### LSW

children

*You may also wish to run through the wordings of the* Hail Mary*, the first part being praises for Mary and the second part being the part that we ask Mary to intercede for us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace the Lord is with you

*(what the angel Gabriel said to her)*

Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus

*(what her cousin Elizabeth said to her)*

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

*(asking Mary to intercede for us)*

Years A, B and C

###### Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady

**Images**

Mary obedient to God’s will

**Points to note**

This is a feast outside of the Church calendar. As a solemnity, it is the highest rank of all feast-days in the calendar. Only solemnities and feasts of Our Lord take precedence over Sunday masses.

The feast of the Assumption is one of the oldest Marian feast-days and has its origins in Jerusalem. This feast celebrates Mary’s entrance into heaven and as with all other Marian feast-days, it seeks to emphasise the humanity of Jesus with an emphasis on his mother. At the same time, it seeks to emphasise the divinity of Jesus by celebrating the attribute that set Mary aside from other women, the fact that she was bodily incorruptible on account of her sinlessness. A related feast is that of the Queenship of Mary, celebrated exactly one week later on 22 August.

In this session, we highlight the role of Mary in bringing Jesus to us. You may instead choose to use a different reading, that of the Annunciation, Lk 1:26-38. The point being that everything that Mary did was for God and in obedience to him.

**Liturgy**

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Mary has been taken up into heaven;

all choirs of angels are rejoicing.

Alleluia!

Gospel

*The angel Gabriel has just informed Mary that she will bear the baby Jesus and that her cousin Elizabeth is pregnant in her old age.*

The Lord be with you.

*All:*  And also with you.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke

*All:*  Glory to you O Lord

(Lk 1:39-56)

Mary set out and went quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, “Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? From the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.” And Mary praised God.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Dialogue**

*You may wish to start by retelling Mary’s story. Mary was the daughter of two devout Jewish persons, Joachim and Anne. As a child, she knew that she was destined for something important. Her childhood was one of preparing and ‘training’ for an important task: that of taking care of Jesus. All Christian virtues were found in her. When she grew up, she was engaged to get married to a man called Joseph. The angel Gabriel visited her and told her that she was to be the mother of Jesus. Although she was worried about it, she agreed as it was God’s will. The angel also told her that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant with a child, who will grow up to be John the Baptist. Her upbringing is such that it was only characteristic of her to think of her aged cousin Elizabeth and visited her.*

Is it easy for you if you were to be asked to take care of something very important? *Discuss using something that is fragile but important in that everyone is dependent on it, such as a big punch bowl with the drinks for dinner.*

*Discuss the personality of Mary.* Was this an easy task for Mary to be the Mother of Jesus? After all, baby Jesus is very fragile and difficult to take care: wouldn’t any God be? And the *whole world is depending on her taking good care of Jesus! Highlight that it would be understandable if Mary had said no to taking on this heavy responsibility.*  Would we still have Jesus if Mary did not agree to be his Mother?

#### Explain the significance of today’s feast. As a sinless person, God had greater plans for her. So, God raised her up to heaven and crowned her Queen of Heaven.

#### It should be noted though, that although Jesus went up to heaven in a similar manner, there is a difference. Jesus ascended to heaven while Mary was assumed into heaven. Jesus went to heaven under his own power while Mary went to heaven under God’s power. Jesus is God while Mary is nothing without God. That is why we say that Mary is not the light, but the mirror that reflects the light. That is why also we do not pray to Mary but we ask Mary to pray for us.