



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### A Brief History of the Rosary

The 150 Psalms of the Old Testament's Psalms of David (or 'Psalter') became central to the cycle of prayer in the early Church, especially among monastic communities. As manuscripts of the Psalms were largely restricted to these communities and, indeed, as few people were able to read, a simpler form of prayer, which mirrored the recitation of the Psalms, was devised. The 'Our Father' was repeated 150 times - sometimes pebbles or knotted cords were used to keep an accurate count, but a ring of beads known as the crown or 'corona' became popular.

In the 12th century, with the growth in popularity of Marian devotion, the Hail Mary came to replace the Our Father as the prayer most associated with beads and the repeated recitation of the Hail Mary became known as the 'Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary'.

The 150 Hail Marys were subsequently subdivided into 15 decades by the young Dominican friar, Henry Kalkar (1328-1408), with each decade referring to an event in the life of Jesus and Mary. The Dominican, Alanus de Rupe (1428-1478) further divided the episodes in the history of salvation into the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries. He also attributed the origin of the Rosary to St Dominic and so spurred the Dominican Order to make the Apostolate of the Rosary their special concern.

The tradition that Our Lady gave the Rosary to St Dominic (1170-1221) is well known, but disputed by some scholars. Pope Leo XIII was in no doubt. In his encyclical [Octobri Mense](#), he states that the Rosary does in fact have its origin from Our Lady herself 'by her command and counsel' to Saint Dominic. Pope Leo XIII teaches: 'That the Queen of Heaven herself has granted a great efficacy to this devotion is demonstrated by the fact that it was, by her command and counsel, instituted and propagated by the illustrious St Dominic, in times particularly dangerous for the Catholic cause.' This tradition has been depicted in many paintings.

The Dominican pope, St Pius V, did much to further the spread of the Rosary which became one of the most popular devotions in Christendom. It was the same Pope St. Pius V, who in 1569 officially approved the Rosary in its present form with the Papal Bull, *Consueverunt Romani Pontifices*. The Rosary had been completed by the addition of the second half of the 'Hail Mary' \* and the 'Glory be to the Father' at the conclusion of each mystery.

The Hail Mary incorporates two passages from Saint Luke's Gospel: the Angel Gabriel's greeting at the Annunciation 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee', and Elizabeth's greeting at the Visitation 'Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.' In the mid-13th-century Western Europe the prayer consisted only of these words with the single addition of the name 'Mary' after the word 'Hail', as is evident from the commentary of Saint Thomas Aquinas on the prayer. The petition 'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.' appeared in the 15th century and was included in the Catechism of the Council of Trent in 1566.

In October 2002, Blessed John Paul II added a further set of mysteries to the meditations of the Rosary - the Mysteries of Light or Luminous Mysteries. These were first proposed in 1957 by St George Preca, Malta's first native saint, who was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007.

### **Pope Benedict Emeritus XVI (Lourdes 2008)**

In welcoming Mary, Bernadette welcomes Christ. "Why should I be honoured with a visit from the Mother of my Lord?", and in welcoming Bernadette, Mary welcomes Christ, "In so far as you did this to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me."

The seal of this alliance, of this meeting and of this friendship is the Sign of the Cross.

The sign of the Cross is a summary of our Faith. The Rosary is a contemplative prayer accessible to all: great or small, laity or clergy, educated or poorly instructed people.

It is a spiritual link with Mary to remain united with Jesus, to conform to him by assimilating the lessons and to live as he himself has lived.

The Rosary is a spiritual weapon against evil, against all violence, for peace in our hearts, in families and in society and in the world.

### **Thoughts of Saint Pope John Paul II**

I look to all of you, brothers and sisters of every state of life, to you, Christian families, to you, the sick and elderly, and to you, young people: confidently take up the Rosary once again. Rediscover the Rosary in the light of Scripture, in harmony with the Liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives.

The Rosary centres itself in the profoundness of the Gospel message, of which it is almost a resume. With the Rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary, to allow it to be introduced to the contemplation of the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depth of his love. Through the Rosary, the

faithful find abundant graces, receiving them as though from the hands of Mary, the Mother of our Redeemer.

*(Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae)*

Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Rachel Ward RIP
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Douglas Houghton RIP
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	No mass	
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Nellie Lee
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<b>ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	No mass	St Matthias, Apostle A Day of Abstinence

Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered.

**Holy Hour:** Saturday 5.15 - 6.15 pm

**Confessions:** Saturday 5.45 - 6.15 pm

Or by appointment with Fr. Denis

**Family Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 10.30 am

#### **PARISH MASS ON-LINE**

Fr. Denis is also still celebrating Mass online at 6.30 pm every Saturday night for the Vigil Mass, & Wednesday morning Mass at 10am. Both are accessible through the Parish Facebook page:

Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Canterbury

For more information, please go to the Parish website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock>

#### **BOOKING TO ATTEND MASS IN PERSON**

For all services in Church, you need to book online, through our website below. If the Mass is full, the signing in book at the back of church cannot be used.

#### **THE WEDNESDAY WORD IS AVAILABLE VIA THIS LINK:**

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

**ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL** is our Catholic Parish Primary School. Please contact the Head teacher,

Thomas Timson on 01462 892478 to make an appointment. The school website is:

<http://www.stjohns4.herts.sch.uk/index.html>

#### **RC HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN**

Contact Tel: Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister 01438 285518.

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**



We pray especially for the sick of the parish and for those who care for and support them, especially, Karen O'Shaughnessy, Angela Gray, Mairead Kirke, and Dick Worbey. We remember those who have died recently; Anna Sokal, and all

those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Edward Cybulski; Agnes Hughes; James Tracey; Mary Day; Martha Smith; Sarah Feeney; Frances Madigan Margaret Ferraris; Brian Randall; Vincenza Luggeri; Elsie Smith.

#### **CHURCHES FINANCES & COLLECTION**

A word of thanks to all those who have donated for the upkeep of the Parish in one way or another. There are several ways to support the Parish. One of them is via a standing order, which is easy to set up and easy to stop, if you want to, when this difficult period has passed. Please use the bank account details, available from our website below, to set up the standing order if you use online banking, or you can write to, telephone or visit your bank as well. You can also donate via the website. Or, of course, you can contribute after mass in the Collection Plates provided.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock/donate/>.

Fr. Denis would like to thank everyone for their generosity during this time of pandemic.

#### **MISSIO - (APF MISSIONS)**

Would all red box holders please leave their mission boxes at the back of the church to be emptied during May/June. If there are any members who have not yet returned to church and would like their box collected, then please telephone Mary on 01462 618131. Many thanks for your continuing generosity for the missions, especially during these difficult times.

#### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

#### **OUR ANNUAL OPEN-AIR MASS**

#### **10.30 11th JULY**

(Hopefully) will be held at 10.30am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July. Please remember that, as there will be only one Mass during the weekend, we hope that the whole parish will come and celebrate together. More details will follow. Whilst we wait to see how government restrictions will continue to be lifted, we thought that it would be a good idea to go ahead with planning this event as we did last year. Everyone is invited to bring their own chairs or blanket. We may be able to serve food afterwards, but more information will follow nearer the time. We will need volunteers to help once again. It would be a good time to invite family and friends, and please pray for good weather, please remember **THIS WILL BE THE ONLY MASS THAT WEEKEND.**

#### **THE MEMORARE**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

### **BLESSING OF THE GRAVES**

On Sunday 15th August, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Father Denis will lead a small service at Baldock Cemetery, which is just off The Sycamores, next to The Orange Tree Pub. He will be blessing the graves of all our loved ones.

### **THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

(RCIA), is a process developed by the Catholic Church for prospective converts to Catholicism. Candidates are gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices.

If you are interested in exploring what Christianity and the Catholic faith are about and are thinking of becoming a Catholic, then the Holy Trinity RCIA programme may be for you. If you would like to find out more please speak directly to Fr. Denis or phone the parish office on tel. 01462 893127.