

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

HOLY MARY
MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US



From the Liturgy Office...

May is traditionally the month when Catholics all over the world celebrate the life and ministry of Our Lady, Mary, Mother of God. For those who live in the Northern Hemisphere, the new life of Spring in early May additionally reflects the new life of Jesus which Mary bore.

Historically, the devotion of the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary occurred as early as the 13th century when the Church gave the pagan festival of **May Day** a Christian meaning by associating it with the Blessed Virgin. On this day (1 May), the most popular of Marian devotions, called the "**May Crowning**", took place. This practice involved crowning a statue of Mary with flowers. This practice became so increasingly popular in the 19th and 20th centuries, that the May Crowning was also practised by Catholic families by decorating a statue or picture of the Virgin Mary in their own homes.



This ritual, along with other special Marian feasts in the month of May, such as, Our Lady of Fatima (13 May), Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament (13 May), Our Lady Help of Christians (24 May) and the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (31 May), honour Mary as the "**Queen of May**". In the Church, these feasts which occur during the month of Marian devotions are often characterised by the use of special hymns and flowers, which bring nature into the church.

To assist you in your own personal devotion to our Mary, a simple May Crowning Ceremony and a variety of Marian Prayer Sheets are available in the Church and on the website (PRAYERS).

God bless,

Rita Cordina Liturgy and Music Coordinator