

**You are warmly invited to attend
A procession in honour of Our Lady
On
Sunday 22nd May 2022 – 3pm**

An afternoon of prayer and song, to honour Our Blessed Lady and to ask for her motherly Intercession for our families', schools and parish and for peace in our world, especially Ukraine



Crowning of the Statue of Our Lady by children from St Alban's Primary School

Followed by procession with Statue along Langdale Garden, Ennerdale Avenue, Ullswater Way, Carnforth Gardens and back to St Albans Church.

Hymns will be sung along the way.

At the Church, the Rosary will be recited in five languages.

The afternoon will conclude with a celebration and refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Why have a procession in honour of Our Lady?

In every culture, important anniversaries, local heroes, and religious festivals have been marked by public parades, to unite the participants and inspire onlookers with a sense of purpose. In the Church too, public processions – whether carrying Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament or in honour of the saints, have a long history. They are outward expressions of the Catholic faith.

In England devotion to Our Lady has been a major feature of Catholic life for centuries, with many shrines dedicated to her. Pilgrims have visited the shrine in Walsingham for almost 1000 years. In 1251, Our Lady appeared to Simon Stock at Aylesford in Kent, some of our past Monarchs have also had a deep love for the Blessed Mother and turned to her in times of need – St Edward the Confessor named England Mary's 'dowry' and King Richard II consecrated the country to her protection.

Catholics honour Mary because, full of grace, she cooperated with God's will and freely consented to bring Our Lord Jesus Christ into the world. On the Cross, Jesus gave his mother to all of us, and now in heaven, she is a powerful advocate with her Divine son. We love her because He loves her and we can be confident that she will help us in our needs and difficulties and lead us ever closer to Him. Our Procession is a public sign that although we come from many countries around the world, we unite in seeking Mary's maternal intercession, and we pray especially for the conversion of this country and for the zeal to re-evangelise it.

Our Parish had its first procession in 1950 but over the years the practice declined. We hope and pray that our procession in 2022 will reconnect us with our roots and our beautiful Catholic traditions. It is a parish celebration for all of us to enjoy, so don't miss it.