

**THE RIBBLE VALLEY PARISHES OF
ST WILFRID, LONGRIDGE: ST MARY, CHIPPING:
ST PETER AND ST PAUL, RIBCHESTER.**

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Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Year A

Sunday 16th August 2026



*“Blessed are those who hear the Word of
God and keep it.”*

<u>Day</u>	<u>St Wilfrid</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	<u>Ss. Peter & Paul</u>
Monday 17th August	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off
Tuesday 18th August	Mass 10.00am		
Wednesday 19th August			Mass 10.00am
Thursday 20th August		Mass 9.30am	
Friday 21st August	Morning Prayer <i>St Paul's</i> 7.45am		
Saturday 22nd August	Mass 5.30pm		
Sunday 23rd August		Mass 9.30am	Mass 11.00am

Parish of St Mary Chipping

Sunday Missal page 1057

Book Stall

The book stall continues to be very popular and any books in good condition to keep it stocked up would be gratefully received. Many thanks.

Bicentenary Meeting

The Community Centre will be the location of the next Bicentenary Meeting being held at 7pm on Wednesday 9th September. All are most welcome.

Food Bank

The food bank welcomes all donations from parishioners and in particular baby products, toiletries, long life milk, juice, tea and coffee. Please note that there will be a container at the back of the church so items can be left at any time.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for our departed loved ones and for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again. We remember especially:

Nora Radford, James Furlong and Francis Marsden.

May the Risen Lord grant them a share in his Resurrection.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 9th August 2026: £191.20

Thank you.

Parish of St Peter and St Paul Ribchester**Parish Notices****Welcome**

We warmly welcome Cillian Austin Casson and Edith Rose Trueman into the family of the Church who have recently been baptised. May they continue to grow in the ways of faith.

T.H.O.M.A.S.

Please note that the monthly collection for T.H.O.M.A.S. will take place on Sunday 23rd August and all donations will be most gratefully received, thank you.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for our departed loved ones and for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again. We especially remember:

Michael Brady, Gladys Atkinson, Mary Elizabeth Walker and June Lowe. May they rest in peace.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 9th August 2026:

£161.50

Thank you.

Parish of St Wilfrid Longridge**Parish Notices****Sunday Missal page 1054****Welcome**

We warmly welcome Nancy Bennett, Reuben Caten and Peter Forshaw into the family of the Church who have recently been baptised. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for our departed loved ones and for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again. We especially remember:

Raymond Eastham, John Richardson, Anne Bond and Veronica Lee-Watkinson.

May they rest in peace.

Longridge Foodbank

Kindly note that Longridge Foodbank is currently in short supply of the following items: Coffee, Tea, Tinned Meat, Savoury Snacks and Chocolate. If you can donate any of these items in the collection box at the back of church, it would be greatly appreciated.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life has been celebrated in both Eastern and Western Christianity (with some minor differences) since the 4th century, as, respectively, the feast of the Dormition (falling asleep) or the Assumption. This was formally defined as a dogma of the Church, that is, a religious truth established by Divine Revelation and defined by the Church, by Pope Pius XII in 1950.

The importance of Marian devotion in the Church is that it helps us to better appreciate the mystery of Christ, it helps us to understand the nature of the Church and our place within it, and the great potential residing in humanity: that we ourselves, albeit in a more limited way than the Blessed Virgin, have also held out to us by God's gift the possibility of becoming holy, becoming temples of his Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. This enables us become part of God's new creation.

One reason, perhaps, for Pope Pius XII deciding that 1950 was a particularly apt time for this definition, was the huge affront to human lives and dignity that had taken place over the first half of the 20th century: the two hugely destructive world wars, the gulags and the death camps, and finally the total abandonment of any conception of just and proportionate waging of war in the use of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. These events and their consequences still overshadow us to this day.

Against all this then, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin provides a striking counter-example of the innate dignity and worth of every human person as a child of God and, potentially, a saint. In honouring Mary in this feast, we are also honouring ourselves to an extent, Mary as our exemplar shows us the potential of what we ourselves might become.

Fittingly, the readings chosen for this feast from the Book of Revelation and Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians emphasise the victory of Christ over the forces of death and destruction; and the Blessed Virgin, saluted from ancient times in the Church as the new Eve, helps open up for us the new creation, the coming of the kingdom. In her Magnificat, her great song of praise to God for what he has worked through her, what he is still working through the poor and vulnerable, we are reminded of our calling to be servants of God's mercy in the world, surrounded and supported by the loving prayers of Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother.