



Bishop Philip Egan celebrates 45 years of ADoRE

In a Mass live-streamed from Portsmouth Cathedral on 22 August, Bishop Philip celebrated the 45th anniversary of Alton Day of Renewal and commended its founder, Fr Brian Coogan, now in his 73rd year of Priesthood.

In his homily, Bishop Philip encouraged us to be like Mary, a Temple filled with the fire, power and passion of the Holy Spirit. "Being a Catholic is not just about being close to God: it's about being filled with God. It's about living IN God. It's about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, so that His fire, His power, His passion might drive us with His gifts. We need the Spirit now more than ever."

Full Homily text below

Homily of Bishop Philip Egan 22 August 2020

Feast of the Queenship of Mary. Anniversary Mass for Alton Day of Renewal

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, SANCTUARY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I welcome you to this Mass celebrating the anniversary of Alton Day of Renewal, a charismatic monthly Day of Prayer and Praise founded 45 years ago by Fr. Brian Coogan. Fr. Brian, now retired on the Isle of Wight, is this year 73 years a priest: let's thank God for him and pray for him. I'm grateful to Alastair and the Core Team for inviting me to offer this Mass. At the end of it, there'll be a short period of Eucharistic Exposition and then the rest of the Day will continue online by Zoom for the participants.

It's fitting we hold this Day of Renewal today, the Feast day of Mary, the Queen of Heaven. This feast was established in 1954 by Pope Pius XII and it now closes the Octave of the Assumption. As we recall in the Book of Revelation and in the Fifth Glorious Mystery of the Rosary, God crowned the Blessed Virgin Mary, assumed into Paradise, the Queen of heaven and earth. This is why we heard those wonderful Readings that give us a taste of Christmas: Prophet Isaiah, *a child born for us, a son given to us ... Wonder-Counsellor, Prince of Peace*. And then the Gospel of the Annunciation fulfilling that prophecy, when the Angel Gabriel was *sent by God to a town in Galilee* to invite Mary to be the Saviour's Mother. We can never thank her enough for her immortal response: *I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me*. The key to everything about Mary is that She is the Mother, the Mother of God, and, thanks to her Son, our Mother too. True, today we honour her as Queen, yet the basic truth is that She is our Mother: yes, a royal, majestic, perfect Mother, but One Who is loving, caring, doting, One Who is ever on our side and Who brings us to Her Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. But there's something more here too.

Our world at the moment, our lives, are blighted by the pandemic. We pray for its speedy end and the invention of a vaccine. COVID has had a huge impact not least upon the Church. We pray for the safe reopening of our churches, for the rebuilding of the life of the Church and importantly, for the resumption of the mission and service of the Church: *to bring people to Christ*. This is why this Day of Renewal is so important. For, more than ever before, we need the gifts of the Holy Spirit: His fire, His power, His passion. In the Gospel, the Angel says to Mary: *The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you*. We rightly think of Mary as Mother, but we should also think of Her as the Temple, Sanctuary and Dwelling-Place of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit dwells in Her Heart. The Spirit drives Her with His gifts and charisms. The Spirit fills Her with fire, power and passion. Being a Catholic is not just about being close to God: it's about being filled with God. It's about living IN God. It's about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, so that His fire, His power, His passion might drive us with His gifts. We need the Spirit now more than ever.

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you. The Father works in the world through His Two Hands, the Son and the Spirit. We need them Both. We need to encounter Christ and to ask Him for the Spirit. We need a personal friendship with Christ, so that our hearts can be charged with the fire, power and passion of the Holy Spirit, driving us out on mission to proclaim the Good News and to serve the needy. In this Mass and Day of Renewal, let's turn to Mary, our Mother and Queen. Let's ask Her to bring us to her Son so that, like Her, we too may be a Temple filled with the fire, power and passion of the Holy Spirit.