



## May - the Month of Mary

The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Our Lady is centuries old, dating back at least 700 years. May is certainly known for its springtime beauty. It is associated with flowers and blossoms, with trees which spring back to life, and grass which sprouts. It brings to mind the idea of promise and hope, of new life. In Meditations and Devotions, St John Henry Newman say: *"The first reason is because it is the time when the earth bursts forth into its fresh foliage and its green grass after the stern frost and snow of winter and the raw atmosphere and the wild wind and rain of the early spring. It is because the blossoms are upon the trees and the flowers are in the gardens. It is because the days have got long, and the sun rises early and sets late. For such gladness and joyousness of external Nature is a fit attendant on our devotion to her who is the Mystical Rose and the House of Gold."* Newman admits that sometimes May is a rainy, cool month. However, it always remains a month of promise and hope, the prelude to summer, the season of light. It is in this sense that it represents Mary. She reflects the light of Christ.

May is normally part of the Easter season, between Easter to Pentecost. Easter season is a fitting time to recall Mary's immense joy over her Son's Resurrection and to rediscover her role as mother and teacher in our lives. The Blessed Virgin Mary offered the disciples her prayers, motherly care, and witness. She continues to offer us her motherly love and intercession. During this month of May, let us rediscover her maternal role in each of our lives. Let us offer our spiritual mother our sincere prayers, that just as she aided the first Apostles with her prayers, she may also guide and intercede for us in our journey of faith. Let us learn from her how to love and trust God completely and how to be faithful witnesses of the risen Lord.

**CELEBRATING MAY** The Prayer of the Rosary will be recited following every weekday Mass. On weekend Masses, the Rosary will start 15 minutes before Mass time.



### **Bring flow'rs of the rarest,**

bring flow'rs of the fairest,  
From garden and woodland, and hillside and vale;  
Our full hearts are swelling, our glad voices telling  
The praise of the loveliest Rose of the dale.

**O Mary! we crown thee with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May,  
O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.**

Our voices ascending, in harmony blending,  
Oh! thus may our hearts turn, dear Mother, to thee;  
Oh! thus shall we prove thee how truly we love thee,  
How dark, without Mary, life's journey would be.

O Virgin most tender, our homage we render,  
Thy love and protection, sweet Mother, to win;  
In danger defend us, in sorrow befriend us,  
And shield our fond hearts from contagion of sin.

Of Mothers the dearest, oh, wilt thou be nearest,  
When life with temptation is darkly replete?  
Forsake us, oh never! our hearts, be they ever  
As pure as the lilies we lay at thy feet.



### **Pius's (our church cat) reflection:**

Meet today's problems with today's strength. Don't start tackling tomorrow's problems until tomorrow. You do not have tomorrow's strength yet. You simply have enough for today (from Max Lucado)