**May the Month of Mary**

In the month of May, we remember Mary and use this time to use prayers to Mary through The Hail Mary or The Rosary. Mary was born in Jerusalem and lived in Nazareth in Galilee. She was the cousin of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. She got engaged to Joseph when the angel Gabriel came to her. The Angel announced that she was to be the mother of Jesus.

1. Start with saying the Hail Mary or listening to hymn- ‘Mary did you know’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPsgIhlYQmM>
2. Read the scripture about the life of Mary to understand key qualities and what happened during her life. Choose a piece of scripture from below or your own children’s Bible:

* The Visitation- Luke 1: 39-45 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+1%3A+39-45&version=ICB>
* The Birth of Jesus- Luke 2: 6-20 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2%3A+6-20&version=ICB>
* The Flight to Egypt- Matthew 2: 1-23 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+2%3A1-23&version=ICB>
* Finding Jesus in the temple- Luke 2:41-52 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2%3A+41-52&version=ICB>
* Wedding Feast at Cana- John 2: 1-12 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+2%3A+1-12&version=ICB>
* Mary at the Foot of the Cross- John- 19: 25-27 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+19%3A+25-27&version=ICB>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ig0W3HaNmjg>

1. Key questions:

* Why is Mary special?
* How did Mary feel about being the mother of Jesus?
* Why do you think we devote May and October to Mary?
* Why do you think God chose Mary to be Jesus’ mother?
* Which event do you think was the most important in Mary’s life?

1. Choose an activity from below as a follow up task:

* Write a prayer to Mary asking her to help you, care for someone, guide you in your life
* Retell one of the stories above as a diary entry from the point of view of Mary
* Create a piece of art to show Mary’s journey through her life- could you create one of the events of her life or create a picture of her and label with her qualities
* Research into Mary’s life and make a fact file or timeline to show the main events
* Make a prayer tree/ altar space devoted to Mary using twigs, leaves, flowers etc from your garden. Add prayers, scripture, symbols, messages to your special place
* Imagine you are Mary and write a letter to Jesus about how special He is
* Design a stained glass window devoted to Mary

1. Think about a calming end to your activity- reference to scripture about Mary, Hail Mary, the rosary

