

— Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic. The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization announced the news with a press release on Wednesday afternoon. It takes place under the theme “The whole Church was fervently praying to God,” which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5).”

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-04/pope-francis-shrines-may-2021-prayer-end-pandemic.html>

— The Diocesan special collection in May is for Sick and Retired Priests. In 2020, the costs to the diocese for sick and retired priests was in excess of £305K, whereas the special collection was only raised £29,850. The deficit of about £275K had to be met from diocesan funds.

Donations can also be made using the Payacharity online portal on the front page of the diocesan website – www.rcdom.org.uk. One of the options provided is for Sick and Retired Priests and the donation can be gift-aided.

— Leprosy Mission – Global World Day of Prayer

The Leprosy Mission, an inter-denominational Christian Group, has announced a Global Day of Prayer for those suffering from leprosy on Wednesday 12th May 2021.

— May 2021 Rosary Mission

The May 2021 Rosary Mission is about to be launched with the theme:

Rosary Stronghold with the Holy Family - Protecting our Families and the Family of Nations.

The designated Rosary Hour for the Diocese of Motherwell for the National Rosary Relay Rally on Sunday May 30th is from 7pm to 8pm and will be led by Bishop Toal.

Further details, including internet links to enable you to join in the prayer, can be found at – <https://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk/>