

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
(INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY)
15th August 2020**

INTRODUCTION:

Today we celebrate two significant and related events. These are the Assumption of our Blessed Mother and Independence Day. The reason why these events are related is because they are both about Freedom. Independence is celebrated as freedom from foreign rule and domination to self-rule and governance and the Assumption may be seen as a freedom from this limited and incomplete life to the bliss of eternal and perpetual life.

Are we really free? Are we truly Christian?

Let the celebrations of Independence Day and the Assumption of our Blessed Mother be wake-up calls for us to rouse ourselves from our slumber and do something tangible to right the wrongs.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: Raised body and soul to glory, Mary shines forth as "a great sign" of our eternal future as the Church. But we are still pilgrims as we bring our prayers, with her, to God our Father.

Our response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For the Church, that we will look forward to the resurrection promised us by Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For world leaders that they will always work for peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For devotion to Mary, that Christians may find unity around the lowly handmaid exalted to glory, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For our families, that the gentle Queen of Peace may reign in every home, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For our country, that we may have a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our freedom in accordance with your gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord of heaven and earth, our prayers come before you, with the help of the glorious ever-virgin Mary, the first believer called to share in the glory of your triumphant Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.