



May, the Month of Mary

May is the month when Catholics traditionally focus on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The practice dates back at least 700 years and is still observed around the world today. May is seen as the beginning of new life and the start of summer, which makes this a logical time for the celebrations of Mary, who brought life into the world.

May Devotions

This month of devotions in the church calendar is characterised by special hymns and the use of flowers, which bring nature into the church. There are several Marian feast days in May, including Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The celebration of May as a holy month for Mary has been ratified by several popes through the ages. Pope Benedict XV ordered a prayer for peace in 1915 during World War I and Pope Pius XII called for May devotions in 1939, at the start of World War II.

The May Crowning

Perhaps the most well-known of the May Marian devotions is the crowning of a statue of Mary with flowers. This became particularly popular in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with a procession of school-age boys and girls dressed in their finery, following the statue in a procession.

In this ceremony, the statue is decorated at its base with flowers and one of the girls would be chosen to crown Mary with flowers. The nineteenth century hymn 'Bring Flowers of the Rarest' is a traditional accompaniment to this ceremony. Its lyrics, 'O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May,' sum up what the celebrations are all about. This practise is echoed on a smaller scale throughout the Catholic world with families decorating a statue or picture of the Virgin Mary in their own homes.

Marian Shrines

Marian shrines also receive particular attention during this special month and, again, are decorated with flowers. Pilgrims sometimes undertake a journey to reach a particular shrine, praying the rosary along the way. The lady chapel of a church or cathedral is often also decorated with flowers during May. She is honored as the mother of Jesus and as a woman free from sin. Devotions to Mary are an integral part of Catholic life.

CURRENT SCHEDULE *
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
 Mass at 10am *preceded by the Rosary at 9.30am*, Church closes at 5pm
Monday: Area Mass at 7.30pm *preceded by Rosary and Novena at 7pm*
Wednesday: Liturgy of the Word at 10am
Saturday: Church opens at 10am
Vigil Mass at 6pm
Sunday Mass at 10.30am
1st Saturday of the month – 10am Mass followed by confessions until 11am
Last Tuesday of the month
 - Prayer Group Mass at 8pm, all welcome
Bank Holidays: Mass 11am only
 All services available on www.blanchardstownparish.ie/webcam
 Also on Phoenix Radio– 92.5FM
Eucharistic Adoration Tue & Fri 10.30am-5pm
Blanchardstown Area evening Mass 7.30pm
Mon: Blanchardstown
Tues & Thurs: Castleknock
Wed: Mulhuddart **Fri:** Corduff
 * Please note that our standard schedule may be subject to some change in the current circumstances.

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Join us in Dublin for this new young adult retreat where we will go on a journey together towards new life and new hope, for you, for your neighbour and for the world—in short—all things new!
 - Talks led by Fr. Niall Leahy SJ, Fr. Kevin O'Rourke SJ, Eamonn Walls SJ - Workshops on faith and social issues facing young people in Ireland - Connect with other young adults practising or rediscovering their faith - Fun activities, recreation and social nights - Adoration, Mass, Confession, Spiritual Conversation.
 Register with Eventbrite or email allthingsnewinfo24@gmail.com

Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today

Jesus says he loves us very much – as much as God the Father loves him! Jesus chooses each one of us to be his friend. He has shown us how to love other people. Now that's what we need to do!



MAISIE HAS BEEN LEFT OUT! SHE FEELS VERY SAD. JESUS WANTS US TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER AND NOT LEAVE PEOPLE OUT. CAN YOU HELP THE GROUP OF FRIENDS FIND MAISIE? PUT A BIG SMILE ON HER FACE WHEN HER FRIENDS FIND HER.

Thank you, Jesus, for choosing me to be your friend. Please help me to be a good friend to the people I meet. Amen.



Mass of All Nations—Family Day Sunday 9th June.

Mulhuddart Blessing of the graves— Sunday 16th June

Annual Heritage Parish Pilgrimage. This will take place on **Saturday 22nd June** to Faughart and surrounding areas. It is a full day trip to include morning coffee and dinner on the return. We will update you when we have finalised the details.



PLANT SALE
 SPONSORED BY: **Centra**
Saturday 11th May 10am – 5pm
Sunday 12th May 10am – 5pm

Summer Bedding Plants - Fruit & Vegetable Plants
 Hanging Baskets - Window Boxes
 Pots - Tubs - Shrubs - Garden Accessories
 Compost - BBQ - Coffee Shop & Cake Sale

Anam Cara North Dublin, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 15th May at 7:15pm in the Hilton Hotel, Malahide Rd, Northern Cross, D17 Y924. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on info@anamcara.ie or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

The monthly outdoor collection for St Vincent de Paul Blanchardstown will be taken up next weekend at both masses.

Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the Joy of Christ risen! - St Teresa of Calcutta

1st Holy Communion
 Next Saturday 11th May at 11am and 1pm, the children from Saint Francis Xavier will receive their 1st Holy Communion. Great work and preparation has been put in by the pupils and their teachers. May the Lord continue to bless the children, their parents, families, teachers and all who form their circle of love and care.

We welcome those baptised in the month of April
 Summer, Luna, Christopher, Fálly, Seán, Éamon, Holly, Cillian, Neala, Nola, Tommy & Pia. May they continue to grow strong in body, mind and spirit.

Adult Faith Our Adult Discussion Group will meet on: **Wednesday 8th May @ 7pm**
Topic for discussion this week: Is there any sin that God cannot forgive?
 Come along to enjoy just one session, or come for all the sessions.

Mass intentions for the week

Saturday	Sanela Angela (intention)
Sunday	Frank Furlong (MM) Kay McNally (A) Noel Wright Soosai (Sebastian) Richard Brabazon
Monday	Terry Brown (1st Anniv)
Thursday	Bridie O'Mara

We pray for our recently deceased;
Dave Adams
John (Seán) Griffin
 Always loved, never forgotten