

# St. Mun's Monthly

*For our young parishioners*

## May Is Mary's Month!



You will remember, May is the month for especially honouring Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the mother of the Church.

**On the Feast of the Annunciation** in March we celebrated the day that the Angel Gabriel visited Mary announcing that she was going to be the mother of Jesus.

Even though Mary did not understand completely, she trusted God's plan for her life and she said 'yes' to becoming mother of God and our mother too. This is why Mary is so important.

The words of the '**Hail Mary**' come from the angel's greeting. 'Hail ,Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.'

God's grace lives in each one of us, but Mary was full of grace because she was born without sin. We can turn to Mary whenever we need help making difficult decisions or if we are scared to say 'yes' to God.

Keep your 'Hail Mary' prayer card in a safe place and say it every day.

## Apparitions of Mary

In various places in the world some years ago Mary has shown herself in a special way, called an **apparition**. It is not an appearance of her actual body but just a showing of an image of the way she looks. Not everyone sees these apparitions or hears her speak and most apparitions are appearances of Mary to children like you. Simple, humble people of faith. She asks them to pray to her son, pray for sinners to do penance and pray the rosary and to live good lives in obedience to God.

A **shrine** is a holy place, usually where an apparition took place.

Here is a look at three of the shrines Mary has appeared: Lourdes in France, Pontmain in France, Fatima in Portugal.

### Our Lady of Lourdes



In 1858 in Lourdes, France Our Lady appeared to a poor girl, St Bernadette, on 18 different occasions. Mary instructed St Bernadette to dig with her hands in the soil and uncover a miraculous spring of water. To this day, the spring has been the means of many thousands of inexplicable, immediate and total cures of all sorts of illnesses. The water is freely available to all who visit to take home with them. Many use it to

bless the sick and dying in the hope that a miraculous cure may be granted by God by the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes.

## Our Lady of Fatima



Mary appeared to 3 small shepherd children, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco in Fatima, Portugal in 1917, visiting the children 6 times on the 13th of each month from May to October, asking them to pray the Rosary for sinners so that they may repent of their sins and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. She said many souls were lost because no one prayed for them and they led bad lives. She asked that Catholics try to go to Mass and pray on the first 5 Saturdays of 5 consecutive months for those who had forgotten God.

## Our Lady of Pontmain



On the night of January 17th 1871 Our Lady appeared in the sky over Pontmain. Showing herself to 4 children who had a deep faith and were working with their father in a barn. Their names were; Marie Lebosse, Francoise Richer and Eugene and Joseph Barbedette. The children saw a wonderful vision of Mary, not seen by the adults around them. She was dressed in a dark blue robe spangled with stars and the children said she was very beautiful. She stretched out her arms, smiling at the children seeming pleased to hear their prayers to her. Soon, under her feet a scroll unrolled, with golden letters appearing one by one, which the children spelled out in a loud voice:

***Oh! Do pray my children, God will answer you very soon. My Son has let himself be touched.***

A message asking children and grown ups to pray constantly, both then and today.

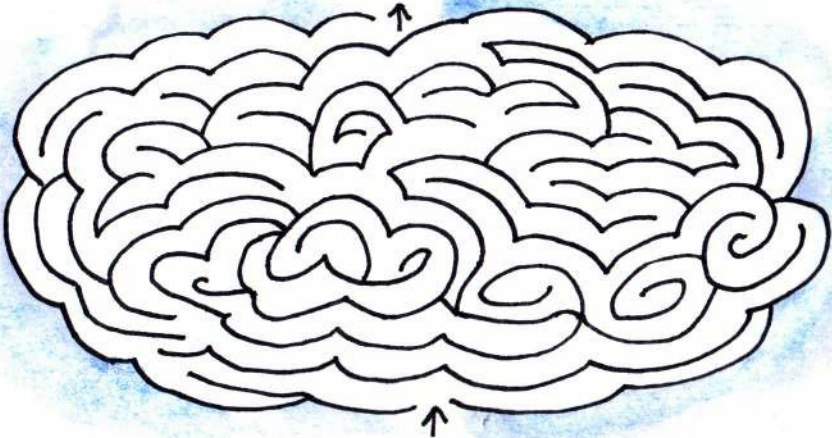
## Ascension Day 29th May - Jesus has gone back to Heaven!

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead He went with His followers to the top of a mountain, where he told them to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and then He went up through the clouds and returned to God the Father in Heaven.

But Jesus isn't gone forever! He is still with us every time we go to Mass, in Holy Communion. He will also come again at the end of the world.



Today let us celebrate Jesus returning to the Father in Heaven and remember that we hope to join him some day!



*Can you find your way through the cloud maze ?*