

The Rosary ?

A treasure to rediscover !

Have you already looked at the Rosary?
It's a chain, but a soft chain, which joins us to God, Our Father, which links us to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

This filial and fraternal chain converges to a cross because it's Christ himself who opens and leads us in prayer.

« To Say the Rosary is to contemplate with Mary the Face of Christ »

Letter on the Rosary, Jean-Paul II
16 octobre 2002

In order to pray the rosary in the spiritual atmosphere of the Chapel, there will be four other leaflets.

The Joyful Mysteries The Mysteries of Light
The Sorrowful Mysteries The Glorious Mysteries

July 2003

In the 15th century in Prussia, Germany, the Prior of the Hail Marys while meditating on the life of Jesus. The young Chartaux of Trèves suggested to a novice that he said 50 Hail Marys then wrote 150 short meditations "or clausules", like the psalms not only in Latin but also in German. The Prior was delighted with these meditations and sent them to the different monasteries of his order.
Little by little, to help memorize, the Hail Marys were put in decades, each one introduced by an Our Father and finished with a "Glory be to the Father". The number of meditations were considerably reduced from 150 to 15.
The Rosary was born. It was also called the Psalm book of Mary.
Following this, in France, the Rosary is the name given to the 15 decades, while "chapeler" (little hat) is the name given to 5 decades.
It was Brother Alain de la Roche, born in Brittany, in 1428, and who entered the Dominicans, who was responsible for the spread of this devotion. He preached in Flanders than in Lille where, coming into contact with the monasteries of Chartreux, he discovered the meditations of Dominique of Prussia. He became the great apostle of the Rosary. He advocated the creation of the Confraternities of the Rosary which became very successful, in Italy and then in the rest of Western Europe. Curiously, Alain de la Roche, attributed the origin of the Rosary to St Dominique, the founder of his order who died in the 12th century! Although there is no historical foundation to this legend it has been repeated until recent times.
At the end of the 17th century, the phrase "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners" appeared. The adjective "poor" placed before the word sinners was added much later.



The Chapel Pamphlets

English

Pray the Rosary with the Chapel

N° 1

History & method



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From the early days of the Church, Mary is united to her son Jesus in the love of Christians and the prayer of the faithful.
From the 3rd century people began to turn to Mary using the words of the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation: Ave gratia plena.
From the 9th century the anthem of the offertory of the 4th Sunday of Advent, Elizabeth's greeting at the Visitation, was joined to it. Only the name of Mary was added to the text. This was the only version of the Hail Mary until the end of the 15th century.
From the 12th century devotion to Mary became very important in the western world. This anthem to Mary became a popular prayer which people loved to repeat, as at the same time in the East one repeated the name of Jesus in what was known as the prayer of the heart.
In the monasteries it gradually replaced the "Our Father" which the brothers repeated while the monks sang the psalms in Latin.
Small knotted cords then beads, perhaps influenced indirectly by the Muslims they had seen while on pilgrimage to the Holy Land or on the Crusades were used to count the "Our Father", then later the "Hail Mary".
In the 13th century the great mystic St Gertrude added the name of Jesus to the Hail Mary.
In the 14th century they loved to crown the statues of the Virgin Mary with little hats made of flowers, or with garlands of roses, like those won by young girls on feast days. It was because of this that the little cords of knots or beads were named rosaries. Each Hail Mary is like a rose offered to Mary.

The Prayer for Christians

During the 16th century, printing began and this allowed illustrated booklets representing the “mysteries” to be distributed.

In 1571, Pope Pius V, a Dominican instituted the Feast of Our Lady to be celebrated on 7th of October each year, in thanksgiving for the victory over the Turks at Lepante. This was looked upon as a miracle obtained through the Rosary, which the Christians of the time had recited at his request.

In 1572 the same Pope recognised officially the 15 mysteries of the Rosary and it became the prayer of Christians.

All through the centuries the names of well-known Christians became associated with it.

In the 18th century, Louis Marie Grignon de Monfort was the great apostle of the Rosary.

In the 19th century, Pauline Jaricot started the living Rosary; at Lourdes, Bernadette Soubirous said the Rosary with the Blessed Virgin; At Pompeii Bartolo Longo opened a sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin of the Rosary; Pope Leo XIII wrote 12 encyclicals consecrated to the Rosary, as a result of which he was called “the Pope of the Rosary”.

In the 20th century, at Fatima, Mary herself said to the 3 children: “I am the Virgin of the Rosary and I have come to ask people to say the Rosary every day, to do penance for their sins and to change their way of life”.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Pope Jean-Paul II declared on the 7 October 2002 a year of the Rosary. He added to the 15 mysteries, joyful, sorrowful, glorious, 5 new ones the Mysteries of Light.

And now... over to us !

How to use the Rosary

Choose from one of the four sets, the one you wish to meditate upon when saying the Rosary. The Church recommends a certain order (other leaflets to follow).

⇒ We begin with the **Sign of the Cross**. Then we make an act of faith in saying **the Creed**.

At the first bead we say an **Our Father**:

Jesus leads us to the Father, and in teaching us to call God, our Father, he makes us his brothers and sisters, and at the same time brothers and sisters of one another.

At the following three beads, we say three “**Hail Marys**” :

In using the words of the Angel Gabriel and Elizabeth we share in their words and love for the Virgin Mary.

The name of Jesus in the middle of the prayer reminds us : by Him alone, we have been saved.

Conscious of Mary’s power of intercession with Jesus we confide the moment of our death to her.

Then the **Glory be to the Father** :

Our vision is the mystery of the Trinity.

⇒ We say the five decades. For each one we think about an event in the life of Jesus and Mary from the Gospel. The first bead, **Our Father**, and on the following ten beads, the **Hail Mary**.

⇒ We finish with the **Glory be to the Father**.

At the end, we may finish our Rosary with the prayer of the Medal: « Ô Mary conceived without sin ... »

How to pray the Rosary

Mary is our star of the sea ! The mysteries of the Rosary which we contemplate with her are our beacons. Whether our arrival will be joyful, sorrowful, glorious or filled with light as the sea reflects the sky, our days will be coloured spiritually.

A litany prayer

To repeat can be boring... Perhaps, but not if we let ourselves be filled by the mystery of love which does not cease to turn us towards the beloved. In Christ, God does not only have a divine heart but also a human heart “Do you love me?” Jesus asked Peter three times, Peter answered “Lord, you know that I love you”. This repetition which we also find in the Rosary is an expression of love.

Let God speak

Even if we know it well, the extract from the Gospel that explains the mystery and introduces each decade is for today and for each person. Interiorly, in silence, the Word of God can work in us in a particular way.

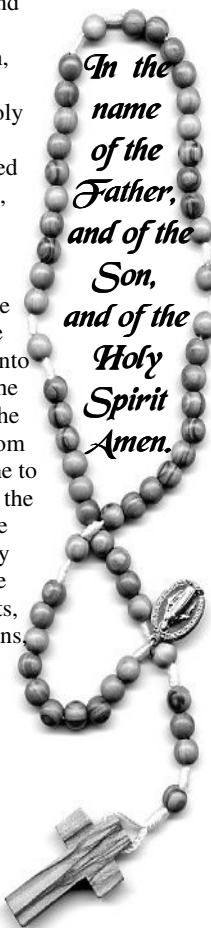
Using the imagination

The 20 mysteries of the Rosary are like 20 pictures which help us to enter more fully into the lives of Jesus and Mary. Portraying the setting and transporting us in spirit to the scene or looking at a picture to guide our imagination towards the episode in the lives of Jesus and Mary.

Asking for grace

Having contemplated a mystery in our heart, ask Jesus through the intercession of Mary the grace we need to put into practice the mystery we have meditated upon.

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



**O Mary
conceived
without sin pray
for us who have
recourse to thee.**

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.
Amen.

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.
Amen

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.