

# MARY GARDENS

Mary Gardens are usually designed to be a prayerful and peaceful space often filled with specific colours and plants that have become traditionally associated with Our Lady.

Many of these are scented, adding a sensory element to the space.

By choosing plants with simple flower forms, these gardens can also be a haven and food source for insects.



Plants with associated tradition, story or virtues.

Rosemary - Mary is said to have laid her cloak on the shrub, turning its flowers blue.

Lavender - Mary's drying plant, used to dry the swaddling clothes of Jesus.

Myrtle - purity

Roses:

White Mary's purity and joys

Red: Mary's sorrows.

Gold: Mary's glory

Red and White: Visitation

Columbine (Aquilegia) - innocence and purity

HoneySuckle - sweetness and devotion

Lily of the Valley - Our Lady's tears, representing her grief at the crucifixion

Bleeding Hearts - love, compassion and sorrow

Madonna Lilies - purity

Irises - the three petals of the iris were seen to represent faith, wisdom, and valor, while the sword-like leaves symbolized the sorrows that pierced Mary's heart.

Marigolds Mary's glory

Violets - humility and modesty

Jasmine - purity and grace

Carnations - motherhood and devotion

Plants that flower traditionally at Marian feasts can also included

The Annunciation (25<sup>th</sup> March): Daffodils

The Assumption (15<sup>th</sup> August) Marigolds and sunflowers

Month of May Including bluebells, tulips, lilacs and forget-me-nots

