Third Sunday of Easter - 26th April 2020

The month of May is dedicated in honour of Our Lady which is one of my favourites due to lots of my family members celebrating their birthdays and it being Our Lady’s month. As we focus or re-focus on the domestic Church, it is a big part of that tradition. In celebrating May devotions at home, the simplest way is to adorn your house with flowers. And if you have a statue of Our Lady use it or print an image chosen from the Internet. Then you can make a May Shrine in your house or even in your garden. Say prayers there every day, they can be as simple as three Hail Mary’s or the Rosary or even the Litany of Loretto.

Sing hymns to Our Lady, ask Alexa or YouTube, crown the image with a crown of flowers, maybe a fresh flower every day from the garden or even learn more about Our Lady. We will have a virtual crowning on the 2nd of May and we will have some teachings on Our Lady during the month. With flowers from the supermarkets being less, use the offerings from our gardens or even from the waysides to decorate our homes in honour of Jesus’s mother. Use blossoms and the other flowers that are coming into bloom.

Flowers have always been associated with Our Lady. There is even an early tradition that states when the apostles went to open Mary’s tomb, they found it filled with the most fragrant flowers, confirming that Jesus took her up to heaven after she died. There are five flowers that are closely connected to the different spiritual truths about Our Lady: the Lily, the Rose, the Iris, the Periwinkle and the Pansy.

St John Henry Newman, on talking about the Blessed Virgin Mary, refers to her as ‘Rosa Mystica’, the Mystical Rose, because she “is the Queen of all spiritual flowers”.

Thank you to everyone who was so kind this Easter, with food, gifts, cards, donations and flowers for the Church.

Through Jesus and Mary ..........................Fr Gerard.
**Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.