



Ten Ways to Celebrate...

May, the Month of Mary

Pope Francis says:

‘Devotion to Mary is not spiritual etiquette; it is a requirement of the Christian life.’

For the Catholic Church, Mary is incredibly special. She is the daughter of God the Father, the Mother of God the Son, the Queen of the angels and saints of Heaven and Earth.

Here are ten ways that you could honour Mary in your home this month:

1. **The Angelus** – In school, we usually pray this each day at 12 noon, but it can be prayed at any time. The words can be found in our school prayer booklet in the ‘Our Catholic Faith’ section of our website, or inside your child’s Home-School Link book.
2. **Flower Crown** – Traditionally, statues of Mary are crowned during the month of May with flowers. Design or make a flower crown of your own.
3. **Reading about Mary** – Read some Bible stories where Mary, Jesus’ mother, was present.
4. **Our Lady** – Find pictures of Mary and use them as inspiration to draw your own. What colours are used?
5. **Hail, Holy Queen** – This is a Catholic prayer to Mary, Mother of Jesus. It is a beautiful prayer and has been used in the Catholic Church since the 12th century.
6. **Ave Maria** – ‘Those who sing pray twice.’ – St Augustine. Our school community enjoys singing. With a responsible adult’s permission, practise some of your favourite songs about Mary. Maybe you’ll find some new ones?
7. **Mark your Page** – Make a bookmark that depicts Mary. Perhaps you could base it on one of Mary’s titles – she has many: Queen of Heaven, Star of the Sea, Mystical Rose are just some. How creative can you be?
8. **Marian Altar** – Design or create a Marian altar to have in your home or garden for the month. Remember that blue is the colour for Mary, you could place your rosary beads on it too.
9. **Hail Mary, Full of Grace** – This is a prayer that all our children know. Could some of our older children write this prayer out in their best handwriting, decorating it beautifully, in their home language to include on their classroom’s prayer display. Younger children could decorate around the words that an adult has written.
10. **Month of May Rosary Challenge** – We challenge you to make a rosary; use whatever you can find: bottle tops, pebbles, craft materials, beads or draw one using coloured pencils – the possibilities are endless! We would love to see your results! Send your photographs by email to the School Office: office@sgcps.org

