

YEARS PRE-PRIMARY, ONE & TWO – MARY: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mary's Special Prayer

The word 'rosary' comes from the Latin 'rosarium' meaning 'rose garden'. Praying the Rosary developed gradually and no one knows exactly where or when the prayer, as we know it today, began.

The first part of the Hail Mary comes from the story of the Annunciation [see Luke 1:28] and the story of the Visitation [see Luke 1:42], and contains the words spoken by the angel and by Elizabeth to Mary. The Hail Mary has been used as a prayer since the sixth century in the Eastern Church and the eleventh century in the West.

Around the year 1000, the common people began to recite 150 Our Fathers, divided into three sets of fifty and counted on strings of beads called 'paternosters'. This became known as the poor persons' 'psalter' because they were copying the monks and nuns who recited the 150 psalms each day in their monasteries.

Marian devotion increased in the twelfth century when the Carthusians and Cistercians helped develop and popularise a Rosary of Hail Marys with an Our Father at the beginning of each decade.

The Dominicans standardised the prayer and popularised the Rosary among Catholics during the sixteenth century. It was around this time that the second part of the Hail Mary was added. Pope Pius V instituted the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary which is now celebrated on October 7th.

The rosary emerged from the desire of ordinary Christians to be constantly at prayer.

Peasant people didn't have the time to pray at set intervals during the day as monks and nuns did, nor were they able to read the psalms. It was a real gift to have a prayer that they could recite alone or together, at work or at rest, anywhere at any time, confident that Mary, the holy mother of God, and their mother, was praying with them.

In 2002 Saint Pope John Paul II encouraged Catholics to reconnect with the rosary.

In his Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, he called the rosary a 'treasure to be rediscovered' and urged all Catholics to 'confidently' take up the Rosary once again.

'Recover the Rosary in the light of scripture, in harmony with the liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives.'
[Rosarium Virginis Mariae 43]

Summarised from the article 'The Rosary: A Treasure to be Recovered' Thomas H. Groome, in *Reclaiming Catholicism Treasures Old and New*, Edited by Thomas Groome and Michael Daley. Orbis. 2010, pp 209-214.

Mary's Special Prayer



MAIN TEACHING AND LEARNING POINTS

- The Hail Mary is Mary's special prayer.

OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS

The Feast Day of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians is celebrated in Australia on 24 May. Australia was the first nation to choose her under the title, 'Mary Help of Christians' as principle Patroness.

This Feast highlights the strength we find in asking Mary's intercession, joining our prayers to her intercession.

GOD'S WORD

Luke 1:28, 42 | Hail Mary

Parent: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Child responds: Glory to you, O Lord. (While saying the words, trace a small cross with the thumb on the forehead, lips and heart.)

'Peace be with you!

The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!' [Luke 1:28][GNT]

'You are most blessed of all women,

and blessed is the child you will bear!' [Luke 1:42][GNT]

The Gospel of the Lord.

Child responds: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

UNDERSTANDING THE HAIL MARY (FIRST PART)

Members of the Church family pray Mary's special prayer called the 'Hail Mary'. The first part of the prayer comes from the Bible. We pray this prayer to remember that Mary is the mother of Jesus. When we pray this prayer, we can ask Mary for her help.

Hail Mary... *Hello Mary!*

full of grace... *You are holy.*

the Lord is with you... *God is with you.*

Blessed are you among women... *You are very special.*

And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus... *You are the mother of Jesus.*

THE HAIL MARY (FIRST PART WITH ACTIONS) – FORMAL PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Invite the children to pray the Hail Mary (first part) using movement.

Begin the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

**Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit of
your womb, Jesus.
Amen.**

*both arms open in front of body
head bowed, arms crossed on the chest
head up, arms outstretched
both hands clasped and head bowed

both arms open in front of body*



High Five Hail Mary

Cut out the hand and practice saying first part of the Hail Mary by folding down each finger as you say the line of the prayer.

