

Reflection Saturday Week 26b Our Lady of the Rosary 2023

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 first 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.

Having opened herself to the Holy Spirit, Mary accepted to become the Mother of Jesus. She stayed close to him throughout her life and was close to him throughout his active ministry receiving his body taken down from the cross after his death. At his wish, she continued to watch over, support and guide his Church again at his request. We are truly blessed to have Mary as our Mother and the rosary which, like her life, allows us to reflect on many aspects of the life of Jesus. She opens our lives to the spirit of her son.

Let ask for her guidance for the Bishops meeting in Rome for the synod over these few weeks. As a woman and a mother, let us ask her to guide the Church so that it is better able to hear the voice of women and the laity with the power and authority to be heard as another important mouthpiece of God.

Pope Francis on the synod: *the primary task of the synod is to refocus our gaze on God, to be a Church that looks mercifully at humanity. We do not want to make ourselves attractive in the eyes of the world, but to reach out to it with the consolation of the Gospel, to bear witness to God's infinite love in a better way and to everyone.*