amazed by the events in the Olympic park. But also be inspired to participate.

Indeed there are so many aspects of life that we can observe, and then as a result of the excellence celebrated by others, excuse ourselves from taking part in.

How many of you have watched a cooking programme. How many have been delighted by the colours, the textures, the expressions of delight on the faces of the judges. Then released yourself from the risk of something new, by absurd comparison.

How many have grown angry at political debate. Furious that they, they, have imposed another foolish and unjust measure. When they are you, in a democracy, were each vote counts.

How many of you have always dreamed of taking up a activity that needed time, concentration, finance, and the ability to fail, and then begin again. But have hidden behind the inability to achieve gold. Obscuring the need for commitment, by the achievements of others. Disfiguring the beauty of your efforts, by looking not in the mirror, but at a television screen.

This is the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It is the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church that the divine, the god, Christ Jesus knit together in this human woman's womb.

It is the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church that this **human being** was physically at the very centre of the Father's plan of eternal salvation.

It is the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church that the dignity of humanity, as demonstrated by the role of this woman, is to share in the very creative power of God.

To participate

To participate

To participate

All too often this truth has been obscured by the romantic presentation of the Mother of God.

All too often well-meaning traditions have separated this heroine, of the history of salvation, from our day to day existence.

The Olympic athletes are human

The chefs on your TV screens are human

The politicians you so love to blame are human

The doctrine of the Church is that The Blessed Virgin Mary is human.

The consequence of this doctrine is that you are not excused, by devotion, to this human being who lived beyond your own personal level of faith. But that you should be inspired to act, as a consequence your devotion, to this heroine, the Blessed Virgin Mary .

The consequence of this doctrine is that you too, as a son or daughter of God

are called

To participate

To participate

To participate

In the creative power of God.