

Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary for a World Renewed

The Rosary

We know that we live a wounded world; surrounded by poverty, violence, and environmental destruction. In the glorious mysteries we find a profound assurance that God is and will be victorious over all forms of injustice, suffering and death.

Guided by Mary, mother of Jesus and mother of all, may we be open to let these mysteries penetrate deep within us and respond with fresh hope and strength to play our part in the renewal of the world.

Begin by making the Sign of the Cross and saying the 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; on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he will 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

Pray one Our Father on the single bead nearest the cross.

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.

Pray one Hail Mary on each of the next three beads for an increase in faith, hope, and charity.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed are thou amongst 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. Amen.

On the next single bead, pray the 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. Amen

The Resurrection

Now after the Sabbath, towards the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." (*Matthew 28:1-7*)

In a spirit of courage and love, the women go early in the morning to anoint the body of Jesus. They find an empty tomb and the invitation to become the first to share the good news of the Lord's resurrection. All creation participates in this good news; the earth shakes and the angel that appears has the appearance of lightning and snow. The risen Jesus brings new life and hope for Mary Magdalene, for the other disciples, for us and for all the earth.

In June 2023 hundreds of CAFOD supporters united in hope for a better world, sharing their prayers for tomorrow. The prayers were inspired by Pope Francis' call for people to reflect on what type of world future generations will inherit unless action is taken to halt the climate emergency. The prayers, which were delivered to Downing Street, praised God for the gift of our creation and expressed commitment to caring for our common home and building world in which all may flourish.

As we reflect on this mystery, we remember that Jesus' victory over death means that injustice can be overcome and creation restored.

We pray for the strength to live each day in the power and hope of the resurrection, modelling our lives on the active, generous love and compassion of the Lord.

Pray the Our Father.

Pray a Hail Mary on each of the ten beads of the decade.

Pray the Glory Be. You may also want to add the Fatima invocation:

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.

The Ascension of Jesus

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (*Matthew 28:16-20*)

"I am with you always, to the end of the age." Jesus assures his disciples and us. Strengthened by the promise of the Lord's enduring presence, we can joyfully accept his commission to share the good news. This mystery reminds us of our call to be active and present in the world, carrying on Jesus' work of grace and love, justice and healing.

Jenny Garzón Saavedra is a youth worker in the Colombian Amazon. After 50 years of conflict, Colombia is not an easy place for young people. Jenny helps them advocate for their communities, work for peace and learn how to protect the Amazon. Jenny's faith helps her to persevere, as she tries to be God's instrument, rising up for those in need.

As we pray this decade, we seek to place our trust in Jesus' presence with us. We ask that we too will be God's instruments, living generously in the abundance of his grace.

Pray the Our Father.

Pray a Hail Mary on the each of the ten beads of the decade.

Pray the Glory Be. You may also want to add the Fatima invocation.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

From frightened disciples to courageous witnesses to the good news of Jesus.

From individuals divided by language to people able to understand each other.

From Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

What makes the difference is the gift of the Holy Spirit; breaking down the barriers between people, and leading them to solidarity and community.

A women's group in Magdalena Medio, Colombia, received a patchwork wall hanging from St. George's parish in Norwich. The wall hanging was designed by young people from the parish Scout groups and local school and sewn by a group of women in St George's parish. They all wanted to express their solidarity with the people of Colombia after supporting CAFOD's peacebuilding project in the area.

Gloria, a member of the parish group, said: "We wish our sisters and brothers in Colombia peace, prayers, love – and more love. We will not forget you."

Receiving the quilt, the women's group in Colombia said: "The strength that you are transmitting internationally is giving us strength to continue for another 50 years. "

As we contemplate this mystery, we pray that, in our divided world the Spirit will bring unity and peace. May each of us be open to the other, so God may work through us to fulfil his promise for all creation.

Pray the Our Father.

Pray a Hail Mary on the each of the ten beads of the decade.

Pray the Glory Be. You may also want to add the Fatima invocation.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

“But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.” (*Luke 2: 19*)

Reflecting on the Assumption of Mary, Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si'*, “Carried up into heaven, she is the Mother and Queen of all creation. In her glorified body, together with the Risen Christ, part of creation has reached the fullness of its beauty. She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart (cf. *Lk 2:19,51*), and now understands the meaning of all things. Hence, we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom.” (*Laudato Si* #246)

Luke tells us twice in chapter 2 that Mary treasures and ponders the things that she has seen and heard in her heart. As we pray this mystery, perhaps we too want to take time to treasure what God has done in our lives and ponder where we might see his activity in our world.

Just as Mary's life took place in Judea as part of a poor community under an oppressive Roman occupation, so too many people in our world today are marginalised and suffering.

The people of Afghanistan have endured years of conflict, political turmoil and poverty. Their situation has been made worse by the Taliban takeover, especially for women and girls. Now two thirds of the population require essential humanitarian assistance including 15.3 million children.

Yet, people still hold on to hope. A CAFOD partner who works with women and girls in Afghanistan, says:

“It has been a difficult and painful year for us all as Afghans. But it has not stopped us from surviving every day and fighting for the spark of light in the darkest days. History should not call any of the women who were left behind victims. Remember us as survivors, agents of change and peacebuilders.”

So, let's ask Mary to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom, so we might imitate her example of trusting faith and receptivity to the Spirit and strive to be agents of change and peacebuilders.

Pray the Our Father.

Pray a Hail Mary on the each of the ten beads of the decade.

Pray the Glory Be. You may also want to add the Fatima invocation.

Mary is Crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.” (*Luke 1:46-49*)

Mary glorified the Lord, her spirit rejoiced in God her Saviour and God raised her up and exalted her. In this mystery, we honour the young woman of Nazareth who courageously responded to God's call. The daughter of Israel who sang such powerful words of God's liberating justice and compassion. The mother forced to endure the suffering of her innocent child. The woman of strength and faith to whom Jesus entrusted the Church. And we rejoice

both in her exaltation and in the final destiny of all God's people who share in her son's victory over evil and death.

We pray for the grace to join in Mary's 'Yes' to God's call, to live in solidarity with those who are poor and oppressed and to commit to serving God's justice and working for a world renewed.

Pray the Our Father.

Pray a Hail Mary on the each of the ten beads of the decade.

Pray the Glory Be. You may also want to add the Fatima invocation.

We end our rosary with a final invocation to our blessed Virgin Mary, and ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom:

Mary, Mother of the Church,
pray for us, that our meditation on these mysteries
may guide us into new ways of seeing the world,
new ways of living in the hope of the resurrection,
new paths of peace and justice,
as we seek to build the Kingdom to which your Son calls us.
Amen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Scripture texts taken from The ESV Catholic Edition, with Deuterocanonical books © 2002, 2009, 2017 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used with permission. All rights reserved.