Dear Padre,

Where did the Virgin Mary spend her last days on earth? Ephesus or Jerusalem?

Shortly before Jesus died on the cross, he entrusted his widowed mother to the protective care of John the Evangelist. (See John 19:26–27.) Accordingly, when John lived his final years in Ephesus, it is believed that Mary also spent her last days nearby in a modest stone dwelling, before being assumed body and soul into heaven "to be preserved from the corruption of the tomb" (Pope Pius XII, Munificentissimus Deus, 1950). Moreover, it is likely in Ephesus (presentday Turkey) where the tradition of Mary's Assumption started.

Pope Benedict XIV (1740–1758) declared Ephesus was "where the

Blessed Mother...proceeded from this life into heaven." More recent popes, such as Paul VI in 1967 and John Paul II in 1979, prayed in this venerable home, known as Mother Mary's House.

However, close to Gethsemane in Jerusalem is the Basilica of the Tomb of Mary from the fifth century. It is built around an ancient crypt where Mary's body was believed to have been laid before it was assumed into heaven.

While both Ephesus and Jerusalem claim to be the location where the Virgin Mary spent her last years on earth, experts contend the latter is the older tradition and the more credible place. Even if Mary temporarily left Jerusalem, it is probable she returned to the land of her birth and resided there at the end of her earthly life.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



And at the end of our life, [the Lord] will call us to account for the goods he has entrusted to us.... We have received so much: life, faith, family, relationships, work, but also the places where we live, our city, creation.... [A]re we quardians of all that has been given to us? ANGELUS, ROME, **AUGUST 7, 2022**



Monday

August 11 St. Clare, Virgin Dt 10:12-22 Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday August 12

Weekday Dt 31:1-8 Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday

August 13 Weekday Dt 34:1-12 Mt 18:15-20

Thursday

August 14 St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17 Mt 18:21-19:1

Friday

August 15 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab 1 Cor 15:20-27

Lk 1:39-56 Saturday

August 16 Weekday Jos 24:14-29 Mt 19:13-15

Sunday

August 17 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 Heb 12:1-4 Lk 12:49-53

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 10, 2025

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Wisdom 18:6-9 / Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12 / Luke 12:32-48 or 12:35-40



Life Is a Game of Golf

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

hen the British colonized India, they brought with them the game of golf. A worse hazard than sand traps turned out to be monkeys. Wherever the ball landed, a monkey would run onto the fairway, pick it up, and drop it somewhere else—from the fairway into the rough, out of a sand trap onto the green, from the green back onto the fairway. The Brits tried everything to keep the monkeys off the course fences, sirens, booming noises. Nothing worked. In the end, they ended up changing the rule book: play the ball where the monkey drops it.

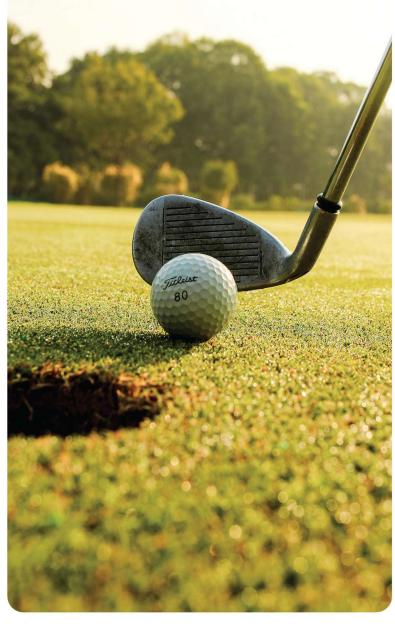
The scriptures today tell of people who lived with an openness to wherever it was that God would take them. They played the ball wherever the monkey dropped it. It is the story of the Hebrews enslaved in Egypt when they were about to be led out into a God-knew-where desert. It is the story of aged Abraham and Sarah, called to travel to an alien land and then into parenthood in their old age. Faith is not trusting that God will always take us to where we want to be; it is trusting that wherever it is that God takes us will ultimately bring us into fuller life. So, watch and be ready to recognize the coming of God. It may be in times of darkness for you (as when the master comes late at night, says Luke's Gospel) or when you find yourself in an "alien land," a place in life you've never been before.

Reflect

What surprising places has God led me?

[Jesus said to his disciples,] "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."





© 2025 Liguori Publications. Imprimatur: "In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish was granted on December 16, 2024, by the Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication; nor is any liability assumed by this permission." No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521