

The Rosary

The Rosary is a series of prayers. When Christian people pray the Rosary they meditate on (think about) the life of Jesus. It is mainly Catholics who use the Rosary to reflect on the important parts of the life of Jesus.

Many people misunderstand the Rosary because they think it is only about Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Whilst saying the Rosary the most frequently used prayer is the "Hail Mary" and this is probably the reason people become confused. Christians think of Jesus as their greatest friend. When they pray the Rosary they are thinking about the life of Jesus but trying to see it in the way in which his mother would have thought about it. (Think about having a good friend and talking to his mother about the things he does, why he does them and how he does them). In this way Christians try to understand Jesus more.

The Rosary divides the life of Jesus into three sections called mysteries: the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries and the Glorious Mysteries. Each mystery is broken down into five decades (sets of prayer of 10 "Hail Marys").

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation of Our Lord *Luke 1:31-32*

The Visitation

Luke 1:42-45

The Nativity of Jesus

Luke 2:6-7

The Presentation in the Temple *Luke 2:22*

The Finding in the Temple *Luke 2:46-47*

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden

Matthew 26:36-39

The Scourging at the Pillar

Matthew 27:25-26

The Crowning with Thorns

Matthew 27:28-29

The Carrying of the Cross

John 19:16-18

The Crucifixion and Death

Luke 23:45-46

The Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection of Our Lord *Matthew 28:5-6*

The Ascension into Heaven

Luke 24:50-51

The Descent of the Holy Spirit *Acts 2:3-4*

The Assumption of Mary

The Coronation of Mary
Revelation 12:1

(In the last three of the Glorious Mysteries Christians remember how Jesus sent the Spirit to comfort his friends and how Christians consider Jesus and God, the Father, rewarded Mary for her love of Jesus).

To pray the rosary Christians use a Rosary. A Rosary is a string of beads with a crucifix. A short string of five beads is attached to the crucifix which leads to a large circular strip of beads made of five sets of one large bead and ten smaller beads, called decades. These are used to help keep count.

You begin praying on the crucifix with a Sign of the Cross and an Apostles' Creed. Say an Our Father on the large bead and one Hail Mary for each of the next three smaller beads.

On the next large bead, say a Glory Be to the Father, announce and turn over in your mind the events of the first mystery and say an Our Father(The Lord's Prayer). Say a Hail Mary for each of the following smaller beads. This is one decade. Begin the next decade with a Glory Be and the second mystery. You end with the Prayer after the Rosary and a Sign of the Cross.

Often in schools or in places where children pray only one or two Hail Marys are said for each decade. Often the priest or leader will say the first part of the prayer (beginning "Hail Mary....." and the children (congregation) answer by saying the part that begins " Holy Mary..."

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; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, 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.

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

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

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 Rosary

1. The Rosary is a prayer based on whose life?
2. How many sections is the Rosary divided into?
3. What is each section called?
4. Choose one of the sections of the Rosary. List the 5 events in the life of Jesus in that section. Draw a picture for each one and use the title of each event as a caption.
5. Find one of the references in the bible. Read about what happened to Jesus. Write a few sentences to describe how you think his mother would have felt when she saw or heard about that event.
6. The words of the “Hail Mary” are based on words said to Mary by the angel Gabriel and by her cousin Elizabeth. Write out the “Hail Mary” showing the words said by Elizabeth and by Gabriel in different colours.