

Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima.

Our Lady of Fatima, you appeared to the children, Francisco, Jacinta and Lucy.

Through them you call us to faith, conversion, peace and hope, and especially, to pray the rosary for the needs of the whole world.

May we know your motherly care in our lives.

With your help, may our faith grow stronger and may we turn again to Jesus your Son.

May we work for peace and be filled with hope for a better world.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.

St. John Paul II, pray for us. St. Francisco, pray for us.

St. Jacinta, pray for us. Blessed Lucy, pray for us.

Parishes of St. Mary's, Dungarvan, An Rinn and Sean Phobal , Kilgobinet, Colligan and Kilbrien



May 2026

Queen of the May

Bring Flowers of the Rarest: May Hymn to Our Lady.

At Sunday Mass in May we often leave church after the singing of the very popular hymn, **Bring Flowers of the Rarest**. It's composer is sometimes named: Mary E. Walsh, an American musician and the date it was first published under the title 'crowning hymn' as around 1871. It is about spring flowers and blossoms, in the pastoral setting of woodland, hillside and dale - and, above all, about the Queen of May.

Depicting Mary wearing a crown is found in the 5th century, East & West. Later images have Mary, seated on a throne, dressed like a queen and surrounded by angels and saints. Christ is sometimes seen placing a crown on her head.

Bring May Flowers of the Rarest has been recorded by many artists, and perhaps most associated with Canon Sydney McEwan. He was born in Glasgow in 1908 into a poor family. Nevertheless his mother managed to pay for music lessons. Later he was able to go to Glasgow University and begin a singing career. He gave this up to go to the Scots College in Rome and was ordained in Glasgow in 1944. He resumed his singing but rejected the title of 'singing priest'. His concerts and recordings went to charity and many parishes benefitted. He died on 26th September 1991 as parish priest of Dunoon, Argyll in Western Scotland. *The Liturgy Page Intercom May 2026 p31.*

Queen of the May

Bring flowers of the rarest, bring blossoms the fairest, from garden and woodland and hillside and dale; Our full hearts are swelling, our glad voices telling the praise of the loveliest flower of the vale!

Chorus: O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today! Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May. O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May. (x2)

Their lady they name thee, their mistress proclaim thee, Ah, grant that thy children on earth be as true. As long as the bowers are radiant with flowers, As long as the azure shall keep its bright hue. **Chorus: (x2)**

The Legion of Mary: Legio Mariae.

We are always looking for new members in the legion of Mary.

Essentially the Legion of Mary has one main goal: to help its members become better people by serving others. The legion of Mary's official site describes it as a way for everyday people to live out their faith through action.

Growing closer to God: Members use prayer and service to strengthen their own spiritual lives.

Helping the Church: They act as "helpers" for their local parish priest, doing spiritual work he might not have time to do alone.

Meeting People: The core work is visiting people - the sick, the elderly, or those who have drifted away from their faith - to offer a friendly face and a prayer.

Sharing Faith: They aim to bring the Spirit of Mary to the world, showing kindness and encouragement to everyone they meet.

It's basically a spiritual army that fights loneliness and lack of faith with prayer and companionship. A typical meeting lasts up to one hour.

The Dungarvan branch meeting is held every Tuesday night at seven pm. It is held in the upstairs rooms of the St. Vincent de Paul shop opposite St Mary's Parish Church. You are most welcome to come and visit on any Tuesday night.

Would you like to join? Or maybe you would like to become an auxiliary (praying) member?



Pope Leo XIV - 1 year on.

Pope Leo XIV was elected Pope on May 8th, 2025. We pray God's blessing on our Holy Father.

Fr Edward Flanagan (13 July 1886 - 15 May 1948)

Founder of Boys Town. Declared Venerable by Pope Leo XIV, 23rd March 2026. The next step to being declared 'Blessed' has begun.

Father Flanagan was born in Leabeg, County Roscommon, in the Diocese of Elphin, on 13 July 1886 and, following his primary education in Drimatemple National School, went to the College of the Immaculate Conception, Summerhill College, Sligo, to complete his secondary education. He subsequently emigrated to the United States in 1904, where he became a priest of the Diocese of Omaha. He was Ordained to the priesthood in 1912. He is best known for founding 'Boystown', which flourished to become a place where young people could feel at home, and have all the advantages of a solid education and formation for life. His story was immortalised in the 1938 film *Boys Town*. Revered for his revolutionary approach to caring for homeless and impoverished children in the 20th century, he famously said there was 'no such thing as a bad boy, only bad environment, bad modelling and bad teaching'.

Venerable Fr. Flanagan: Intercom, May 2026 p.43.

Short Prayer Before an Exam

'Lord, as I take this exam, I ask for Your peace and clarity of mind. Calm my nerves, help me to focus, and guide my memory to recall what I have studied. Give me the wisdom to understand the questions and the ability to express my answers clearly. I trust in You. Amen.'

Intercom. May 2026 p.30.

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

This novena began on Monday, April 13th at 7.30pm and will continue each Monday until Monday, June 8th 2026. No 9.30am Mass on Mondays during the novena. 'Mother of Perpetual Help, with the greatest confidence we come before your holy picture to be inspired by the example of your life'. Novena Prayer.

May Procession, Dungarvan, Sunday, 24th May, 3pm.

A May Procession in honour of Our Lady will be held in Dungarvan on Sunday 24th May. Beginning at 3pm in St Mary's Church Yard, and processing to the Friary Church for prayers, crowning of Our Lady, and Benediction. Concluding by 4pm. First Holy Communion Children to wear Communion clothes. All are very welcome.

(For more information contact 089 225 3100)

Pope Leo XIV: Meeting for Peace with the Community of Bamenda, Cameroon on Thursday, 16 April 2026, during his Pastoral Visit to Africa, 12th – 23rd April 2026.

'.....The masters of war pretend not to know that it takes only a moment to destroy, yet a lifetime is often not enough to rebuild. They turn a blind eye to the fact that billions of dollars are spent on killing and devastation, yet the resources needed for healing, education and restoration are nowhere to be found. Those who rob your land of its resources generally invest much of the profit in weapons, thus perpetuating an endless cycle of destabilization and death. **It is a world turned upside down, an exploitation of God's creation that must be denounced and rejected by every honest conscience.** We must make a decisive change of course — a true conversion — that will lead us in the opposite direction, onto a sustainable path rich in human fraternity. The world is being ravaged by a handful of tyrants, yet it is held together by a multitude of supportive brothers and sisters! They are the descendants of Abraham, as numerous as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the seashore. Let us look into each other's eyes: we are this immense people! **Peace is not something we must invent: it is something we must embrace by accepting our neighbor as our brother and as our sister.** We do not choose our brothers and sisters: we simply must accept one another! We are one family, inhabiting the same home: this wonderful planet that ancient cultures have cared for across millennia.'

Blessing of Graves

The Annual Blessing of Graves will take place on Saturday, May 30th after 7.30pm Vigil Mass.

Wednesday, May 13th: We Celebrate Our Lady of Fatima.

This year we celebrate the 109th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal, Fatima is a village in the very centre of Portugal, about 70 miles (112 Km) north of Lisbon. Our Lady appeared to the 3 children – 10 year old Lucia dos Santos, and her cousins, Francisco (9) and Jacinta (7). The lady wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. She asked them to devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to pray the rosary every day for peace in the world and an end to the war. Over six months she appeared to them on the 13th of each month with the exception of August (19th).

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