



# Coloma Catholic Life.

**Resurrexit**  
SICUT DIXIT

**ALLELUIA**

Requiescat in pace, alle-lu-ia: Qui-a quem me-  
ru-isci por-tare, alle-lu-ia: Resurrex-it, sic-ut dixit, alle-  
lu-ia: Ora pro no-bis De-um, alle-lu-ia.

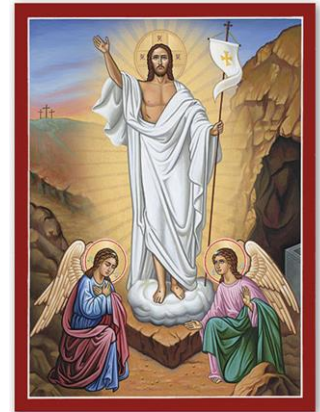
www.psalms.com

## May: The Month of Mary



“May is Mary’s Month,” began the great poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ, in “[The May Magnificat](#).” For centuries, the Catholic Church has emphasized the month of May as a time of honour and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parishes and families often celebrate with special pilgrimages, devotions, or placing a crown on a statue of Mary, traditionally called a “May Crowning”.

On April 29, 1965, Pope Blessed Paul VI promulgated his encyclical *Mense Maio* (“The Month of May”), which promoted May devotions to the Blessed Mother, knowing that, “the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise” (n. 2). Despite being a lesser-known encyclical, its timing and topic are revealing. Released on the eve of the last session of the Second Vatican Council and amid escalating violence and unrest of the Vietnam War and the 1960’s, the help of Mary was “a matter of top priority” considering “the present needs of the Church and the status of world peace” (n. 3). The words of Paul VI are just as relevant today. In our contentious social and political climate, focusing on Mary is not a pious distraction from real issues, but a vital source for grace, truth, and mercy.



## Pope Francis

### Prayer Intention for May:

#### The World of Finance.

‘Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its danger.’

#### Video:

**Tweet:** ‘The Lord wants to say to us that before the observance of his commandments, before the beatitudes, before the works of mercy, it is necessary to be united to Him, to remain in Him.’

#### Liturgical Year

Week: Fifth Sunday of Easter.

Colour: White

## A Short History and Practice

May devotions to Mary began in the 13th century, but there is little information to know how it was celebrated. In its present form, the practice of May devotions to Mary originated within the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in the 18th century under Father Latomia of their Roman College. Shortly afterwards, devotions were adopted at the Jesuit's mother church in Rome, the Church of the Gesù, and then began to spread throughout other area churches to the entire globe.

The image of Mary wearing a gold crown appears in early Eastern and Western iconography, drawing inspiration from the Coronation of Mary as understood in Catholic biblical tradition based on the passage from Revelation 12:1 “A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman\* clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.” Some churches and families participate in a special May Crowning celebration. Pope Clement VIII (1592-1605) first placed two crowns on the Marian icon called “[Salus Populi Romani](#)” in the Roman Basilica of St. Mary Major, but the crowns were later lost. On the Feast of the Assumption in 1838, [Pope Gregory XVI](#) once again added crowns in a special rite, officially starting the tradition as it is still performed today. One reason the devotion has come to extend over the entire month is the abundance of Marian feast days in May: [Mary, Queen of Apostles](#) (Saturday before Pentecost – May 14th, this year), Our Lady of Fatima (May 13), Mary Help of Christians (May 24), and the Visitation (May 31).

## Mary in May Today

**Seeking Peace-** Pope Paul VI's encyclical was especially concerned with peace, invoking the “intercession and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Queen of Peace” (n. 10). Amid ongoing persecutions and violence in many areas of the world, turning to Christ through Mary is an important way to pray that May becomes a month of peace.

**Honouring the Family-** Mary receives an important role in Pope Francis' recent Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*- The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family. He states, “Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth” (n. 30). Pope Francis goes on to say, “The treasury of Mary's heart also contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us understand the meaning of these experiences and to hear the message God wishes to communicate through the life of our families” (n. 30). Pope Francis reminds us that by honouring Mary, we honour Jesus and our families.

(From: Catholic Apostolate Centre)

This link has a series of Marian Readings for the month of May:

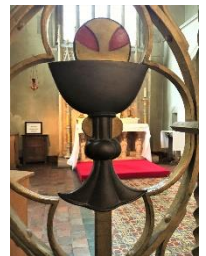
<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resource/240688/month-of-mary-may-devotions>

This link to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has a series called 'Full of Grace', through which the hail Mary can be prayed daily in a different language. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/series/full-of-grace/>

## The Day of the Lord (From the Diocesan website)

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a reflection on post-pandemic recovery and the challenges faced by the Church in encouraging people back to the Church and her Sacraments. The Bishops met for their Spring plenary meeting from 19 – 22 April 2021.

In a reflection titled *The Day of the Lord*, the Bishops also praise families, parish



communities and those who have worked tirelessly in hospitals, care homes, schools and prisons during these challenging times of ill-health, grief and isolation. The Bishops salute the leadership of our priests and also express gratitude for the 'immense efforts' of those who have provided food for those most in need: "The generosity shown in the distribution of so very many meals has given eloquent expression to the mercy, love and compassion which are at the very heart of God. Many have been touched by the joy of meeting Christ in the poor; and many of the poor by the joy of meeting and diverse methods of outreach during the pandemic – not least the live streaming of Mass – attention then turns to the post-pandemic world.

The Bishops recognise that it is impossible to predict the pace at which we will emerge from the pandemic but state "what is clear is the challenge we face of bringing our communities and the practice of the faith to a still greater expression and strength." They identify the groups of people they are seeking to reach:

- Those who have lost the habit of coming to church and who may be anxious about doing so.
- Those who may not want to re-establish a pattern of Catholic worship – who may have seen a gap widen between the spiritual dimension of their lives and any communal expression of that spiritual quest.
- The 'Covid curious' who may have encountered the Catholic Church for the first time during the pandemic.

The Bishops highlight the strengths, the "*veritable treasures*" of the Catholic Church as being the tools at their disposal to rise to these challenges. The greatest treasure is, of course, the sacramental life of the Church and at its heart, the Eucharist.

*"It is the Eucharist, the celebration of the Mass, that makes the Church; and it is the Church, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, which makes the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the lifeblood of the Church. It requires our active participation and, to be fully celebrated, our physical presence."*

*At this moment, then, we need to have in our sights the need to restore to its rightful centrality in our lives the Sunday Mass, encouraging each to take his or her place once again in the assembly of our brothers and sisters." We face the task of seeking to nurture the sense of Sunday as 'a weekly gift from God to his people', and something we cannot do without; to see Sunday as the soul of the week, as giving light and meaning to all the responsibilities we live out each day; to see the Sunday Eucharist as food for the unique mission with which we have been endowed."* **[Download 'The Day of the Lord'](#)**

## Lag B'Omer, Judaism – 26th April

Let us remember and pray for those who lost their lives in the terrible tragedy that befell those celebrating this Jewish festival. May the souls of departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## Year of St Joseph



Pope Francis has announced that this year (8th December 2020 – 8th December 2021) will be a Year of St Joseph. 2021 is the 150th anniversary of the proclamation naming St Joseph as the patron of the Universal Church.

The Diocese of Charlotte (USA) has a website for the year. One of the pages is dedicated to works of art depicting St Joseph. Each piece comes with an explanation.

<https://yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/sacred-artwork/>

## National Theology, Philosophy and Religion Essay Competition

This competition is open to pupils in Years 7 – 9, divided into two categories:

Category 1: Year 7 essays up to 400 words

Category 2: Years 8-9 essays up to 800 words.

Details of the essay titles are below.

### Category 1: Year 7

#### Theology

'The story of Jesus' transfiguration (Mark 9:2-13 ) was just a dream.'

Do you agree? Show that you have considered both sides of the argument.

#### Philosophy

'The moral rule "you must always save human life" is a bad rule.'

Do you agree? Show that you have considered both sides of the argument.

#### Religion

'A religious building must only be used for worship.'

Do you agree? Show that you have considered both sides of the argument.

### Category 2: Years 8–9

#### Theology

'The Calming of the Storm (Mark 4:35-41) is best interpreted as a parable.' Discuss.

#### Philosophy

'Is that which is right because God commands it? Or does God command that which is right?' Discuss.

#### Religion

'Meditation is less effective than prayer.' Discuss.

Entries must be submitted to the Religious Studies Department via individual teachers by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021; one essay per candidate only.

## The God Who Speaks



**Proverbs School Challenge:** The Proverbs School Challenge celebrates the faith and wisdom of young people by inviting them to be inspired by the Book of Proverbs and to write their own modern-day proverbs.

Teachers can submit the top 10 entries from their school to us and we will choose the best proverbs to share on this website and on the Bishops' Conference social media accounts.

Entries can be made via individual Religious Studies teachers.

## Religious Festivals

### Lailat-ul-Qadr, Islam – May 8th

This commemorates the night in 610 CE when the prophet Muhammad received his first visit from the angel Jibril (Gabriel) and his revelation of the *Qur'an*. Muslims believe that the date of this night is kept secret by God, but that they 'may seek the Night of Dignity in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan' (Bukhaari, quoting Aisha, who heard it from the Prophet).

Many Muslims spend the last ten days and nights of Ramadan secluded in the mosque, praying and studying the *Qur'an*, to ensure they receive the special benefits promised for their prayers and devotions on Lailat-ul-Qadr. Muslims "looking for" Lailat ul Qadr tend to gather at sunset and then spend the rest of the night till dawn in the mosque or some other place of worship. For the purpose of communal activities, or for those who can only spend one night in devotions at the mosque, Sunnis favour the 27th day (beginning the evening of the 26th) whilst the Shi'a favour the 23rd day of Ramadan. Of this night, the Qur'an states, "Lailat-ul-Qadr is better than a thousand months." Surah 97:1-5 (see esp. 97: 3).



## Saints of the Week



### St Philip and St James, Apostles – 3rd May.

The Apostle Philip was one of Christ's first disciples, called soon after his master's baptism in the Jordan. The fourth Gospel gives the following detail: "The next day Jesus was about to leave for Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him: Follow Me. Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him: We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets wrote, Jesus the Son of Joseph of Nazareth. And Nathanael said to him: Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Philip said to him: Come and see" (John 1:43ff). Often portrayed as an elderly bearded man holding a basket of loaves and a cross which is often t-shaped or as an elderly man crucified on a tall cross or holding loaves and fishes. Sometimes he is seen baptizing the Ethiopian eunuch or with Saint Andrew.

**Patron:** Hatters; Luxembourg; pastry chefs; Uruguay.

### St. James the Less

St. James the Less, a brother of the Apostle Jude, was of Cana of Galilee. He is the author of one of the Catholic Epistles in the New Testament. He was favoured by an appearance of the Risen Christ (I Cor. 15:7). After the dispersion of the Apostles, he was made Bishop of Jerusalem. He was visited by St. Paul (Gal. 1:19). He spoke after Peter at the meeting of the Apostles (Acts 15:13). When he refused to deny the Divinity of Christ, the Jews cast him down from the terrace of the temple and clubbed him to death. The Breviary contains a very moving description of his death. "When he was ninety-six years old and had governed the Church for thirty years in a most holy manner, the Jews sought to stone him, then took him to the pinnacle of the temple and cast him off headlong. As he lay there half dead, with legs broken by the fall, he lifted his hands toward heaven and prayed to God for the salvation of his enemies, saying: Lord, forgive them for they know not what they do! While the apostle was still praying, a fuller struck his head a mortal blow." His relics now rest next to those of St. Philip in the church of the Holy Apostles in Rome, and their names are mentioned in the first list in the Canon of the Mass. (Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch)

**Patron:** Apothecaries, druggists, dying people, fullers, hatmakers, hatters, milliners, pharmacists, Uruguay.

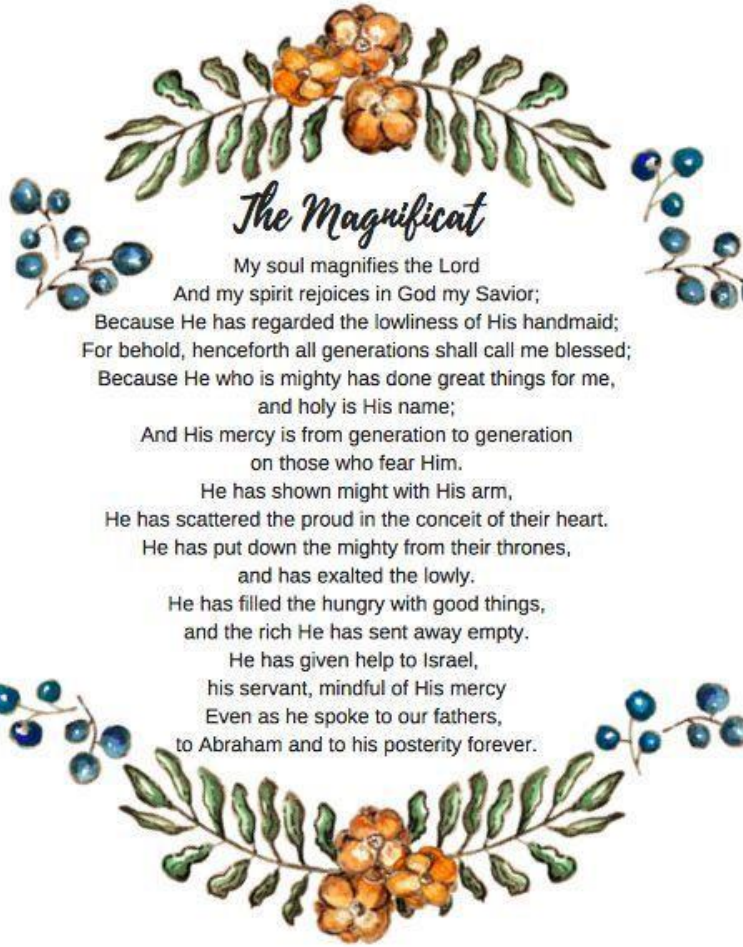
## The English Martyrs – 4th May.



On 4th May 1535, at Tyburn in London, there died three Carthusian monks, the first of many martyrs of the English Reformation. Of these martyrs, forty-two have been canonized, and a further 242 have been declared Blessed; but the true number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison, or were tortured or persecuted for their faith cannot now be reckoned. The persecution lasted a hundred and fifty years and left a permanent mark on English culture.

The martyrs celebrated today came from every walk of life. There were rich and poor; married and single; men and women. They are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith and courage in the face of persecution.

From 2001, there are also celebrated on this day the forty martyrs of England and Wales who were canonized on 25 October 1970 and formerly celebrated on that day. They include Saints Cuthbert Mayne, John Houghton, Edmund Campion, Philip Howard, Margaret Clitherow and Richard Gwynn, as well as Saints John Roberts and Ambrose Barlow from the Benedictine monastery of St Gregory at Douay (now at Downside Abbey in Somerset).



## *The Magnificat*

My soul magnifies the Lord  
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid;  
For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed;  
Because He who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is His name;  
And His mercy is from generation to generation  
on those who fear Him.  
He has shown might with His arm,  
He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.  
He has put down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has exalted the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich He has sent away empty.  
He has given help to Israel,  
his servant, mindful of His mercy  
Even as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his posterity forever.