

Vox Populi
27 April 2023

Next week is the start of May – the month traditionally dedicated to Mary. For centuries, Catholics around the world have honoured the Blessed Virgin Mary with special devotion during the month of May.



During this Easter season and the month of May, we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord when Mary’s heart was filled “with joy beyond all telling” and reflect on Mary’s presence in the community of the first disciples waiting for Pentecost.

The saints acclaim in powerful and inspired terms the glories of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

However there are a number of ways we can show or manifest our love and devotion to Our Lady. Here are just a few.

Firstly - prayer. A prayer of consecration to Jesus through the Immaculate heart of Mary.

The Angelus, although traditionally the prayer at noon it can be prayed at any time.

Combine doctrine and devotion by reading the Apostolic Letter of St John Paul II *Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rosary*.

This combines Catholic doctrine (Mariology) with a tender love and devotion to Mary. St John Paul II exhorts us to contemplate the face of Jesus through the eyes and heart of Mary.

And praying the Rosary. In Fatima on 13 May, Our Lady first appeared to the Shepherd children Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. In all six of her apparitions Our Lady insisted upon the praying of the most Holy Rosary. Pope Francis has often said that when we pray the Rosary, Mary helps us to put Jesus at the centre of our attention, our thoughts, and our actions. The Holy Father invites us to pray the Rosary together in the family or with friends or in the parish. Praying the Rosary together strengthens family life, friendships, and parish life.