

Homily
The Solemnity of the Assumption
15th August 2021, Year B Sooeey Church

The *Taj Mahal* has been described as a “love song in marble.” Completed in 1645, the magnificent marble mausoleum was built by Shah Jahan, India’s Mogul emperor, in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Shah Jahan loved her deeply, calling her his “*Taj Mahal*,” meaning “The Pearl of the Palace.” But Princess Mumtaz Mahal died giving birth to their fourteenth child, and the emperor then was inconsolable. So, he summoned a great architect from Persia to build the *Taj Mahal*, telling him that it must be “the one perfect memorial in the world.” Seventeen years were needed to build this enchanting edifice of gleaming white marble embroidered with flashing jewels. It is an enduring monument to love that still inspires tourists, artists, and writers from all over the world.

Well! Today we are celebrating the solemnity of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother: a proof of God’s incomprehensible and immeasurable love for Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

Now, the Assumption is one of the 4 dogmas which the Church holds regarding the Blessed Virgin Mary. The four dogmas are: 1) that Mary is the Mother of God, 2) that Mary was immaculately conceived without any original sin, 3) that Mary is perpetually a Virgin, 4) and finally that Mary is totally assumed into heaven. Now of these, the Central dogma would be that Mary is the Mother of God. Mary is preserved from original sin because she is the Mother of God, Mary is perpetually a virgin because she wanted to be available to God, and Mary's glorification is a result of her being the Mother of God.

Pope Pius XII on the 1st of November, 1950 in a solemn document which is called in Latin *Munificentissimus Deus* solemnly defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary when the course of her earthly life was over was taken up body and soul into heaven. Well, we need to remember, that this is because of her close relationship with Jesus. And by raising her from the dead and taking her into heaven – body and soul – God demonstrated His undying love for Mary. God did not have to build a *Taj Mahal* to memorialize Mary. Her glorified body is itself a magnificent temple of the Holy Spirit.

So, what is this dogma telling us? It tells us that Mary is a sign and a model of what each one of us is called to be. It reminds us that the glorification of Mary is a sign of what our own glory is going to be.

Now, do we ever ask ourselves this question? Or voice it to someone else, “why me? Why did this happen to me?” If and when we ever do say “Why me?” is it not usually in regard to something very unpleasant that has happened to us? We might have on various occasions asked ourselves this question: Why does the worst always happen to me?”

Instead have we ever thought of saying “Why me?” when something really good happens to us? May be, when the love of your life loves you back, or when you get a raise in salary, do you ever say, “Why me? Why should such wonderful things happen to me? Why am I being treated so well?” – And that is just what Mary probably is asking God today. “Why is it that I am the one you have taken up into Heaven body and soul with such great glory?”

In the *Magnificat*, the song of Mary given in today's Gospel, Mary acknowledges that “*the Almighty has done great things*” for her. Besides honoring her as

Jesus' mother, God has blessed her with the gift of bodily Assumption. Now, God who has "lifted up" His "lowly servant" Mary, lifts up all the lowly, not only because they are faithful, but also because God is faithful to the promise of Divine mercy. Thus, the feast of the Assumption celebrates the mercy of God, or the victory of God's mercy as expressed in Mary's *Magnificat*.

Now, what is the destiny and mission of each of us as Christians? Following the example of our Blessed Mother, we are called to present Christ to the world, to live a life free from sin and to be available to God. So, what has taken place in Mary in a unique fashion has to take place in our life in a particular way.

We shall then dear friends ask our Blessed Mother on this feast day to intercede for us with her son so that we may be able to present Christ to the world, that we may always live in the grace of God and that we may be available to God as Mary was.

May we have the grace to be signs and bearers of God's love to everyone we come across in life. God bless you all, **Amen.**

