

## May is the month of Mary

The church gives us a whole month to remember and celebrate Mary, who is both the mother of Jesus and a mother to all of us! The month of May helps us to get to know Mary a little bit better and gives us a chance to pray to her to ask her for her help - help to become better friends with her son, Jesus, and help to try to live as he wants us to.

**Here are some ways you could celebrate the month of Mary:**

### Make a May altar

Here is a picture of one. As you can see it is quite simple – if you have a statue of Mary you could use that or print off a picture of Mary and colour it or draw one yourself, add some flowers in a vase or even in a jam jar, a set of rosary beads if you have one, a bible if you have that or a book of bible stories or any other holy objects you might have.



### Pray to Mary each day

Use her special prayer, the Hail Mary. If you pray 10 of these together and add the ‘Our Father’ before you begin and a ‘Glory be’ after you finish, then that is what we call a ‘decade of the rosary’. The Pope has asked us to use the Rosary prayer every day for the whole month of May to pray for an end to the pandemic. If you have a rosary beads you could use this to help you keep track of the Hail Marys but fingers are good for this too!



### Make a rosary beads either indoors or outdoors

Go to this website (<https://www.catholicicing.com/easy-rosary-craft-for-kids/>) to see how to make one with some beads and pipe cleaners or here is a picture of an outdoor one that you could make with stones or shells.

### Retell a story about Mary from the Bible

Do you know any stories about Mary from the Bible or from your religion book? If you do, why dont you write out the story and draw a picture to go with it. If you have a Bible have a look to see if there are any more stories about Mary in it.



There is a colouring book about Mary available from the Derry Diocese at this link <https://catecheticalcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/may-month-of-mary-colouring-booklet-younger-children.pdf>