

My Dear People

Without its feminine dimension, the Church risks to become an old boy's club and incapable of love, so says Pope Francis.

And Voltaire asserted that a male dominated society tends to be barbaric.

So why not celebrate this, the Merry Month of Mary?

But why is May the Month of Mary? (Apart from Chaucer telling us!)

In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of flowers. In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1st was considered the start of new growth.

So the Church Christianised it, just as they Christianised gods' hill to become God's hill.

The ways Mary is honoured in May is as varied as the people who honour her.

It is a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. [Anyone offering to make

a crown for one of our statues?] The crown is usually made of flowers, representing Mary's beauty and virtue.

May Crowning in some areas is a huge celebration and is often done outside of Mass, and it isn't just a "church" thing. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. It doesn't matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it's a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need proper atmosphere to pray.

For May, give Mary a special place in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother.

Then, crown Mary. You can give her an actual or spiritual crown and you can make it a subtle gesture or ornate ceremony of your own

device. The meaning is far more important than the action. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between.

Just do it.

Why?

Not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there are.

No, do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.

For that, she deserves an entire month in her honour. And join us, even if it is only for this month, at our cell of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Fr John

Local Cell of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

3rd Wednesday: 15th May
at 5:00 p.m.



WEBSITE: www.godshillparish.org.uk

Contributions to this leaflet are welcome especially if they come electronically, or typed so they can be scanned in.

Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

none in April

Regular Services:

All Saints, Godshill:

Sung Eucharist

11:00 a.m. every Sunday

Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. every Thursday

St Alban's, Ventnor:

Sung Eucharist

9:30 a.m. every Sunday

Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. every Wednesday

St Margaret's Hall, Ventnor: Holy

Communion 11:00 a.m.

14th & 28th May

Special Services & Events:

This year May falls entirely within Eastertide, a whole month of feasting but no unusual services or events.

But do come to our Walsingham Cell at 5pm on the 15th!

The Society of St Wilfred & St Hilda providing Episcopal oversight and support to traditionalist people and



Church Officers

Parish Priest ('The Vicar'):

Fr. John Ryder SSC,
The Vicarage, Church Hill, Godshill.
PO38 3HY. ☎ 300421
e-mail: johnmryder@mac.com

Parish Deacon: **Dn Corinne Smith,**
☎ 07775628593

e-mail: therevcozza@gmail.com

Reader: **Dr Jennifer Hopkins-Holder**
☎ 852575

e-mail: theflyingprofessor@yahoo.co.uk

Churchwardens

All Saints Dennis Owen ☎ 840591

St Alban's Alan Philpott ☎ 852555

Deputy wardens

All Saints Edward Holden ☎ 842109

St Alban's Peter Pye ☎ 853690

Be Still

by water - a river, a lake, a stream,
a garden pond, or the sea.

Perhaps your hand, or your feet, can
be still in the water, washed by it.

In silence, be aware of the water
of the play of light on it
of the way it moves
of what lives in it.

All life needs water.

Apparitions of Mary are often
associated with springs and wells.

Perhaps pay a visit to Mary's well
at Whitwell

Parish of Godshill

All Saints Church

Godshill

'The Church on the Hill'

St Alban-the Martyr

Ventnor

'The Church on the Steps'

Mary's

Month of May

2019

