



SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION 2020

This year the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on a Saturday and is therefore not a holyday of obligation.

The Universal Norms of the Roman Calendar state: "For the pastoral good of the faithful, it is permitted to observe on Sundays in Ordinary Time those celebrations that fall during the week and that are agreeable to the devotion of the faithful, provided the celebrations rank above that Sunday in the Table of Liturgical Days. The Mass of such celebrations may be used at all the celebrations of Mass at which the people are present." [58]

Therefore, at the Masses on the weekend 15/16 August the Solemnity may be celebrated in place of the 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Question: If only one mass is celebrated on Saturday 15 August, it being in the evening, should it be of the Vigil of 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time or the Solemnity of the Assumption?

Answer: Since Solemnities take precedence over Sundays in Ordinary Time the Mass celebrated should be that of the Assumption, which also fulfils the Sunday obligation. If a Saturday morning Mass is celebrated it also must be the Solemnity of the Assumption.

Therefore, it is possible to make all the Saturday and Sunday Masses the Solemnity of the Assumption.

In summary:

All Masses celebrated on Saturday 15 August 2020 must be the Solemnity of the Assumption.

All Masses celebrated on Sunday 16 August, can either be the Solemnity of the Assumption or 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

The Saturday evening Mass of the Assumption fulfils the Sunday obligation.