

The Holy Rosary



St Matthew's
ASHFORD



St Mary the Virgin
STANWELL

THE ROSARY: is a devotional sequence of prayers, and meditation upon mysteries of our Salvation. Its contemplative rhythm, rooted in the repetition of the Ave Maria, allows the human heart to draw close to those profound glories found only within the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For many centuries the Rosary has been, for faithful Christians, a means of entering into a deeper participation in the life of Mary, whose focus was her Son – and, in those depths, to discern the pattern for our own earthly pilgrimage.

The use of knotted prayer ropes by Christians goes back to the Desert Fathers in the 3rd and early 4th centuries. Prayers with beads may have begun as a practice by the laity to imitate the Christian monasticism of the Liturgy of the Hours, during the course of which the monks prayed 150 Psalms daily. As many of the laity could not read, they substituted 150 repetitions of the Our Father (*Pater Noster* in Latin) for the Psalms, sometimes using a cord with knots on it to keep an accurate count. This practice developed in the Middle Ages and began to be used also for Marian devotion.

The Rosary today consists of the recitation of the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Gabriel's greeting to Mary (Luke 1:28; 1:42), a declaration that Mary is the *Theotokos* (God-bearer), together with daily "mysteries" and devotional prayers.

In this Parish, the Holy Rosary is prayed publicly in Church at 09:00, at St Matthew's, on Saturdays during May and October, months that have long been dedicated to Our Lady. From the seventeenth century, the month of May has been a time when Christians have offered the Virgin Mary more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration. During May as well as praying the Rosary on Saturdays, we keep the feasts of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the last day of May.

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PRAYERS OF THE ROSARY



SIGN OF THE CROSS – *In Nomine Patris*

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

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God,
the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and life everlasting.
Amen.

OUR FATHER – *Pater Noster*

Our Father, who art in heaven;
hallowed by 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.

HAIL MARY – *Ave Maria*

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.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER – *GLORIA PATRI*

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. Amen.

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 in most need of thy mercy.

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN- *Salve Regina*

or Seasonal Variation (see page 20)

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy!
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!

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.
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
of 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

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 in most need of thy mercy.

THE ROSARY

1. While holding the crucifix make the **Sign of the Cross** and then recite the **Apostles' Creed**.



1. Make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Apostle's Creed.

2. Recite the **Our Father** on the first large bead.



2. Recite the Our Father.

3. On each of the three small beads recite a **Hail Mary** for an increase of faith, hope and charity.



3. Recite three Hail Marys.

4. Recite the **Glory Be to the Father** on the next large bead.



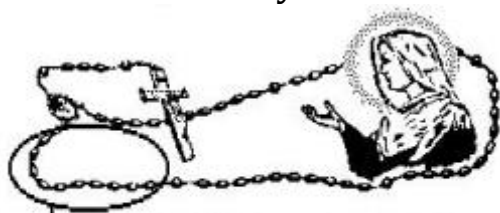
4. Recite the Glory Be to the Father

5. Recall the first Rosary **Mystery** whilst holding the medal and then recite the Our Father holding the chain between the medal and the first bead of the decade.



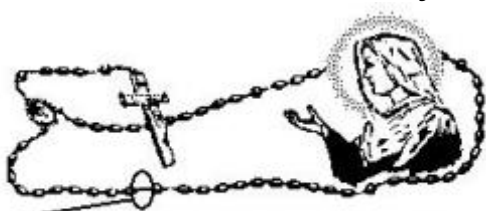
5. Announce the first Mystery and recite the Our Father.

6. On each of the adjacent ten small beads (also referred to as a decade) recite a Hail Mary while reflecting on the mystery.



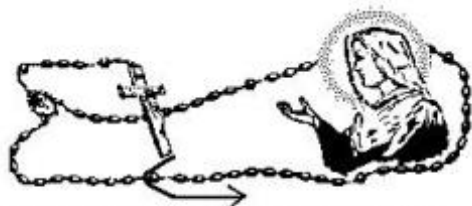
6. Recite 10 Hail Marys (a decade) while reflecting on the mystery.

7. On the chain after the last bead of the decade and the next mystery bead, recite the Glory Be to the Father, followed by the Fatima Prayer.



7. Recite the Glory Be to the Father

8. Each succeeding decade is prayed in a similar manner by recalling the appropriate mystery, reciting the Our Father, ten Hail Marys, the Glory Be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer while reflecting on the mystery.



Announce the Second Mystery, say the Our Father, ten Hail Marys and the Glory be to the Father. Do the same with the other decades

9. When the fifth mystery is completed, the Rosary is Customarily concluded with the Hail, Holy Queen or other seasonal Marian Anthem.



When the 5 mysteries are completed the Rosary is customarily concluded with the Hail Holy Queen.

*The Joyful Mysteries are meditated on Monday and Saturday,
Sundays of Advent and after Epiphany until Lent.*

*The Sorrowful Mysteries are meditated on Tuesday and Friday,
and Sundays in Lent.*

The Glorious Mysteries are meditated on Wednesday and Sunday.

The Luminous Mysteries are meditated on Thursday.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Traditionally prayed on Monday and Saturday



The first five decades, the “joyful mysteries”, are marked by the joy radiating from the event of the Incarnation. This is clear from the very first mystery, the Annunciation, where Gabriel's greeting to the Virgin of Nazareth is linked to an invitation to messianic joy: “Rejoice, Mary”. The whole of salvation history, in some sense the entire history of the world, has led up to this greeting. If it is the Father's plan to unite all things in Christ (cf. Eph 1:10), then the whole of the universe is in some way touched by the divine favour with which the Father looks upon Mary and makes her the Mother of his Son. The whole of humanity, in turn, is embraced by the fiat with which she readily agrees to the will of God.

Exultation is the keynote of the encounter with Elizabeth, where the sound of Mary's voice and the presence of Christ in her womb cause John to “leap for joy” (cf. Lk 1:44). Gladness also fills the scene in Bethlehem, when the birth of the divine Child, the Saviour of the world, is announced by the song of the angels and proclaimed to the shepherds as “news of great joy” (Lk 2:10).

The final two mysteries, while preserving this climate of joy, already point to the drama yet to come. The Presentation in the Temple not only expresses the joy of the Child's consecration and the ecstasy of the aged Simeon; it also records the prophecy that Christ will be a “sign of contradiction” for Israel and that a sword will pierce his mother's heart (cf Lk 2:34-35). Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth mystery, the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple. Here he appears in his divine wisdom as he listens and raises questions, already in effect one who “teaches”. The revelation of his mystery as the Son wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs proclaims the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom. Mary and Joseph, fearful and anxious, “did not understand” his words (Lk 2:50).

To meditate upon the “joyful” mysteries, then, is to enter into the ultimate causes and the deepest meaning of Christian joy. It is to focus on the realism of the mystery of the Incarnation and on the obscure foreshadowing of the mystery of the saving Passion. Mary leads us to discover the secret of Christian joy, reminding us that Christianity is, first and foremost, evangelion, “good news”, which has as its heart and its whole content the person of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the one Saviour of the world.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS

SIGN OF THE CROSS – *In Nomine Patris*

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

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God,
the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

OUR FATHER – *Pater Noster*

Our Father, who art in heaven;
hallowed by 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.**

HAIL MARY – *Ave Maria*

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.**

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER – *GLORIA PATRI*

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. Amen.**

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 in most need of thy mercy.**

FIRST JOYFUL MYSTERY



**The Annunciation
of the Angel to Mary**

We pray for: For parents facing an unexpected pregnancy, that they lovingly accept the precious life God has entrusted to their care.

READING - Luke 1,26-38

"So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others." In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Oh Mary with Your "yes" You have opened heaven's ways, You have achieved the will of the Father. You will be blessed for ever: Your intercession is heard in Heaven, because You have accepted God's plan. Let us pray that we can say "yes" to the Father in every instance He ask it of us. Mary help us to be humble and obedient to God's will. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

SECOND JOYFUL MYSTERY



**The visitation of Mary
to Saint Elizabeth**

We pray for: That the family and friends of expectant parents might reach out and support them as they prepare to meet their child face to face.

READING - Luke 1,39-49

During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

"Mary goes to visit Elizabeth: She carries God to Her cousin, for the love of Her brothers and neighbours. Lord help us to carry Christ to others, like Mary did. Let us ask Mary the gift of burning charity." **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

THIRD JOYFUL MYSTERY



**The nativity of Jesus
in Bethlehem**

We pray for: That the love of the Blessed Mother and the Christ Child may be a source of strength for every expectant mother, especially mothers living in poverty, and that they both will be surrounded by joy and love.

READING - Luke 2,6-12

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Infant Jesus in the manger. Mary, Joseph and the shepherds adore Him. Let us also adore Christ, the Son of God, in the silence of our soul and from the depth of our heart. Let us ask Mary to make us love Jesus more, and also the gift of poverty of spirit. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

FOURTH JOYFUL MYSTERY



**The presentation of
Jesus in the Temple**

We pray for: That fathers of young children will model St. Joseph in devoutly practicing their faith, so that they lead their children to God by their words and example.

READING - Luke 2,22-35

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

We need to pay attention to the voice of God, to discern His call and accept the mission He gave us. After the Simeon prophecy, Mary takes into Her Heart the wound of sorrow, but in the silence She accepts the will of Her Father. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

FIFTH JOYFUL MYSTERY



**The finding of Jesus
in the Temple**

We pray for: For all children who have been lost and forgotten, that they may be led to a place where they are treasured, protected and loved.

READING - Luke 2,41-51

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Let us think of how many times we have been far from Jesus; from that Jesus, who with so much love has died for us. Let us meditate that in the difficulties of life the only safety is finding Jesus and never again leaving his great love.

Amen.

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

Hail Holy Queen or Seasonal variation

Final prayer

Blessing/The Grace.

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

Traditionally prayed on Tuesday and Friday



The Gospels give great prominence to the sorrowful mysteries of Christ. From the beginning Christian piety, especially during the Lenten devotion of the Way of the Cross, has focused on the individual moments of the Passion, realizing that here is found the culmination of the revelation of God's love and the source of our salvation. The Rosary selects certain moments from the Passion, inviting the faithful to contemplate them in their hearts and to relive them. The sequence of meditations begins with Gethsemane, where Christ experiences a moment of great anguish before the will of the Father, against which the weakness of the flesh would be tempted to rebel. There Jesus encounters all the temptations and confronts all the sins of humanity, in order to say to the Father: "Not my will but yours be done" (Lk 22:42 and parallels). This "Yes" of Christ reverses the "No" of our first parents in the Garden of Eden. And the cost of this faithfulness to the Father's will is made clear in the following mysteries; by his scourging, his crowning with thorns, his carrying the Cross and his death on the Cross, the Lord is cast into the most abject suffering: Ecce homo!

This abject suffering reveals not only the love of God but also the meaning of man himself.

Ecce homo: the meaning, origin and fulfilment of man is to be found in Christ, the God who humbles himself out of love "even unto death, death on a cross" (Phil 2:8). The sorrowful mysteries help the believer to relive the death of Jesus, to stand at the foot of the Cross beside Mary, to enter with her into the depths of God's love for man and to experience all its life-giving power.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS

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was crucified, died, and was buried.
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He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God,
the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge
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I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

OUR FATHER – *Pater Noster*

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**Give us this day our daily bread;
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HAIL MARY – *Ave Maria*

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
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**Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now
and at the hour of our death.**

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER – *GLORIA PATRI*

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. Amen.**

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 in most need of thy mercy.**

FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY



The Agony of Jesus in the garden

We pray for: all in agony or distress of mind, the sick and terminally ill, patience in suffering and for the gift of prayer

READING - Luke 22,44

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." (Mat 26,36-39). He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

In the forsaking prayer to the Father, Jesus found strength, trust, and an angel was sent to comfort Him. So, Jesus will be our comforting angel. It's as He said to us: " Why do you worry in your difficulties? Be strong in me; look to your God in your most troubled hour, and you will be triumphant." Let us ask to forsake ourselves to God, to always do His will. **Amen.**

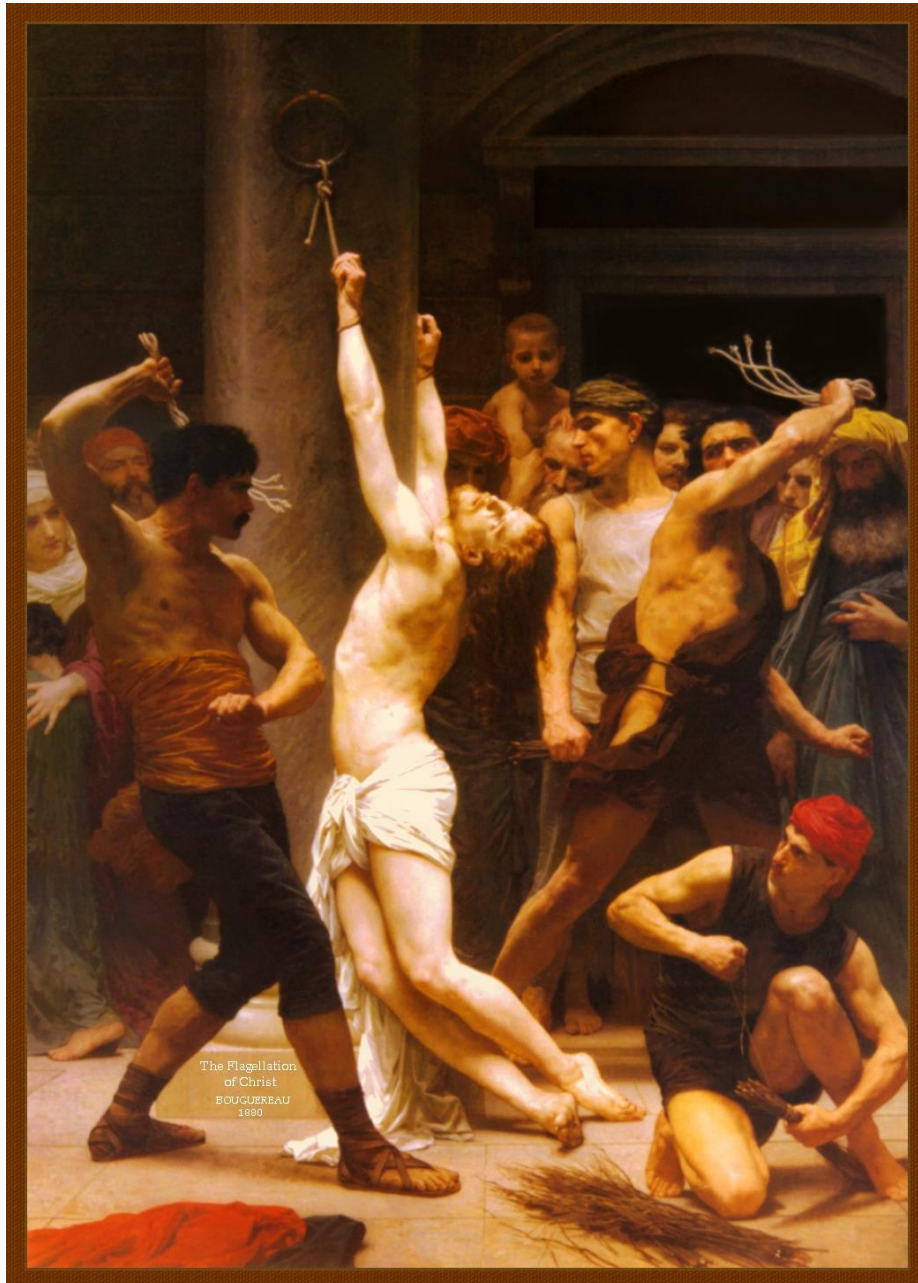
Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY



**The scourging of Jesus
at the pillar**

We pray for: those imprisoned and tortured for their beliefs, the victims of violence, bullied children and sorrow for sin.

READING - Mar 15,15

When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying: "Art thou the King of the Jews?" And Jesus said unto him: "Thou sayest". And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him: "Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?" And he answered him to never a word Pilate saith unto them: "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" They all say unto him: "Let him be crucified!" And the governor said: "Why, what evil hath he done?" But they cried out the more, saying: "Let him be crucified!" (Mat 27). And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

How many pains, how many torments, and how many wounds on the body of Jesus? How much blood falls to the ground, while His tormenters laugh, insult him, and gather their strength to hit the innocent body of Jesus again? Let us ask to accept every insult for the love of our Lord, and also a true regret for our sins. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY



The Crowning with Thorns

We pray for: those in authority, soldiers and victims of war or military occupation and those with mental illness.

READING - Mat 27,27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!". They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Think of the indignity, outrage, pain, and humiliation that Jesus suffered. They stripped Him of every dignity, He was treated as the guilt of our worst sins. He seems to say to us: " Why do you despair when you suffer? Is that the way you love me? Meditate about my passions and find in them great riches." Let us ask the gift of patience to accept all humiliations, thinking of how Jesus suffered for us. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY



The Carrying of the Cross

We pray for: those burdened with troubles too heavy for them, those who care for the sick and infirmed

READING - Luke 23,26-32

As they led him away, they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?" Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Even if He had suffered just for you, Jesus would have accepted such pains, great is His love for you. Along the road to Calvary Jesus sees Mary, His Mother. Can we imagine the moment when Their eyes met? Oh how Her Heart must have ached. Let us pray to Mary for the grace to always accept our cross, so that she and Jesus may bear it. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY



**The crucifixion and death
of Jesus**

We pray for: the dying, the dead and those who mourn them, for addicts and those enslaved by destructive habits, those tempted to suicide, enemies and those who wish us harm

READING - John 19,25-27

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Jesus wishes to see us close to His Mother; He wishes that, like children, we keep our hand in the hand of Mary. That is what He wants. He asks us to look to the heavenly Mother, that is depend on Her. He asks that we accept Our Lady as our true Mother, who will ignite in us a fervent love of Her Son. Mary, we trust in You, take us and put us in the refuge of Your Immaculate Heart, heal with Your humility our pride, that so often takes us far from God. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

Hail Holy Queen or Seasonal variation

Final prayer

Blessing/The Grace.

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

Traditionally prayed on Wednesday and Sunday



The contemplation of Christ's face cannot stop at the image of the Crucified One. He is the Risen One!" The Rosary has always expressed this knowledge born of faith and invited the believer to pass beyond the darkness of the Passion in order to gaze upon Christ's glory in the Resurrection and Ascension.

Contemplating the Risen One, Christians rediscover the reasons for their own faith (cf. 1Cor 15:14) and relive the joy not only of those to whom Christ appeared – the Apostles, Mary Magdalene and the disciples on the road to Emmaus – but also the joy of Mary, who must have had an equally intense experience of the new life of her glorified Son. In the Ascension, Christ was raised in glory to the right hand of the Father, while Mary herself would be raised to that same glory in the Assumption, enjoying beforehand, by a unique privilege, the destiny reserved for all the just at the resurrection of the dead. Crowned in glory – as she appears in the last glorious mystery – Mary shines forth as Queen of the Angels and Saints, the anticipation and the supreme realization of the eschatological state of the Church.

At the centre of this unfolding sequence of the glory of the Son and the Mother, the Rosary sets before us the third glorious mystery, Pentecost, which reveals the face of the Church as a family gathered together with Mary, enlivened by the powerful outpouring of the Spirit and ready for the mission of evangelization. The contemplation of this scene, like that of the other glorious mysteries, ought to lead the faithful to an ever greater appreciation of their new life in Christ, lived in the heart of the Church, a life of which the scene of Pentecost itself is the great "icon". The glorious mysteries thus lead the faithful to greater hope for the eschatological goal towards which they journey as members of the pilgrim People of God in history. This can only impel them to bear courageous witness to that "good news" which gives meaning to their entire existence.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS

SIGN OF THE CROSS – *In Nomine Patris*

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

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God,
the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

OUR FATHER – *Pater Noster*

Our Father, who art in heaven;
hallowed by 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.**

HAIL MARY – *Ave Maria*

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.**

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER – *GLORIA PATRI*

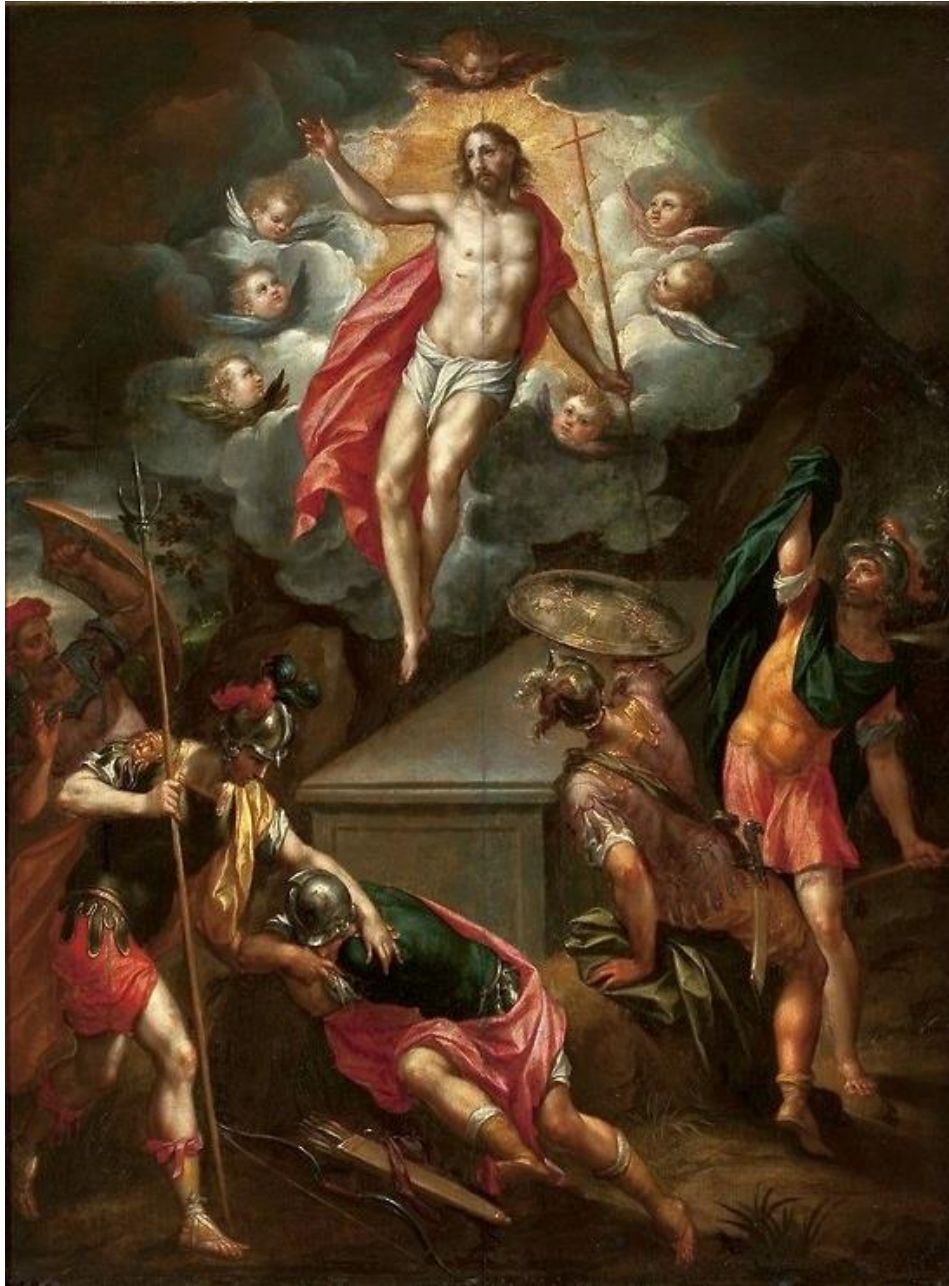
Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

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 in most need of thy mercy.**

FIRST GLORIOUS MYSTERY



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

We pray for: all who have lost loved ones, and especially for parents of a child, that they will find peace in the promise of the Resurrection.

READING - Mat 28,1-6

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

The risen Jesus has proved that man, together with Him, can have power over sin and therefore death. Jesus, help raise us, deliver us from sin, from evil, give us Your light, give us Your joy. Rekindle inside us the love, the faith, the hopefulness, and the gift of prayer. Let us ask Mary for the gift of an unshakeable faith. **Amen.**

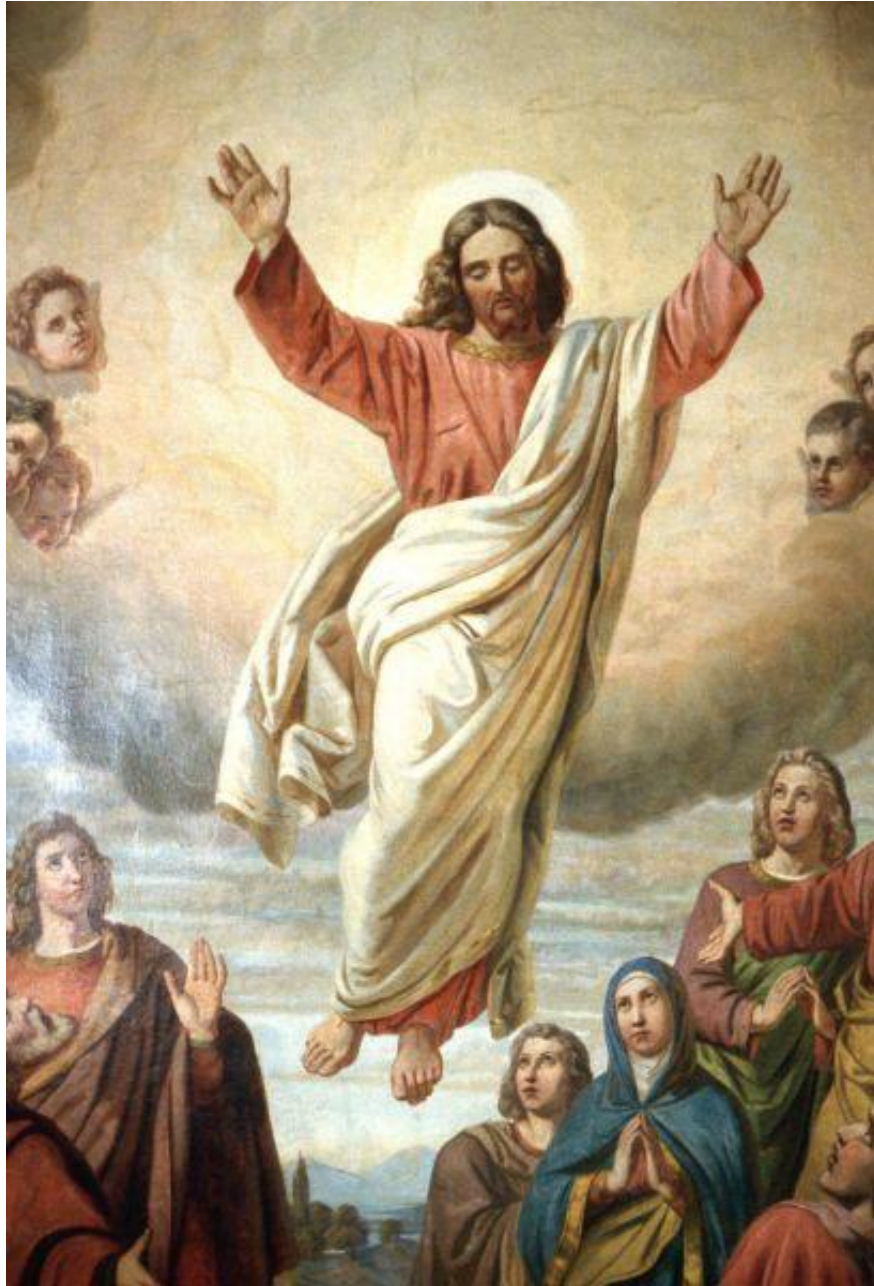
Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

SECOND GLORIOUS MYSTERY



**The Ascension
of Jesus to Heaven**

We pray for: that we might become disciples of the Lord and make disciples of all nations, starting first in our homes.

READING - Luk 24,36-51

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And [behold] I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Then he led them [out] as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Jesus, you have not deserted Your apostles in anguish, but have given them the joy of knowing Jesus "glorified" over 40 days. After Your Ascension, you granted to all those who seek You the gift of receiving You in the Eucharist. Through Mary we trust in you. Mary, give us the gift of hope. **Amen.**

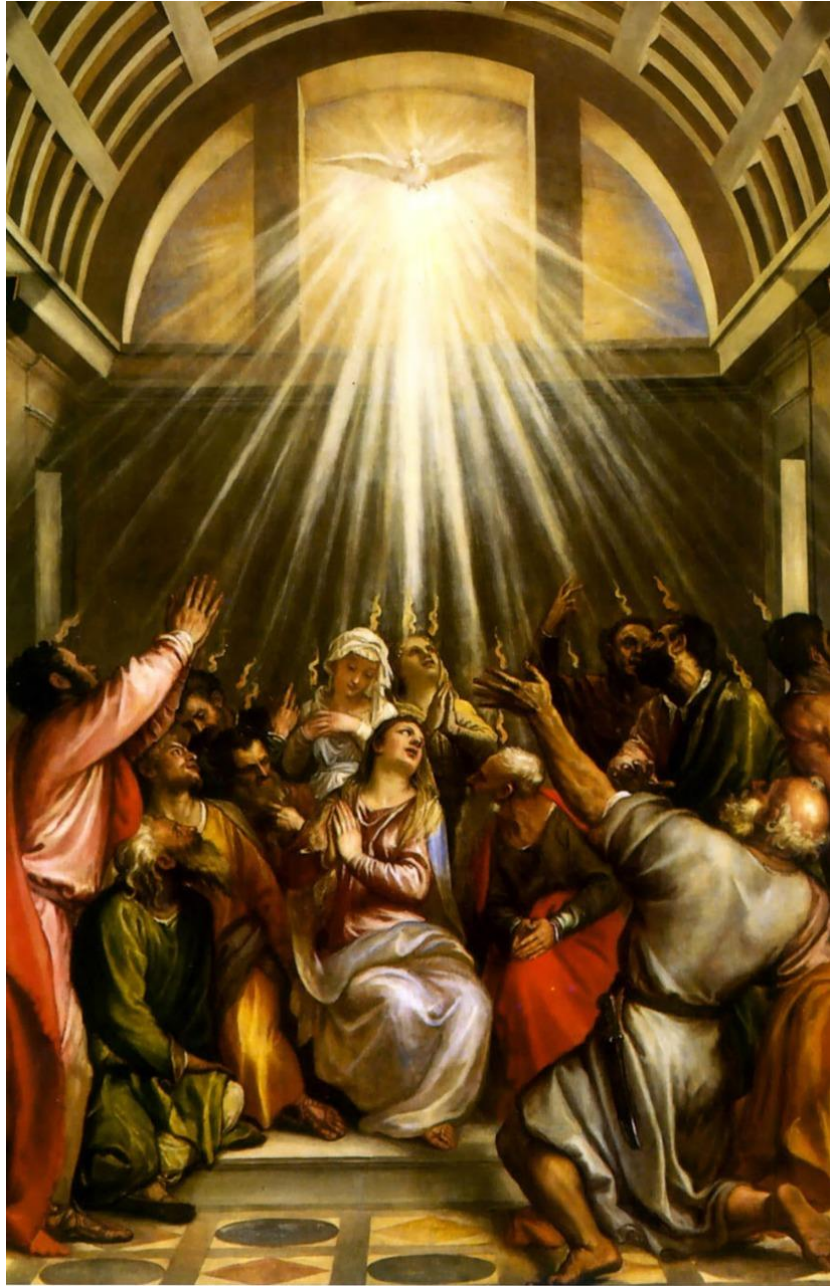
Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

THIRD GLORIOUS MYSTERY



The Descent of the Holy Ghost

We pray for: a renewal of the Holy Spirit in our lives and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit's gifts and fruits.

READING - Act 2,1-4

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Jesus, infuse us with the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, enlighten us with the light of Your Spirit, with His strength enter in the deepest parts of our hearts and heal us. Deliver us, fill up our hearts with Your love. Make us apostles of Yours, dear Lord. Let us ask Mary the gift of true love, the gift of prayer from the heart. "Come Holy Spirit, come by means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Your well-beloved Spouse." **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

FOURTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY



**The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
into Heaven**

We pray for: the grace of a happy and holy death

READING - Rev. 11;19-12;1

Arise, LORD, come to your resting place, you and your mighty ark. (Psalm 132;8).

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a violent hailstorm. A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Now that Mary is raised into heaven, She prays for Her sons and daughters, those sons and daughters Jesus left Her when He was on the cross. Mary, pray for us, You know our fears, take us into Your Heart, the Heart of a Mother. Help us now and in the time of our death to be with You in Heaven. We ask of you a devotion to Your Immaculate Heart, where we may take refuge in times of trouble. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

FIFTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY



**The Coronation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary,
Queen of Heaven and Earth**

We pray for: those who struggle with devotion to Mary and for a deepening of Marian piety among the faithful.

READING - Rev 12,1

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Let us trust in Mary, Let us call to Her, let us love Her, let us confide in Her, because She gives Her all to us. We have a Mother in Heaven who is also a Queen; thus we need to turn to Her with full faith and hopefulness. If we ask for something while praying the Holy Rosary, it will be granted to us. Ask Her for the gift of prayer, a prayer of the heart, said only for love, a love for Her and Jesus. Let us also ask for a consistency of prayer, to always be joined to Her Heart, and therefore to the Heart of Jesus. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

Hail Holy Queen or Seasonal variation

Final prayer

Blessing/The Grace.

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

Traditionally prayed on Thursday



Moving on from the infancy and the hidden life in Nazareth to the public life of Jesus, our contemplation brings us to those mysteries which may be called 1n (1 special way 'mysteries of light'. Certainly the whole mystery of Christ 1s a mystery of light. He is the light of the world (S john 8.12). Yet this truth emerges in a special way during the years of his public life, when he proclaims the Gospel of the Kingdom. The following five significant moments 'Luminous' mysteries during this phase of Christ's life can befittingly singled out: (1) his Baptism in the Jordan, (2) his self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana, (3) his proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion, (4) his Transfiguration, and finally, (5) his institution of the Eucharist, as the sacramental expression of the Paschal Mystery.

Each of these mysteries is a revelation of the Kingdom now present in the very person of Jesus. The Baptism in the Jordan is first of all a mystery of light. Here, as Christ descends into the waters, the innocent one who became 'sin 'for our sake (cf. 2 Corinthians 5.21), the heavens open wide and the voice of the Father declares him the beloved Son (cf. S Matthew 3.17 and parallels) while the Spirit descends on him to invest him with the mission which he is to carry out. Another mystery of light is the first of the signs, given at Cana (cf. 5 john 2.112), when Christ changes water into wine and opens the hearts of the disciples to faith, thanks to the intervention of Mary, the first among believers. Another mystery of light is the preaching by which Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God, calls to conversion (cf 5' Mark 1.15) and forgives the sins of all who draw near to him in humble trust (cf. 8 Mark2. 3-13; 5 Luke 7 47-48): the inauguration of that ministry of mercy which he continues to exercise until the end of the world, particularly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation which he has entrusted to his Church (cf St John 20.22-23). The mystery of light par excellence is the Transfiguration, traditionally believed to have taken place on Mount Tabor. The glory of the Godhead shines forth from the face of Christ as the Father commands the astonished Apostles to 'Listen to him' (cf. 5 Luke 9. 35 and parallels) and to prepare to experience with him the agony of the Passion, so as to come with him to the joy of the Resurrection and a life transfigured by the Holy Spirit. The final mystery of light is the institution of the Eucharist, in which Christ offers his body and blood as food under the signs of bread and

wine, and testifies 'to the end' his Love for humanity (St John 13.1), for whose salvation he will offer himself in sacrifice.

In these mysteries, apart from the miracle at Cana, the presence of Mary remains in the background. The Gospels make only the briefest reference to her occasional presence at one moment or other during the preaching of Jesus (cf. 5 Mark 3. 31-5; S John 2.12), and they give no indication that she was present at the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist. Yet the role she assumed at Cana in some way accompanies Christ throughout his ministry. The revelation made directly by the Father at the Baptism in the Jordan and echoed by John the Baptist is placed upon Mary's lips at Cana, and it becomes the great maternal counsel which Mary addresses to the Church of every age: 'Do whatever he tells you' (St John 2.5). This counsel is a fitting introduction to the words and signs of Christ's public ministry and it form the Marian foundation of all the 'mysteries of light'

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS

SIGN OF THE CROSS – *In Nomine Patris*

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

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God,
the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

OUR FATHER – *Pater Noster*

Our Father, who art in heaven;
hallowed by 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.**

HAIL MARY – *Ave Maria*

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.**

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER – *GLORIA PATRI*

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. Amen.**

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 in most need of thy mercy.**

FIRST LUMINOUS MYSTERY



The Baptism of Jesus

We pray for: For all children and adults who have recently experienced their own re-birth by baptism.

READING - Mt 3,13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

The Baptism in the Jordan is first of all a mystery of light. Here, as Christ descends into the waters, the innocent one who became sin for our sake (cf. 2Cor 5:21), the heavens open wide and the voice of the Father declares him the beloved Son (cf. Mt 3:17 and parallels), while the Spirit descends on him to invest him with the mission which he is to carry out. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

SECOND LUMINOUS MYSTERY



The wedding of Cana

We pray for: For engaged and newly married couples. For couples who are going through a difficult time and contemplating divorce.

READING - Jn 2,1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." [And] Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. After this, he and his mother, [his] brothers, and his disciples went down to Capernaum and stayed there only a few days.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

Another mystery of light is the first of the signs, given at Cana (cf. Jn 2:1- 12), when Christ changes water into wine and opens the hearts of the disciples to faith, thanks to the intervention of Mary, the first among believers. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

THIRD LUMINOUS MYSTERY



**The proclamation
of the Kingdom of God**

We pray for: For those who need to hear the good news of the gospel.

READING - Mk 1,15

"This is the time of fulfilment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

The preaching by which Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God, calls to conversion (cf. Mk 1:15) and forgives the sins of all who draw near to him in humble trust (cf. Mk 2:3-13; Lk 7:47- 48): the inauguration of that ministry of mercy which he continues to exercise until the end of the world, particularly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation which he has entrusted to his Church (cf. Jn 20:22-23). **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

FOURTH LUMINOUS MYSTERY



The Transfiguration

We Pray for: that our world will be transfigured by the witness of faithful Christians so that all may understand the priceless value of every human being.

READING - Lk 9,28-35

About eight days after he said this, he took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

The mystery of light par excellence is the Transfiguration, traditionally believed to have taken place on Mount Tabor. The glory of the Godhead shines forth from the face of Christ as the Father commands the astonished Apostles to listen to him (cf. Lk 9:35 and parallels) and to prepare to experience with him the agony of the Passion, so as to come with him to the joy of the Resurrection and a life transfigured by the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

FIFTH LUMINOUS MYSTERY



**The institution
of the Eucharist**

We pray for: those away from the Eucharist and for those who are preparing for Confirmation and to receive their First Holy Communion.

READING - Mk 14,22-25

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER

A final mystery of light is the institution of the Eucharist, in which Christ offers his body and blood as food under the signs of bread and wine and testifies 'to the end' his love for humanity (Jn 13:1), for whose salvation he will offer himself in sacrifice. **Amen.**

Our Father.....

10 Hail Marys

Glory be...

O my Jesus ...

Hail Holy Queen or Seasonal variation

Final prayer

Blessing/The Grace.

MARIAN ANTHEMS

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER - Advent to Candlemas

Mother of Christ! Hear thou thy people's cry,
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky!
Mother of him who thee from nothing made,
Sinking we strive, and call to thee for aid:
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,
Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.

AVE REGINA CAELORUM - Candlemas to Holy week

Hail, Queen of heaven, beyond compare,
To whom the angels homage pay;
Hail, Root of Jesse, Gate of Light,
That opened for the world's new Day.
Rejoice, O Virgin unsurpassed,
In whom our ransom was begun,
For all your loving children pray
To Christ, our Saviour and your Son.

REGINA CAELI - Eastertide

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia!
has risen as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!

SALVE REGINA - Trinity Sunday to Advent

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To you do we send up our sighs
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious Advocate,
your eyes of mercy towards us;
and after this exile show us
the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.