

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 (present-day 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



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

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 guardians of all that has been given to us?

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 7, 2022



RICCARDO DE LUCA - UPDATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

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

When 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.”

LUKE 12:34

