

May – the Month of Mary

It is a centuries-old custom of Catholics to dedicate the month of May to Mary. May is always part of the Easter season – the fifty days between the Resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

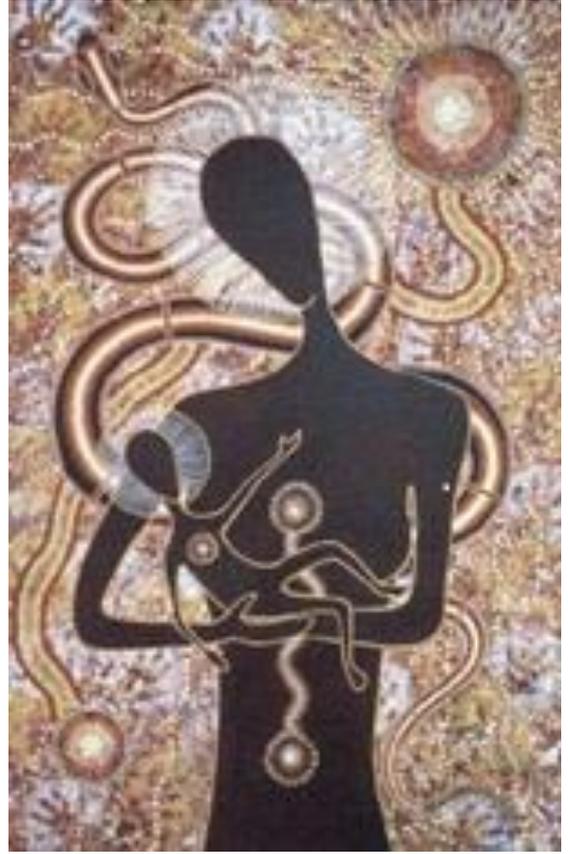
Catholics hold Mary in a unique place as Mother of God and Mother of the Church. Throughout the ages, more poems, hymns, statues, icons and paintings have been produced on Mary than any other woman in human history.

Today, we will look at a few of these images through a process known as Visio Divina - a form of divine seeing in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image of Mary.

1. Choose an image of Mary – either one of these below, or a favourite one you might have.
2. Gaze at the image wordlessly, noticing its form, structure, colour, light/shade, mood. Simply be present to the image and allow it to speak to your heart, without any particular agenda.
3. If you were in the image, where would you place yourself?
4. If you had to describe the image in a sentence or two, silently to yourself, what would you say?
5. You are invited to share a word or phrase with others, to express your experience of the image.



Pietà - Michelangelo



Madonna and Child – artist unknown



The Annunciation – Hi Qì



Our Lady of the Southern Cross: Paul Newton



Bonding Time - The Nativity in Townsville: Jan Hines

Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Images:

[aboriginal mary - Bing images](#)

[He+Qi+annunciation \(400x391\) \(bp.blogspot.com\)](#)

[pieta-michelangelo-st-peters-basilica-visit-vaticancity.jpg \(827x1032\)](#)

[410492afbfd77d9712c29d4f91ec89c2.jpg \(722x535\) \(pinimg.com\)](#)

[Portrait Gallery | Paul Newton - Portrait Artist](#)