

# May - Month of Mary

## A word from Fr James

*“This is the month in which, in the churches and individual homes, the most affectionate and fervent homage of prayers and devotions from the hearts of Christians is raised to Mary. It is also the month in which from his throne descend upon us the most generous and abundant gifts of the Divine Mercy”*

Pope St Paul VI, 1967

As we enter May, I think I am being realistic rather than my traditional gloomy (!) to think that we all face growing challenges to live this time of lockdown. The pressures only grow, even if we get used to things in some ways: the immediate pressures in our homes and about our finances, and worry looking ahead as to how things will develop... and not least when we might be able to worship together and how to do all the things of parish life.

Near the beginning of lockdown, on Good Friday we heard the Gospel scene once more of Jesus, in his passion on the cross, giving his mother Mary into the care of John the disciple, and giving John (and our faith teaches us, all of us) into her care. *“And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.”* John 19:27.

There is our best advice for today: in May let us consciously take Mary our mother into our lockdown home, into its safety, into its tensions and perhaps its mess. Usually in these spring days we would be meeting to crown the statue of Our Lady in church and meeting together for a parish Rosary. These are not sentimental things but evidence of something truly important. God wants us to have a close relationship with his mother, and she desires truly to be that mother to us. Every home needs a mother, and Mary will help us to cope with what is happening to us and turn it all into grace. It may not seem like it, but we must trust her as part of how we trust Jesus.

So, what to do?

- Say the Rosary each day. (Available online at [Walsingham](#) three times a day and at our [Cathedral](#) at 5.00pm each day in May)
- Or, in your usual daily prayers, add a “Hail Mary” to each petition, to hitch Mary’s prayers to yours.
- If you used “*33 Days to Morning Glory*” earlier in the year, maybe get your copy out again and re-do the process of consecration, or start it for the first time.
- Sing a Marian hymn each day! Seriously! Don’t be shy, you don’t have to post it on-line!

Above all let us bring all those most in our prayers: the sick, those who grieve, the departed souls, all NHS and care workers, all key workers, hospital chaplains etc etc to the care of their mother. That’s a great gift to give them.

*“God wills that all his gifts should come to us through Mary”*

St Bernard of Clairvaux, Patron of our Parish