

## Reflection Friday week 27 Our Lady of the Rosary 2022

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 the fixed date of 7 October.

Down through time wars have come and gone continually and we often speak of winners and losers, victors and the defeated. Jesus, we know, came to bring peace and often began a conversation with *Peace be with you!* As we know Jesus never resorted to any kind of violence and even prevents his apostles from using force. When we speak about the power of goodness, the Power of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of prayer, the power of the rosary, we are speaking of a power that prevents evil from existing in its presence, rather than forcing it out. It is a power that evil **fears and flees** from its presence. This is what goodness does. This is the power of the grace we receive in baptism that causes all form of evil to flee, including the evil inherited from original sin. Prayer makes it impossible for evil to find a place to rest.

As St Bruno said to us yesterday and repeats to us today:

*For the devil may tempt the good, but he cannot find rest in them; for he is shaken violently, and upset, and driven out, now by their prayers, now by their tears of repentance, and now by their almsgiving and similar good works.*