

The Catholic church of St Mary, Leek  
May, 2021



Let us pray for the end of the pandemic  
united in the recitation of the Holy Rosary  
together with the Shrines around the world.

**The Month of May:  
A Marathon of Prayer to end the Pandemic**

## **The Month of May: A Marathon of Prayer to end the Pandemic**

*Pope Francis is requesting that during this month of May the entire Church invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic and, in a special way, he is inviting all of us to pray fervently for those most closely affected by it.*

*During each day of May, guided by a calendar with specific intentions, all the Shrines around the world, united in a communion of supplication, will lift up their prayers, which, like the fragrance of incense, will rise up to heaven.*

*Thirty Marian Shrines around the world will take turns leading this prayer and offering the faithful a series of prayer moments for them to participate throughout the entire day.*

*Each morning, the Shrine's Morning Prayer will begin with the symbolic gesture of the lighting of the candle and placed in front of the image of Our Lady. Immediately afterwards, the passage of Scripture taken from chapter eighteen of Saint Luke's Gospel, from which this sign takes its name, will be proclaimed. The celebrant will then explain the meaning of this gesture and of the day, and will end by praying, with the faithful present, the ancient prayer addressed to the Virgin Mary.*

*The highlight of the Shrine's day of prayer will be the Recitation of the Holy Rosary, prayed according to local traditions and customs, for the end of the pandemic and for the particular daily intention entrusted by Pope Francis, according to the directions provided in the Prayer Calendar*

*At the end of the day, all the faithful, gathered at the Shrine, will address a farewell greeting to Mother Mary.*

*All of these rituals and prayers can be made at home and this leaflet helps us to join in some of these practices in an adapted form.*

### **Morning Dedication to Our Lady**

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

(Lk 18:1-8)

Then Jesus told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'" The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?". The Gospel of the Lord.

In our home, this Domestic Church, we too, wish to join together in raising our prayers to God so that He may hear our petitions. In this month of May, we gather in communion with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who asks the entire Church, to raise together with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, prayers for the end of this trial.

We keep vigil in our home joined in prayer, with our brothers and sisters around the world in their homes, workplaces, and parish communities. Let us pray together:

We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## The Rosary

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in communion with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, following the example of the first Christian communities in this time of great trial, we lift up to the Lord through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, unceasing supplications for the end of the pandemic.

Today, in particular, we wish to pray for [*insert prayer intention found in the appendix*].

We invite all those who follow us through our Parish Facebook page to join spiritually to the recitation of this Holy Rosary with their families.

*After the Rosary prayers, the following prayer to Our Lady is suggested:*

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God. In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity, and continued health.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Night Prayer

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Brothers and Sisters at the end of this day we entrust into the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary the people touched by the pandemic and in particular [*insert prayer intention found in the appendix*], that she may entrust them to her Son: May He hear and grant our petitions.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Appendix Shrine list and daily prayer intentions

1	Vatican Basilica	For the entire world wounded by this pandemic
1	Our Lady of Walsingham (England)	For all the deceased
2	Jesus the Saviour and Mother Mary (Nigeria)	For all those who have not been able to say goodbye to their deceased loved ones
3	Our Lady of Częstochowa (Poland)	For all those infected with the coronavirus and all the sick
4	Basilica of the Annunciation (Israel)	For all expectant women and their unborn babies
5	Blessed Virgin of the Rosary (South Korea)	For all children and adolescents
6	Our Lady of Aparecida (Brazil)	For all young people
7	Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Philippines)	For all families
8	Our Lady of Luján (Argentina)	For all communication workers
9	Holy house of Loreto (Italia)	For all seniors
10	Our Lady of Knock (Ireland)	For all people with disabilities
11	Virgin of the Poor (Belgium)	For all the poor, the homeless, and the economically distressed
12	Our Lady of Africa (Algeria)	For all people who live alone and those who have lost hope
13	Blessed Virgin of the Rosary (Portugal)	For all prisoners
14	Our Lady of Health (India)	For all scientists and medical research institutions
15	Our Lady Queen of Peace (Bosnia)	For all migrants
16	St. Mary's Cathedral (Australia)	For all victims of violence and human trafficking
17	Immaculate Conception (U.S.A.)	For all world leaders and for all heads of International organizations
18	Our Lady of Lourdes (France)	For all doctors and nurses
19	Mother Mary's House (Turkey)	For all people at war and for world peace
20	Our Lady of Charity of Copper (Cuba)	For all pharmacists and health care personnel
21	Our Lady of Nagasaki (Japan)	For all social workers
22	Our Lady of Montserrat (Spain)	For all volunteers
23	Our Lady of Cap (Canada)	For all law enforcement and military personnel and for all firefighters
24	To be confirmed	For all those who provide essential services
25	Basilica of the Blessed Virgin of Ta'Pinu (Malta)	For all teachers, students and educators
26	Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)	For all workers and entrepreneurs
27	Mother of God (Ukraine)	For all the unemployed
28	Black Madonna of Altötting (Germany)	For the Holy Father, bishops, presbyters, and deacons
29	Our Lady of Lebanon (Lebanon)	For all consecrated men and women
30	Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii (Italia)	For the Church
31	Vatican Gardens	For the end of the pandemic and the resumption of our social and economic life

