

Reflection for 14th May Lockdown

May is the Month of Mary Take Mary into your Hearts

One of the great Catholic traditions which you could well out on is that May is the month dedicated to devotion to our Lady, You could be unaware of it this year because we are not in physical touch with our church and therefore don't have reminders such as seeing the statue of Our Lady in the sanctuary or taking part in the May procession or the rosary rally.

Each May we are invited to take Mary into our hearts and into our homes. So what can we do to keep this beautiful spring month as a special time for deepening our love for Mary the Mother of God and Mother of the Church? Well obviously we can say the rosary, which really shouldn't be too difficult now that many of us have more time to devote to our spiritual life. We can extend our devotion by saying the Litany of Our Lady (Loreto) and other prayers which you will find in the traditional Catholic prayer books and missals. We can make greater use of the statue of Our Lady in our homes by placing candles and flowers to honour her.

We can also read all those sections of the gospels in which Mary appears and meditate on them. Let's look at some of them now and take Mary into our hearts. First, at the birth of Jesus when there was no room for them at the inn. They were refused by the inn keepers and turned away but were welcomed by the shepherds who took them into the stable or cave which they used to shelter with their sheep on cold nights. The poor and humble shepherds took Jesus, Mary and Joseph to a place of safety. The home is a place of safety and refuge. Even before the birth of Jesus, the angel told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary into his home.

At the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth she was once again welcomed into a home, the home of Elizabeth. When this happened the baby in Elizabeth's womb, John the Baptist, leapt for joy. From the moment the sound of Mary's voice came to Elizabeth's ears he recognised the presence of Jesus in Mary's womb. *'Blessed are you*

who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Then there was the wedding feast of Cana where Mary and Joseph had been invited. We do know who the happy couple were but we know why Mary and Jesus were there, they saved the day when the wine ran out. We learnt an important lesson at this event; that Jesus carried out a request of his Mother to change water into wine and that consequently Jesus will answer our prayers through the intercession of his Mother. Just as Mary played a significant role in that wedding let us invite Mary into our marriages and into our families.

Finally, we have the moment at the crucifixion when Our Lord was dying on the cross he saw His Blessed Mother and the disciple whom he loved and he said, *'Woman behold your son, then he said to the disciple, behold your Mother,'* and from that hour the disciple took her into his home. Of course, Mary should be a permanent resident in all our Catholic homes but in this special month it might be a good time to rediscover her motherly presence and welcome her once more into our hearts and into our homes.

May the risen Lord bless us and Our Lady protect us and our families.

Deacon Kevin