

M.

The  
McAuley  
Catholic High School  
and Sixth Form  
DONCASTER

May 192  
Crown

## M. i92 Crown

I listened with interest to an interview with Princess Anne ahead of the coronation, as she explained her understanding of the importance and relevance of the 'crown' today. She described the fast pace, changing fashions and turbulence of the modern world saying that the monarchy, through its tradition provided much needed stability and certainty.

Tradition is, undoubtedly, a very important element in underpinning a particular culture.

Traditionally for Catholics, May is the month of devotion to Mary, Our Blessed Lady. Indeed, there was a time when Catholics took part in May processions. (one still takes place in Batley). Many statues will feature Our Lady wearing a crown. She is referred to as the Queen of the May and older readers will remember a beautiful hymn describing her in these terms (further reference to blossom in this too).

Last year, I saw a guy shopping and was struck by his tattoo of the Virgin Mary carrying lilies. Admiring the artwork, I asked him about it. He said it was because his mum, who had passed away, had a devotion to Mary. He had the tattoo as a reminder of his mum's faith.

McAuley has a proud tradition built on clear values over a number of years. All the headteachers who have served McAuley over the last 40 years have been merely custodians of these values.

It is therefore, timely that this was sent to all staff this week.

*Governors want to update staff on the leadership of McAuley from September 2023.*

*James Tucker has been asked to take on the headship on an interim basis. We are pleased that he has agreed. We know that you will give him all the support that he needs as the school continues to move further forward.*

I know that James has a very strong devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes. I would ask that in this month of May prayers are said for James and his future headship role. This decision gives stability and certainty for the future.

The link below will take you to CAFOD's Rosary resources.

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/pray-the-rosary>

Some traditions, however, need a little prompt. The prayer below is one which is less well known now but reminds us that there is only one Queen, one crown.

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,  
hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve:  
to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping  
in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate,  
thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile,  
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb,  
Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.

God Bless  
John Rooney, Headteacher