

YEARS 5 & 6 – 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'

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

- Through praying the Rosary, the faith community the Church, asks Mary the Mother of God, to pray for our needs.

OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS

The Feast Day of Our Lady Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844, but dates back to the sixteenth century, which was not a peaceful time in Europe. The Catholics there joined in praying the rosary for peace. These prayers were answered. The 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 Mass was not allowed until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive. The Australian Catholic community remained faithful to Mary and Australia was the first nation to choose her under the title, 'Mary Help of Christians' as principle Patroness.

This Feast highlights not only the strength we find in asking Mary's intercession, joining our prayers to her intercession, but also the confidence that God continues to act in the world. God hears the cry of those who suffer and God responds.

GOD'S WORD

As we are learning about the Rosary in today's lesson, choose ONE of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. The Glorious Mysteries reflect on heavenly events.

First Glorious Mystery – Matthew 28:1-10 | The Resurrection of the Lord

Second Glorious Mystery – Acts 1:9-11 | The Ascension of the Lord

Third Glorious Mystery – Acts 2:1-4 | The Coming of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)

Fourth Glorious Mystery – The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

Fifth Glorious Mystery – The Queenship of Mary (Coronation)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Child responds: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

To pray the Rosary, Catholics use a set of beads called Rosary Beads. The beads are used to help us count the number of prayers being said while reflecting on the mysteries.

Before people begin to pray the Rosary they often think of an intention for which they wish to pray. Intentions may include prayers for the family, prayers for someone who needs help or is sick, prayers for peace, prayers for relief from natural disasters or prayers for those who have died.

When praying the Rosary:

Begin by making the Sign of the Cross

- Recite the Apostles' Creed
- Pray the Lord's Prayer
- Pray three Hail Marys
- Pray the Glory Be

For each mystery

- Announce the mystery (e.g. The Resurrection)
- Pray the Lord's Prayer at the beginning of each of the five decades
- Pray ten Hail Marys (one decade)
- Finish the decade by praying the

Glory Be

- After each decade pray the Fatima Prayer (optional)

Conclude with

- Pray Hail Holy Queen
- A Concluding Prayer (optional)
- The Sign of the Cross

PRAYER - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

Invite the children to pray the Rosary focussing on the Glorious Mysteries. Explain to the children that the Glorious Mysteries focus on heavenly events. When we pray these mysteries we come to understand that our lives do not end in death but that God gives us new life by inviting us to live forever in heaven with Jesus and Mary.

Step 1 *Think of an intention for which you wish to pray.*

Step 2 *Begin the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.*

Step 3 *Hold the crucifix. Recite the Apostles' Creed:*
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
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.

Step 4 *Hold your fingers around the first bead after the crucifix.*
Pray the Lord's Prayer:
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.

Step 5 *Move fingers to the three smaller beads. Pray one Hail Mary on each of the three beads:*
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.

Step 6 *Move fingers to the next larger 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.

Step 7 *Stay on the same bead and announce the first Glorious Mystery.*
The first Glorious Mystery is The Resurrection. We remember that
God raised Jesus from the dead and he appeared to his friends.

Step 8 *Pray the Lord's Prayer on the same bead.*

Step 9 *Move fingers along to the first small bead next to the medal which connects the beads and pray the Hail Mary.*

Step 10 *Continue to pray the Hail Mary on each of the following nine beads to complete the decade (ten Hail Marys).*

Step 11 *Move fingers to the next larger bead. Finish the decade by praying the Glory Be.*

Pray the Fatima prayer (optional):

O my Jesus forgive us our sins.
Save us from the fires of hell.
Lead all souls to heaven,
especially those in most need of your mercy.

Step 12 *Stay on the same bead and announce the Second Glorious Mystery.*
The second Glorious Mystery is The Ascension of the Lord. We remember that Jesus returned to his Father in heaven and promised his friends that he would be with them always.

Step 13 Pray the Lord's Prayer on the same bead.

Step 14 Continue to pray the Hail Mary on each of the following ten smaller beads to complete the decade (ten Hail Marys).

Step 15 *Move fingers to the next larger bead. Finish the decade by praying the Glory Be.* Pray the Fatima prayer (optional).

Step 16 *Stay on the same bead and announce the third Glorious Mystery.*
The third Glorious Mystery is the Coming of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). We remember that the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent descended upon all the believers who were gathered.

Step 17 *Pray the Lord's Prayer on the same bead.*

Step 18 Continue to pray the Hail Mary on each of the following ten smaller beads to complete the decade (ten Hail Marys).

Step 19 *Move fingers to the next larger bead. Finish the decade by praying the Glory Be.* Pray the Fatima prayer (optional).

Step 20 *Stay on the same bead and announce the fourth Glorious Mystery.*
The fourth Glorious Mystery is the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. We remember that after Mary's life here on earth, God honoured Mary's faithfulness by taking her body and soul into heaven.

Step 21 *Pray the Lord's Prayer on the same bead.*

Step 22 *Continue to pray the Hail Mary on each of the following ten smaller beads to complete the decade (ten Hail Marys).*

Step 23 *Move fingers to the next larger bead. Finish the decade by praying the Glory Be.* Pray the Fatima prayer (optional).

Step 24 Stay on the same bead and announce the fifth Glorious Mystery. The fifth Glorious Mystery is the Queenship of Mary (Coronation). We remember that Mary was given the title 'Our Lady Queen of Heaven' by the Church to emphasise the importance of Mary in the life of Jesus and the Church.

Step 25 Pray the Lord's Prayer on the same bead.

Step 26 *Continue to pray the Hail Mary on each of the following ten smaller beads to complete the decade (ten Hail Marys).*

Step 27 *Move fingers to the next larger bead. Finish the decade by praying the Glory Be.* Pray the Fatima prayer (optional).

Step 28 Move fingers to the medal which connects the beads.
Recite the Hail Holy Queen Prayer:
Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy!
Hail, 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 toward us,
and after this our exile show unto us
the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Step 29 *Pray a concluding prayer (optional).*

Step 30 *To end the Rosary, make the Sign of the Cross.*



Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Complete the table about the Glorious Mysteries.

	Mystery Title	Who?	What?
The 1st Mystery		Jesus and His Friends	
The 2nd Mystery	The Ascension of the Lord		
The 3rd Mystery			The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus sent, descended upon all believers who were gathered.
The 4th Mystery	The Assumption of Mary into Heaven		
The 5th Mystery		Mary	