

THE HOLY ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

The Rosary combines mental and vocal prayer. It consists of fifteen decades, each consisting of ten 'Hail Marys', preceded by the 'Our Father' and followed by the 'Glory be to the Father' and the Fatima prayer. To each decade there is assigned for our meditation one of the Mysteries of the life of our Divine Lord or of our Blessed Lady. These Mysteries form three groups of five: the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries and the Glorious Mysteries. Traditionally, the days on which the Mysteries are recited are as follows: on Monday and Thursday – the Joyful Mysteries; on Tuesday and Friday – the Sorrowful Mysteries; and on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday – the Glorious Mysteries. (The only exception to this sequence is that on the Sundays in Advent the Joyful Mysteries will be recited and on the Sundays in Lent the Sorrowful Mysteries.) When praying the Rosary it is usual to add the Opening Prayers and the Concluding Prayers. It is not essential to have a set of Rosary beads but it is common practice and it does assist in keeping track of the sequence of prayers. If a new set of beads is purchased be sure to have it blessed.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY (and their scriptural references)

The Joyful Mysteries:

1. The Annunciation (Luke 1: 26-28).
2. The Visitation (Lk. 1: 39-45).
3. The Birth of Our Lord (Lk. 2: 1-20).
4. The Presentation in the Temple (Lk. 2: 22-35).
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Lk. 2: 41-52).

The Sorrowful Mysteries:

1. The Agony in the Garden (Matthew 26: 26-46).
2. The Scourging at the Pillar (Mark 15: 1-16).
3. The Crowning with Thorns (Mt. 27: 27-31).
4. The Carrying of the Cross (Mk. 15: 20-22).
5. The Crucifixion (Lk. 23: 33-46).

The Glorious Mysteries:

1. The Resurrection (Mt. 28: 1-10).
2. The Ascension of Our Lord (Lk. 24: 44-53).
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit (John 14: 15-21).
4. The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven.
5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
(n.b. As there are no exact scriptural references for these last two Mysteries please refer to paragraph 966 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.)

THE PRAYERS OF THE ROSARY

Opening Prayers: (Make the Sign of the Cross)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed; one 'Our Father'; three 'Hail Marys'; and one 'Glory be...' for the Church and the Pope's intentions.

The Joyful, Sorrowful or Glorious Mysteries: as described above. Each decade of the five decades consists of one 'Our Father'; ten 'Hail Marys'; one 'Glory be...' and ends with the Fatima prayer. (The Fatima Prayer: 'O my Jesus forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.')

Concluding Prayers:

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 valley 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 clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries in the most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise: through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.