

## PRAYER / REFLECTION for MAY 2025

Some thoughts from Gerard Manley Hopkins

### From *“The May Magnificat”*

May is Mary’s month, and I  
Muse at that and wonder why:  
Her feasts follow reason,  
Dated due to season—

Candlemas, Lady Day;  
But the Lady Month, May,  
Why fasten that upon her,  
With a feasting in her honour?

Is it only its being brighter  
Than the most are must delight her?  
Is it opportunist  
And flowers finds soonest?

Ask of her, the mighty mother:  
Her reply puts this other  
Question: What is Spring?—  
Growth in every thing—



### From *“As Kingfishers catch fire”*

Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:  
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;  
Selves — goes itself; myself it speaks and spells,  
Crying What I dó is me: for that I came.



### From *“The Blessed Virgin Compared to the Air We Breathe”*

Mary Immaculate,  
Merely a woman, yet  
Whose presence, power is  
Great as no goddess’s  
Was deemèd, dreamèd; **who**  
**This one work has to do—**  
**Let all God’s glory through,**  
God’s glory which would go  
Through her and from her flow  
Off, and no way but so.

LET YOUR LIGHT  
SHINE BRIGHT