

## YEAR 3 & 4 – MARY: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Praying the Rosary

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 Dominicans standardised the prayer and popularised the Rosary among Catholics during the sixteenth century. Pope Pius V, instituted the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary which is now celebrated on October 7th.

The first part of the Hail Mary comes from the story of the Annunciation [Luke 1:28] and the Visitation [Luke 1:42] and this 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 second part of the Hail Mary was added in the sixteenth century. 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. 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 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' by Thomas H. Groome, in Reclaiming Catholicism Treasures Old and New, edited by Thomas Groome and Michael Daley, Orbis, 2010, pp 209-214.*

## Praying the Rosary



### MAIN TEACHING AND LEARNING POINTS

- The Rosary is a special prayer in which we turn to Mary for help.

### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

The Feast Day of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844. Pope Pius VII instituted a special feast in honour of Mary, decreeing the Feast of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May.

The infant church in Australia had no priests and no Mass until 1820. It was largely the Rosary and faith in Mary in those early days that kept the faith alive. 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 22:39-45 | *The Agony in the Garden*

**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.)

On the night before he died, Jesus went into the garden to pray to his Father.

and

#### John 19:16-17 | *The Carrying of the Cross*

*Jesus was forced to carry his cross.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Child responds:** *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

### UNDERSTANDING HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

God's family, the Church, knows that God always listens to the prayers of Mary. The Rosary is a prayer in which we can turn to Mary to ask her for God's help.

The Rosary is made up four sets of mysteries:

- The Joyful Mysteries which reflect on the early life of Jesus.
- The Luminous Mysteries (also known as the Mysteries of Light) which reflect on key moments in the public ministry of Jesus.
- The Sorrowful Mysteries which reflect on the passion and death of Jesus.
- The Glorious Mysteries which tell about what happened to Jesus and Mary after Jesus died.

Each set of mysteries of the Rosary is made up of five decades. To pray the Rosary, God's family use Rosary Beads to help them count the number of prayers. The main prayers that are prayed in the Rosary are the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be. On the small beads we pray the Hail Mary and on the larger beads we pray the Lord's Prayer and the Glory Be.

### FORMAL PRAYER OF THE CHURCH GLORY BE

Invite the children to pray two decades of the Sorrowful Mysteries (e.g. first and the fourth). Explain to the children that before people begin to pray the Rosary they often think of someone or something for which they wish to pray. This may include prayers for a family member, prayers for someone who is sick, prayers for peace or prayers for someone who has died.

**Step One**      *Think of someone or something for which you wish to pray.*

**Step Two**      *Hold the cross or medal and make the Sign of the Cross.*

**Step Three**      **Announce the first Sorrowful Mystery.**

The first Sorrowful Mystery is the Agony in the Garden.

We remember that on the night before he died Jesus went to the garden to pray to his Father.

<b>Step Four</b>	<p>Continue to hold the cross.  <i>Pray the Lord's Prayer.</i></p> <p>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.</p>	(Calvary).
		<b>Step Eight</b>
		<p>Continue to hold the cross.  <i>Pray the Lord's Prayer.</i></p>
		<b>Step Nine</b>
		<p>Move fingers along to the first bead.  <i>Pray one Hail Mary on each of the ten beads.</i></p>
		<b>Step Ten</b>
		<p>Move fingers onto the cross again.  <i>Pray the Glory Be.</i></p>
		<b>Step Eleven</b>
		<i>To end the Rosary, make the Sign of the Cross.</i>
<b>Step Five</b>	<p>Move fingers along to the first bead.  <i>Pray one Hail Mary on each of the ten beads.</i></p> <p>Hail Mary, full of grace,  the Lord is with you.  Blessed are you among women,  and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  Holy Mary, Mother of God,  pray for us sinners  now and at the hour of our death. Amen.</p>	
<b>Step Six</b>	<p>Move fingers onto the cross again.  <i>Pray the Glory Be.</i></p> <p>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.</p>	
<b>Step Seven</b>	<p><b>Announce the fourth Sorrowful Mystery.</b>  The fourth Sorrowful Mystery is the Carrying of the Cross.  We remember that Jesus was forced to carry his cross to Golgotha</p>	



# Pray the Rosary Procedural Writing

Write the instruction for the prayers in the speech bubbles.  
e.g. Say one Our Father, Ten Hail Mary's, one Glory Be.

