



May

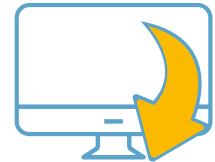
May Altar Initiative

WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

Families and schools are invited to honour Our Lady in a special way during May, by putting up a small May altar in the home or classroom and gathering to pray together there. The centre of the May altar is an image or statue of the Blessed Virgin, placed in the chosen spot – a small table, or dresser, or window ledge. Flowers of the season are picked and placed around the image. A set of Rosary beads, a small crucifix and a prayer book with prayers to Our Lady can also be included at the altar.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- An information sheet promoting the initiative and describing how to build a May altar is available on our website.



WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- In *The Joy of Love* Pope Francis encourages us to go to Our Lady and to look to her and the Family of Nazareth as a guide and encouragement in our own family lives. May is a special time in the Church calendar when Catholics honour Mary, so this is a good time to create a small altar at home or in the classroom, as a sign of our love for the Mother of Jesus and to encourage families to pray together as part of the routine of family life.





HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1** Download the information and promotional sheets from our website.
- 2** Plan how to promote the initiative in the parish, especially in the weeks coming up to May.
- 3** Invite people to take photographs of their May altars and create a space in the church to display them.
- 4** Invite people to share photos of their May altar on social media to create a discussion point.



“The treasury of Mary’s heart also contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us to understand the challenges our families face, and to hear the message God wishes to communicate through the life of our families”

