

How Shall We Celebrate Our Feast Day?

But blessed are your eyes, because they see and your ears, because they hear. (Mt. 13: 16)

Jesus' lament about the Jews – that they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand – is understandable. The Lord does not want them to observe empty rituals, does not want them to look at externals but to **cultivate an interior disposition**. What did Jesus mean when He said, *“But blessed are your eyes, because they see and your ears, because they hear”*? To His disciples, He wants them to **cultivate a spirituality**, to be able to witness to a reality which is beyond what is physically before them. To be able to cultivate a spirituality, we must **prepare ourselves interiorly** to have an internal disposition.

Our parish patronal feast – the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – will be celebrated from Saturday 11th to Sunday 19th August. However, we have to reach beyond the immediate nine days to cultivate an interior disposition. I propose to prepare ourselves to celebrate this solemnity with prayer and meditation throughout the month of August. We shall **consecrate the month of August to Mary**.

Lauds and Memorial Mass to Our Lady every Saturday in August: For four Saturdays in August, we will have a memorial Mass of Our Lady: 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th August shall be special days set apart for prayer. Starting with Lauds (Morning Prayer) at 6am and followed by Mass. Please join us in making this a special devotion to Our Lady.

Holy Hour on 1st and 4th Fridays: For two Fridays in August, we will have Holy Hour on 3rd and 24th August, starting immediately after 6.30pm Mass (about 7pm).

Parish Feast from 11 – 19th August: We will have a special 9-Day Feast Novena. The programme each day will begin with Rosary prayed in four languages, followed by Novena to Our Lady, and end with Mass. During the Feast, we call upon the participation and collaboration of all BECs and Ministries in the Church, including the various Language Apostolates. Themes for the 9 days are on the reverse side. On Sunday 19th August, after Mass, there will be a procession and benediction, followed by a small reception, with guests joining us from the various faiths.

Mass on Merdeka Day: Our Feast shall draw to a close on Friday 31st August with Mass celebrated at 10am ending with the singing of the National Anthem.

Rev. Fr. Gregory Chan, Parish Priest