

# Month of May

## *Pope urges Catholics to pray in May for end to Covid-19 pandemic*

Pope Francis invites Catholics and Marian Shrines around the world to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic

This year's dedication of May to pandemic-related prayer recalls a similar occurrence during the first wave in March 2020.

*Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis  
to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

[taken from Vatican News](#)

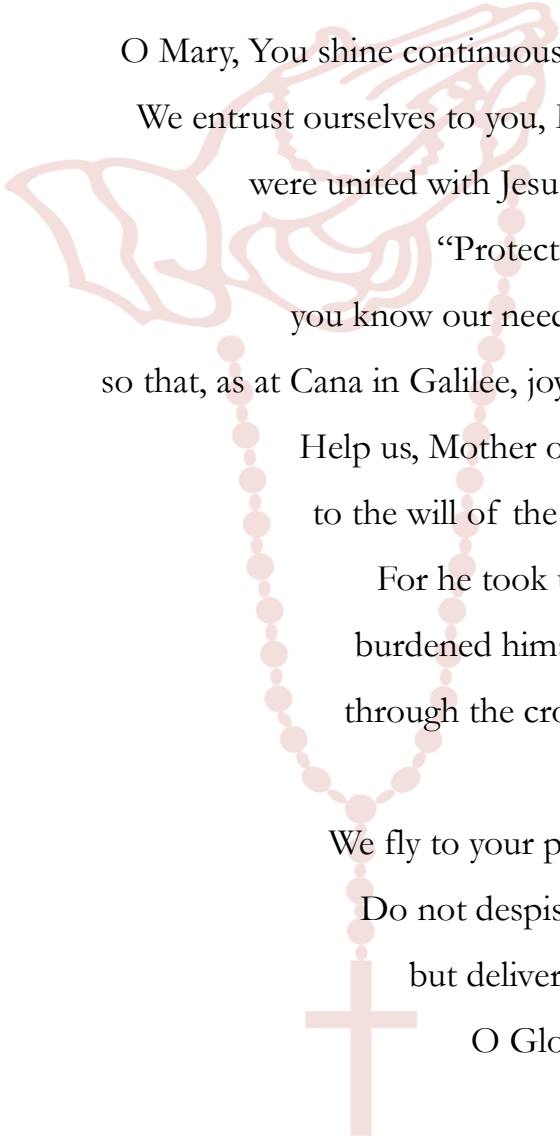
## **YOU ARE MOST WELCOME**

to join parishioners pray the Rosary on weekdays:

Wednesday and Thursday at 8:40am and

Friday at 10:35am

Before our daily mass at St John the Baptist Church



O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross,  
were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

“Protectress of the Roman people”,  
you know our needs, and we know that you will provide,  
so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves  
to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering, and  
burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us,  
through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;

Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,  
but deliver us always from every danger,

O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

“The initiative will involve all the Shrines of the world in a special way, so that they might encourage the faithful, families, and communities to recite the Rosary to pray for an end to the pandemic,” read the statement.

Pope Francis will open the Marian month of prayer on 1 May with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media's platforms.

Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6 PM Rome time from the various Shines taking part in the initiative.

The Pope will also close the initiative on 31 May with another specially-broadcast Rosary.