

THE ROSARY

An Eastertime version for families with young children.

May is a special time of the year which is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. To celebrate this special month, we spend part of our day in special prayer – the Rosary.

The chain of beads we call the Rosary was given to St Dominic by our Lady, and has been used by Christians as a way of praying for over 700 years.

It is a help to us in doing three important things: giving praise to God our Father; remembering the life of Jesus; praying to Mary - Mother of Jesus, Mother of the Church, Mother to you and me.

Praying the Rosary

The Mysteries

The pray of the Rosary is arranged into four sets of Mysteries.

1st - **Joyful Mysteries** – we enter the events surrounding the joyful coming of our Lord.

2nd - **Luminous Mysteries** – we enter the Lord's public life through his teachings and miracles.

3rd - **Sorrowful Mysteries** – we enter the mysteries of Christ's suffering and death which he had to undergo for our salvation.

4th - **Glorious Mysteries** – we enter the triumph of our Lord Jesus in his resurrection and the birth of the Church in all its glory with Mother Mary as Queen of Heaven.

Each set of Mysteries is in 5 parts.

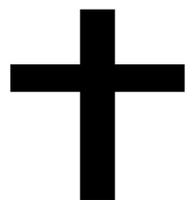
Joyful Mysteries – The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The presentation in the Temple, The Finding in the Temple.

Luminous Mysteries – The Baptism in the Jordan, The Wedding at Cana, The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, The Transfiguration, The Institution of the Eucharist.

Sorrowful Mysteries – The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning with Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, The Crucifixion.

Glorious Mysteries – The Resurrection, The Ascension into Heaven, The Descent of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption of Mary, The Coronation of Mary.

Over time, these twenty Mysteries help us to reflect upon the most important events in the lives of Mary and Jesus. Focusing on just one of these Mysteries each day, it should take you twenty days to complete the set. You might choose to pray this together as a family on each weekday over a four-week period.



HOW TO PRAY THIS ROSARY

First, make the Sign of the Cross.

Say which Mystery you are thinking about today. For each Mystery, there is a link to a piece of Bible scripture and/or a short reflection. Read these together and spend just a few moments of stillness thinking about what it means to you.

Then you pray together: 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and 1 Glory Be. On a Friday there is an extra special prayer to say after the Glory Be – the Regina Caeli.

These prayers are all below. Part of the prayer is in red font. A prayer leader could say this part and everyone else complete the black font. Everyone in the family could take a turn being the prayer leader. Keep a count of how many Hail Marys you have said using the Rosary beads. You could make your own set of Rosary beads to use this month.

1 Our Father,	Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
10 Hail Marys	Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
1 Glory Be.	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
1 Regina Caeli	<p>Queen of Heaven rejoice, Alleluia! The Son whom it was your privilege to bear... Alleluia! Has risen as he said. Alleluia! Pray for us to God. Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary. Alleluia! For the Lord is truly risen. Alleluia!</p> <p>O God you were pleased to give joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant, we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother that we may attain to the joys of eternal life, through Christ Our Lord. Amen</p>

Finish with the Sign of the Cross.

THE MYSTERIES

Joyful Mysteries



1. The Annunciation to Mary (Lk 1:26-38)

Because Mary was a special person, God sent an angel to ask her to be the Mother of Jesus. She said “Yes,” even though she was a little bit afraid. The angel told her to name the baby Jesus.

We need to know how to say “Yes,” to what God asks of us. Mary, teach us to think of other people before we think of ourselves.

2. The Visitation of Mary (Lk1:39-56)

Mary was told by the angel that her cousin Elizabeth was going to have a baby too. Mary went to visit Elizabeth to help her. Elizabeth became the mother of John the Baptist, who preached about the coming of Jesus.

We want to be able to love and serve other people too. Who can we help today? Mary, you brought joy to Elizabeth’s house. Help us to spread joy and love around us.

3. The Birth of Jesus Christ (Lk 2:1-21)

Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem. When He was born, Mary and her husband Joseph were very happy and promised to take care of Him.

Jesus is the most precious gift in the whole world! Mary, you gave birth to Jesus in a simple stable. Help us to look with love at all the people we meet.

4. The Presentation in the Temple (Lk 2:22-38)

After He was born, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. At the Temple, they presented Jesus to God and thanked God for giving them a Son to love and cherish.

Do our eyes always see what is beautiful and good? Mary, teach us to receive the light of your son, Jesus.

5. Jesus, Found in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52)

When He was a little older, Jesus went to a service at the Temple with Mary and Joseph. After the service, He stayed to talk to the teachers. Mary and Joseph thought He was lost, and were very glad to find Him there.

We want to put Jesus at the centre of our lives every day. Mary, help us to listen to what Jesus is telling us in the Gospel and, like you, to keep it faithfully in our hearts.



Luminous Mysteries

1. The Baptism of Jesus (Mt 3:13-16)

Jesus stepped into the Jordan River and was baptised by John. Overhead, the Heavens opened and God the Father said that Jesus was His Son who He loves very much. The Holy Spirit came down to Jesus so that God could save all people from sin.



God loves us. We are his children and we love him. Mary, help us to love just as you helped your son Jesus.

2. The Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-11)

At the wedding, Jesus changed water to wine because His Mother, Mary, asked Him to help. She told the servants to do what Jesus asked of them. The disciples saw this miracle and they started to believe in Jesus too.

How can we listen to Jesus and do what he asks us? Mary, help us to listen to what Jesus wants us to do.

3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God (Mk 1:14-15)

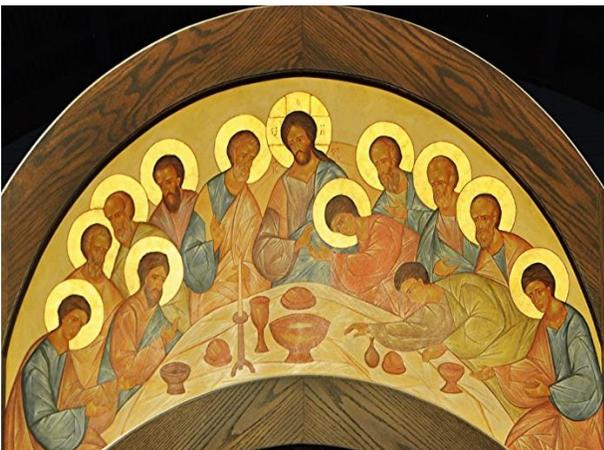
Jesus came to Galilee preaching the good news of God. He told the people that the Kingdom of God was near. He told everyone to ask for forgiveness and pardoned the sins of all who believed in Him.

We too can follow Jesus and make Him known to other people. Mary, you are so good. Help us to be good and spread the word of your son Jesus.

4. The Transfiguration of Jesus (Mt 17:1-8)

The apostles were on Mount Tabor with Jesus. They saw the glory of God shining from Jesus. And then God the Father said, "This is my Chosen Son. Listen to Him."

If we let ourselves be lit up by Jesus, we will be a light for the world. Mary, teach us to look at Jesus and see His light in our actions.



5. The First Eucharist (Mt 26:26-30)

At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of the apostles. Then Jesus offered His body and blood through the signs of bread and wine. He already knew that Judas had betrayed Him. Jesus showed how much He loved them all by sharing the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

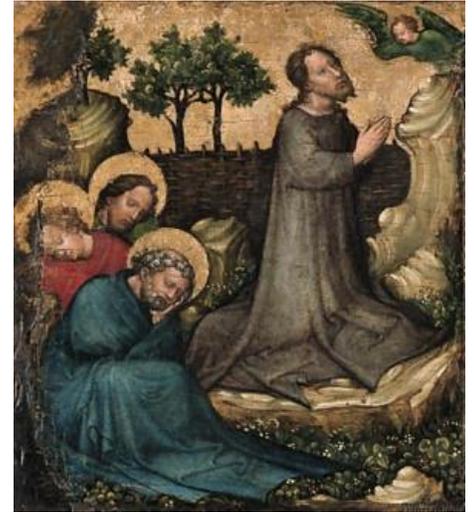
When we receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, Jesus is alive in us. Mary, help us to be closer to your son Jesus.

Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden (Mt 26:36-56)

Jesus knew that one of His friends had betrayed Him. After he ate His last supper, He went to a garden to pray to God His Father for strength. He was afraid but found the courage to die for each of us so that we could be saved.

How do we deal with situations that are hard? Do we make choices that are good for others? Mary, help us to be courageous and face the times that are difficult. Help us to be as brave as your son.



2. The Scourging at the Pillar (Mt 27:26)

The Roman leader Pilate ordered the soldiers to whip and beat Jesus. The soldiers did as Pilate had told them, and Jesus quietly accepted this pain because He loves each of us so much.

How do we show the people around us how much we love them? Mary, help us to show love others, just as you loved Jesus perfectly.

3. The Crowning with Thorns (Mt 27:27-31)

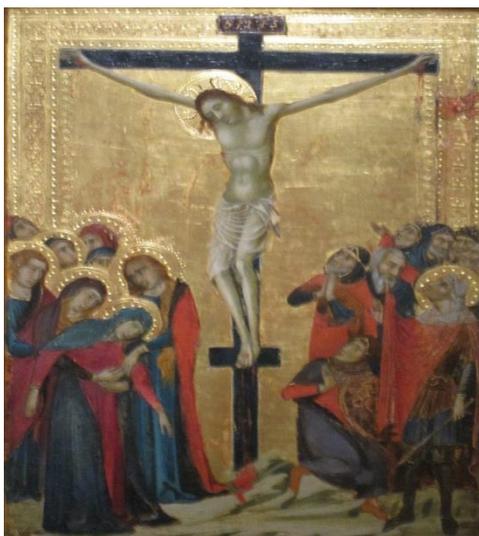
After they whipped Jesus, the soldiers took His clothes and placed a scarlet cloak around Him. They put a crown of thorns on His head and made fun of Him by calling Him “The King of the Jews.”

If people act against us, when we are teased how do we react? Mary be with us when we feel helpless. Your spirit will help us through these times.

4. The Carrying of the Cross (Mt 27:32)

Even though Jesus was hurt, He had to carry the heavy wooden cross to calvary, where He would die. On the way there, He saw Mary and his friends. They were all crying because they were sad.

At times we had to struggle to carry on. It feels as though we have a heavy load to bear. Mary be with us when we struggle and give us strength.



5. The Crucifixion of our Lord (Mt 27:33-56)

As Mary watched and cried for Him, Jesus was nailed to the cross and died. Just before He died, Jesus asked God to forgive everyone, and then He gave His spirit to God.

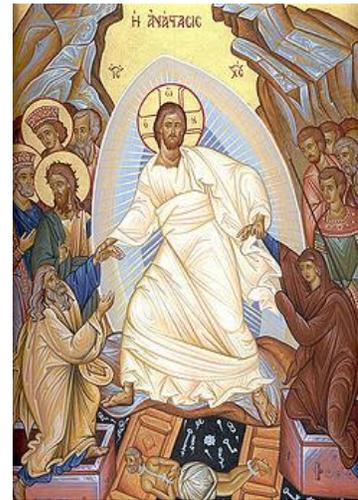
How hard do we find it to forgive those who hurt us and make us suffer? Mary help us to be forgiving towards those who hurt us.

Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection of our Lord (Jn 20:1-29)

After Jesus died, He was placed in a tomb. Mary Magdalene came for Him and saw that He was not there. An angel told her that He had risen from the dead, just as He had promised.

We trust in Jesus and know that He is risen. We can live in Him for ever! Mary, make our hearts grow so we can bring the joy of the Resurrection to the people around us.



2. The Ascension of our Lord (Lk 24:36-53)

Jesus went to a place near a city called Bethany with His mother and His friends. He held His hands out and blessed them. Then God, His Father took Him up to heaven as they all watched.

We know that Jesus is alive in us and in all people who believe. Mary, help us to be faithful and loving people of God.

3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-41)

Jesus promised His friends that He would always be with them. On Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to them. They were filled with God's peace and knew that they would never be alone.

The Spirit is God's love which He gives to us. How will we welcome it? Mary, help us to be filled with the Spirit of your son's love so that we may carry His message of love and peace.

4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

Jesus had a very special love for Mary. When she died, Jesus took Mary's body and spirit to Heaven to be with Him. From Heaven, Mary looks down on all of us and cares for us.

We pray with all our hearts that our prayers rise to you in Heaven. You watch over us always. Mary, receive our prayers and intercede on our behalf.

5. The Coronation of Mary

When Mary entered Heaven, she was welcomed by Jesus and the angels. Mary was crowned the Queen of Heaven and the Universe. In heaven, she appears with a robe made of the sun, the moon under her feet and a crown of 12 stars on her head.

Mary, queen of queens, queen of peace, queen of tenderness, queen of obedience, queen of humility. Mary our Mother, we offer you our hearts. Let them become stars in your crown of glory!

