

Reflection Thursday Week 27 Our Lady of the Rosary 2021

The feast of the Holy Rosary was instituted by Pope Pius V to celebrate the anniversary of the defeat of the Turkish fleet at the battle of Lepanto on the 1st Sunday in October 1571, which ended the threat of Muslim domination of the Mediterranean and was ascribed in part to the prayers and processions of the Rosary confraternity in Rome. Later the feast was moved to 7th October.

A handmaid is someone who assists and serves. Jesus served and assisted his heavenly Father having learnt this from Mary who assisted and served God in becoming his mother. In this sense we, too, are called to be handmaids of God in baptism and like Mary we reply *"let what you have said be done to me"* by being baptised. We want to fulfil the mission God has for us just like Mary. The Rosary reminds us of all that God has done for us through Jesus Christ. So powerful is it that it urges us to respond wholeheartedly and generously to God that, like Mary, we will be true bearers of Good News and bring Jesus into the world and into people's lives.

October Offering to Mary

*In spring, we laid a blossom at your feet,
the lovely May, O dearest Lady. Now
we offer you October, ripe and sweet,
a ruddy apple from the spirit's bough!
It is our love which gives this fruit its glow;
its flavour is our daily rosary;
our Masses nourished it and helped it grow:
it sprang from our joined hearts as from a tree.*

*Kind Mother, take within your hands today
this apple of devotion we have grown,
and as you give it to your dear Son say
that it is fruit from seed His hand has sown.
We offer you October, bright and firm:
Oh, may this apple hold no blight, no worm!* Virginia Moran Evan

For Mother's Day, I bought my mum new beads for her abacus... It's the little things that count...

For over 30,000 years humans gave social "likes" by sharing beads made from ostrich eggs.

I guess you might call them **emu-jis**.