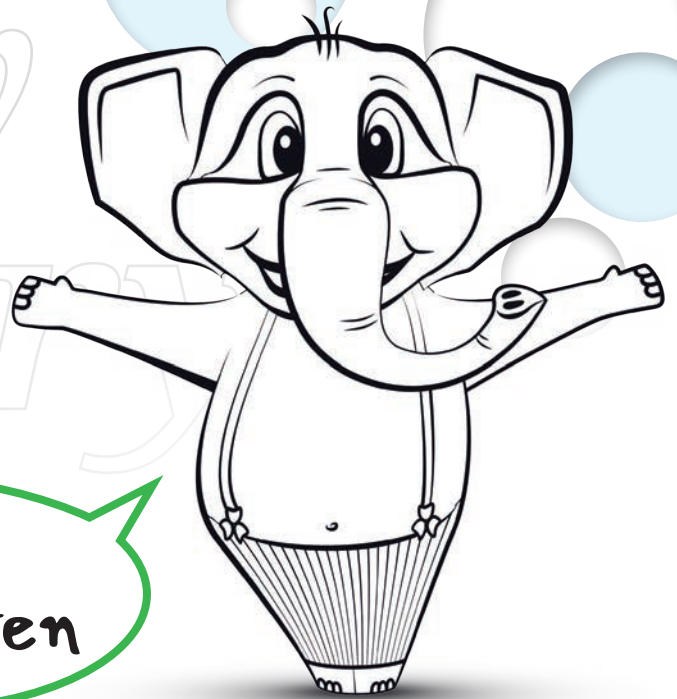


# May

## – the month of Mary

Hello  
Children



The month of May is a special month in the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar. The practice of special devotion during the month of May dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

**T**raditionally, Catholics devote the whole month of May to honouring and celebrating Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary is sometimes known as the 'Queen of May'.

You may see a 'May altar' in your classroom, school, local church or at home. The May altar is usually a table covered in a blue or white cloth, with pictures or statues of Mary, candles, flowers, and rosary beads.

We sing special hymns to Mary during the month of May and sometimes we have a May procession and place a crown of flowers on the statue of Mary.

Here is a verse from one of these special hymns:

*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!*

**Refrain:**

*O Mary! we crown thee with  
blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels,  
Queen of the May,  
O Mary! we crown thee  
with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels,  
Queen of the May.*



Mary is known as the mother of the Church. We, the people, are the Church so Mary is our mother. We know that we can turn to Mary in our times of need. Mary is our heavenly mother and she is an inspiration to us as we try to follow her example. You can say this prayer to Mary.

A special prayer to Mary

*Hail Mary,  
full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou  
among women  
and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour  
of our death.  
Amen.*

God bless,  
Toby.



*Queen  
of the May*