



**REFLECTION AT THE
END OF THE YEAR**

**SUMMER
2023**



MAY: THE MONTH OF MARY

- In the month of May, we celebrate Mary in a special way.

- MAKING A MAY ALTAR**

- In this video, Spring is welcomed into the studio of artist Wyllie O Hagan in the making of a May Altar.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdyCMWIHLOA>

- An Irish childhood ritual is remembered and re-enacted in the placing of objects - an image of The Madonna and Child together with freshly picked Spring flowers to welcome the Month of May.

- The staff and pupils of Loreto Primary School, Grange Road celebrates the *Crowning of Mary* with a special prayer service.

Queen of the May

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvSEXkBoX8>

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a globe made of colorful beads. The globe is primarily blue with a yellow and orange band across the top, and a green band at the bottom. The person is wearing a patterned garment with geometric designs in yellow, red, and black. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

LAUDATO SI WEEK
HOPE FOR THE EARTH
HOPE FOR HUMANITY
May 21-28, 2023

- See <https://laudatosiweek.org/>





John Rutter: For the beauty of the earth

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTOfSKXkRa0>

Pentecost Sunday

- May 28, 2023
- Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter. It marks the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ, as referenced in the Acts of the Apostles ([Acts 2:1-31](#)).
- Image: *The Descent of The Holy Spirit on The Apostles and Mary at Pentecost* - Painting Elizabeth Wang from <https://fineartamerica.com/art/descent+of+the+holy+spirit>
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A Student's Prayer

- Lord, I know you are with me and love me.
Give me peace of mind as I prepare for this time of study.
Help me to focus on my books and notes,
keep me from all distractions so that I will make the best use
of this time that is available to me.
Give me insight that I might understand what I am
studying ,
and help me to remember it when the time comes.
Above all, I thank you for the ability to be able to study
and for the many gifts and talents you have given me.
Help me always to use them in such a way
that they honour you and do justice to myself. Amen



Prayer Before Exams

- Lord you are my friend and you are with me today and always.
You have blessed my life with many gifts and talents.
As the exams approach I feel nervous so I pray for your peace.
Calm my mind so that I can think clearly and write down what I know.
Help me to remember what I have learned and to do my best.
Lord your loving presence surrounds me.
Help me to trust that you will guide me.
Amen. (Salesians)



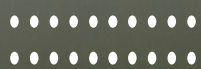
A REFLECTION AT THE END OF THE YEAR



Step One:
Become aware
of God's
presence.

Ask the Holy Spirit
to help you review the
year with faith, hope and
love...
in a wholesome way...
not judging ...
all is well and will be well
...





Step Two: Review the year with gratitude.

Pay attention to the
gifts we received
this year.

Name those that come
to mind and
thank God for them.



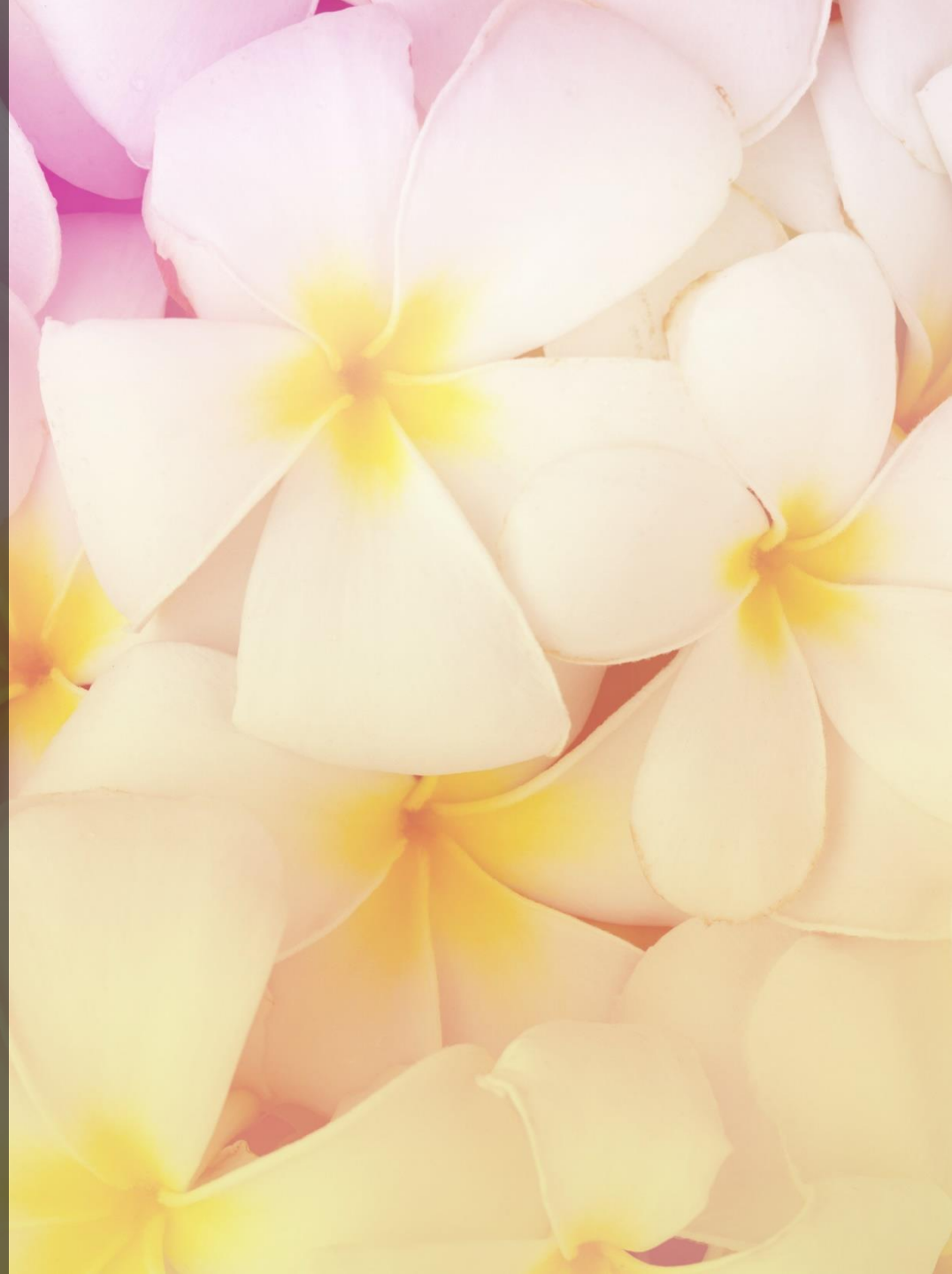
Step Three: Pay attention to your emotions.

Think over the year again and notice your emotional reactions.

What memories speak most loudly to you?

What events, conversations, relationships, or activities bring up the most emotion now, as you remember them?

Ask God to help you stay with these emotions. What can you learn about yourself or about your situation from these feelings?



Step Four: Choose one feature of the year and pray about it.

While you are reflecting on your memories and emotions, let one feature come to mind. It may be a single event, or maybe it's a pattern of your own behavior that has come to mind as you reviewed the year.

Stay with the one thing that has come to you with the most power and pray from those thoughts and emotions.



The background of the slide features a sunset over a mountain range. The sun is a bright yellow circle in the center-left, casting a warm glow. In the foreground, the silhouettes of four people are shown climbing a steep, rocky slope. One person is at the top of the slope, arms raised in a gesture of triumph or prayer. Another person is just below them, reaching up. A third person is further down, and a fourth is at the bottom, also reaching up. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the sun, and back to a deep blue at the bottom.

Entrust everything to God

When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7)

I have loved you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)

Step Five:
Look towards
the Summer
...with faith,
hope,
love,
joy and
gratitude...






We now take time to pray for those in our school community who have lost loved ones during the year.

The Clouds' Veil

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3hsBGwQjBw>



**Loving God,
we remember in prayer all in our Loreto family
who have died.**

Today we remember especially those who have died recently.

**In the silence of our hearts, we pray for them with love and
gratitude.**

**We pray for comfort and healing for their families and friends
and for all who mourn.**

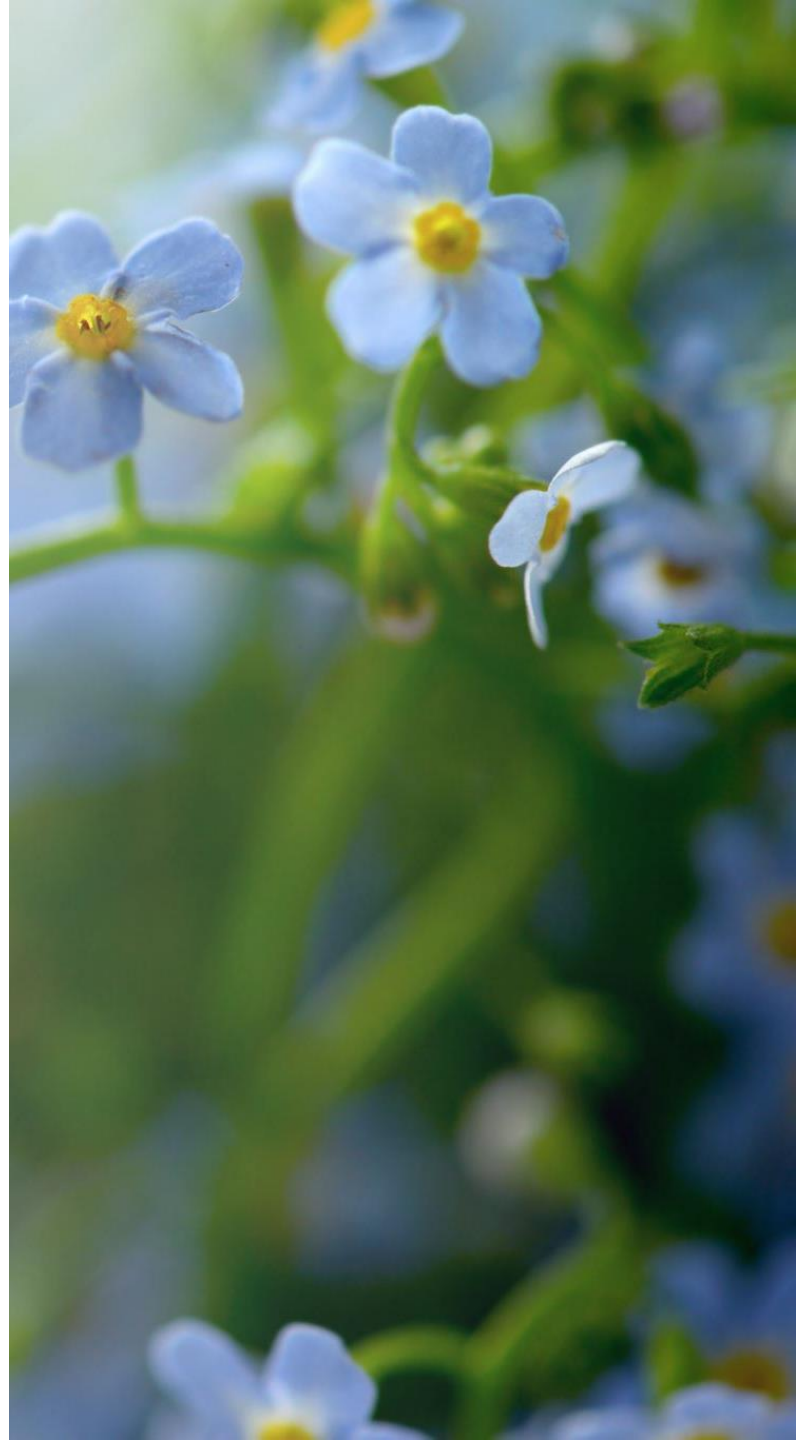
Prayer for those who mourn

Bless those who mourn, eternal God,
with the comfort of your love
that they may face each new day with
hope
and the certainty that nothing can
destroy
the good that has been given.

May their memories become joyful,
their days enriched with friendship,
and their lives encircled by your love.

Amen.

*Vienna Cobb Anderson, from Prayers of
Our Hearts*



You can shed tears that they have gone, or
you can smile because they have lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that they
will come back, or you can open your eyes
and see all they have left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't
see them, or you can be full of the love you
shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live
yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow
because of yesterday.

You can remember only that they have gone,
or you can cherish their memory and let it live
on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty
and turn your back.

Or you can do what they would want: smile,
open your eyes, love and go on.



The timeless NOW of Eternity by Sr Eileen Randles

- Death is
Not an end
But a continuing
A changing
For new-venue living
- A going
And a coming
With God
To God
All faith fulfilling



The timeless NOW of Eternity (contd)

- No longer
Wavering
Wondering
But secure
At peace.
- Happily gone on ahead
Rejoining
Awaiting
Horizon-scanning
In the timeless NOW of
Eternity



**WE MAKE
THE PATH BY
WALKING IT**

At The End Of The Year

John O'Donohue

*As this year draws to its end,
We give thanks for the gifts it brought
And how they became inlaid within
Where neither time nor tide can touch them.
The days when the veil lifted
And the soul could see delight;
When a quiver caressed the heart.*

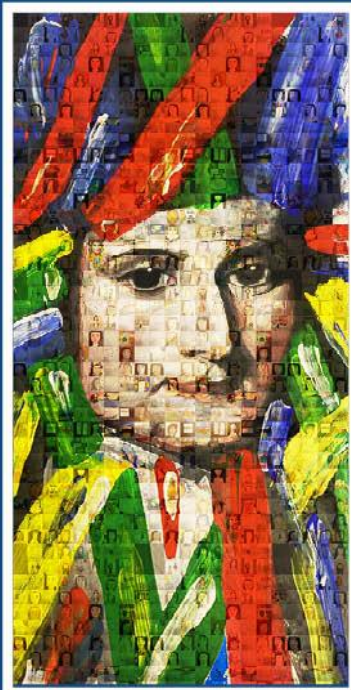
*Days when beloved faces shone brighter
With light from beyond themselves;
And from the granite of some secret sorrow
A stream of buried tears loosened.
We bless this year for all we learned,
For all we loved and lost
And for the quiet way it brought us
Nearer to our invisible destination.*





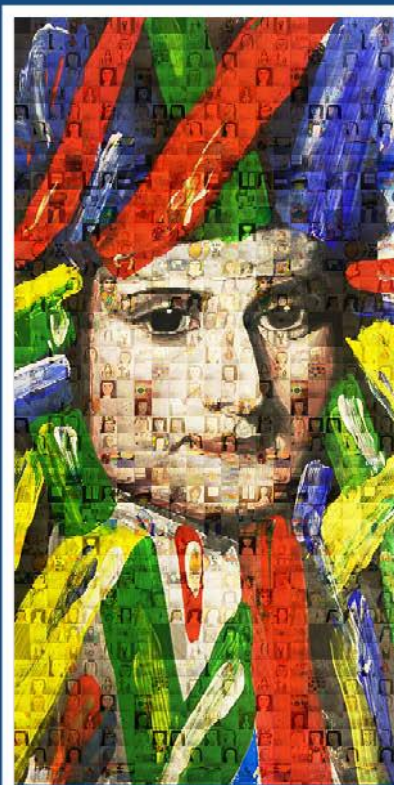
MAY THE ROAD RISE TO MEET YOU
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn9hLK2nmPM>





*Molfaidh mé cineáltas agus
trócaire Dé go deo.*

*I will sing forever of God's goodness and mercy.
The mercies of the Lord I will sing forever.*



*Have always at hand an
amusing book and open it
when you are getting dull.*

.....

*Blodh grá agaibh dá chéile agus
muinín agaibh as a chéile.*

*Judge one another kindly, loving and trusting
each other loyally in thought and deed.*

.....

*Cuimhnigh i gcónaí, go gcúiteofar
gach gar faoi chéad.*

*To remember that the kindness I extend
will be repaid a hundredfold.*

Frances Teresa Ball



Loreto World Anthem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLHQiCXfbNI>





Wishing you a lovely Summer holiday