





# The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

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## *Intention:*

*The angel's visit and Mary's response changed the whole course of her life! Gone were her dreams, expectations and plans. An unknown, uncharted path opened before her ... and her first steps were to someone in need! Coronavirus has entered our world putting a halt to the usual rhythm of daily life. The new pathway is unknown. Like Mary we are invited to 'live into' new ways of reaching out and of staying connected with others. Mary brought joy and God's presence with her. We pray for the grace to reach out joyfully to our neighbours near and far and to gather them into God's life-giving presence.*

## The Annunciation - Awareness

*The Lord is with you ... Do not be afraid ... Luke 1:28-38*

In this time of the coronavirus epidemic, we are like Mary! She was 'perplexed'. She pondered. She asked: 'How can this be?' And she trusted the angel's message. We pray for the grace that we might live each day from a place of deep trust in God's abiding presence and personal love – Love casts out fear!

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Mary draw your mantle of protection around our suffering world. Intercede for us all in this time of great need.*

## The Visitation - Neighbourliness

*Mary set out in haste ... and entered in... Luke 1:39-40*

Mary heard of her cousin's need. As we listen to media reports about the spread and consequences of the coronavirus, we hear the anguished cries of our local and global neighbours. Physical isolation provides us with the opportunity to intentionally and creatively 'visit' those in any kind of need: those near and dear as well as our neighbours around the world. In this way we leave the smallness of our comfort zone to focus on the needs of another, as Mary did!

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## The Birth of Jesus – Seeking

*They... found Him ... Luke 2:16*

The shepherds found Joseph and Mary and the new-born Jesus in the stable. What poverty! What homelessness! The shepherds listened, made a choice to 'go and see'. In their search the wise men sought guidance and advice. Both found Jesus in an unexpected place with ordinary parents and recognised this tiny One as Emmanuel. Where do I find God present in my new situation marked by Covid-19? What choices do I make to search for God? And when I find God's presence in unexpected, ordinary places and people, how do I respond? ... with wonder and gratitude?

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*Mary draw your mantle of protection around our suffering world. Intercede for us all in this time of great need.*



## The Presentation in the Temple – Obedience

*...according to the law of Moses [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ... Luke 2:22*

Joseph and Mary kept the law at some cost to themselves. Laws, like those recently issued by our government, can feel like an imposition. They restrict some of our 'taken for granted' freedoms. They remind us that we are not in control. What is my attitude towards the current restrictions? Mary and Joseph kept the law as an expression of their love for God. Do I see the laws as loving care? And that, by happily following them, I am loving others and exercising genuine care?

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*Mary draw your mantle of protection around our suffering world. Intercede for us all in this time of great need.*

## The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple – Questions

*Why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety? Luke 2:48*

Sometimes loss can reduce us to silence so we become dumb witnesses preoccupied with our pain, and so unable to attend to the plight of others. A sense of loss can cause great anxiety. It can also reveal the real value of what we are missing. How might the consequences of Covid-19 lead me to name and appreciate what I feel I have lost? Perhaps in my searching, I will discover new treasures of God's presence!

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Mary draw your mantle of protection around our suffering world. Intercede for us all in this time of great need.*

Rosary Reflections by Carmel Drew rsj  
Designed by Cyrilla Almeida

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# The Mysteries of Light

## *Intention:*

*As the title indicates, these mysteries focus our attention on Jesus, the Light of the world. Each mystery invites us to contemplate Jesus bringing light and life to others. We pray for the grace to be vibrant bearers of the Light of Christ in this time of uncertainty and suffering.*

## The Baptism of Jesus - Mission

*This is my beloved in whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:17*

At our baptism we were given a candle symbolising the light of Christ. Teresa of Avila reminds us: 'Christ has no body now but [ours]. ... [Ours] are the hands through which [God] blesses all the world.' This is the radical mission we received at baptism.

Let us pray for the grace to be Christ to others by sharing our abundance with others in practical ways and in prayer.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Christ be our light, as we walk unfamiliar paths. Enlighten health professionals in their search for new ways to bring comfort and healing to the sick.*

## The Marriage Feast at Cana – Co-operation

*Do whatever he tells you. John 2:5*

Mary noticed that 'they had no wine'. Looking around, what do I notice? Does my list begin with: 'I have no...' Or does my attention, like Mary's, turn to: 'They have no...?' Jesus changed water, the simple thing that was at hand, into wine! He did this with the co-operation of the servants. I pray that, through listening and awareness, I may co-operate with Christ in bringing 'healing wine' to others.

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*Christ be our light, as we walk unfamiliar paths. Enlighten health professionals as they search for ways to bring comfort and healing to the sick.*





## Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God - Mystery

*Jesus went about doing good. Acts 10:38*

In the parables Jesus offers us many images of the kingdom of God. Each reveals the mysterious, hidden work of God. Where do I notice the mystery of God producing fruit today? Luke reminds us that the kingdom of God is within. Let us pray that the fruits of our union with God will become leaven for our troubled world. Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Christ be our light, as we walk unfamiliar paths. Enlighten health professionals in their search for ways to bring comfort and healing to the sick.*

## The Transfiguration - Hope

*They saw no one, only Jesus. Mark 9:8*

In the Transfiguration we see Jesus in glory and as the fulfilment of the scriptures. He is our source of hope. Yet, just prior to this scene, Jesus speaks to his disciples of his suffering and death. As Peter, James and John descend the mountain they see 'only Jesus'. We, like them, are committed to following Jesus to the cross. We know that Christ is risen and has overcome death! Let us place our trust in him.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Christ be our light, as we walk unfamiliar paths. Enlighten health professionals in their search for ways to bring comfort and healing to the sick.*

## The Institution of the Eucharist - Love

*Do this in memory of me.*

Jesus blessed, broke and gave ... He says: Do this in memory of Me. Do what? Make present the radical, inclusive and gracious hospitality of God's abundant love. Jesus asks: 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' Then go and do the same. We pray for the grace to be 'eucharist' for others and of allowing others to be 'eucharist' for us.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Christ be our light, as we walk unfamiliar paths. Enlighten health professionals in their search for ways to bring comfort and healing to the sick.*





# The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

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## *Intention:*

*As we contemplate the passion and death of Jesus, we are very aware of the pain and suffering the coronavirus has brought, and is bringing, to our world. As it was for Jesus in his suffering, isolation, darkness and death, so it is in our world today. Let us not forget that life, love, forgiveness, surrender, courage and awareness of the compassionate mystery of God's presence are also evident. We pray that the spirit of love, and everyday kindness may bring peace, hope and healing to our suffering world.*

## The Agony in the Garden – Unity

*Remain here, stay awake with me. Matthew 26:38*

Jesus sought the comfort and support of his friends in his fear and distress. As the reality of the coronavirus crisis holds our attention, we pray with friends, families, communities, our sisters, the nation and the world that this epidemic may pass. Jesus' prayer to his Father, Abba, is a wonderful pattern for our own prayer. (Mark 14:36)

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Father, for you all things are possible, remove this epidemic from our midst. We trust in your compassionate care.*

## The Scourging at the Pillar – Service

*Bring me what you have... Matthew 14:18*

No one tended the wounds of Jesus. We pray for all those who put themselves at the service of those whose lives are impacted by the coronavirus: the doctors, nurses, health care professionals; those who keep essential services operating. With Jesus we pray: 'Father protect them in your name.' (John 17:11)

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Father, for you all things are possible, remove this epidemic from our midst. We trust in your compassionate care.*



## Jesus is Crowned with Thorns - Vulnerability

*Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid. John 14:27*

Our heads may spin and our hearts may shrink in fear, as we face the bombardment of conflicting and sometimes frightening media reports about the consequences of the coronavirus. We pray for our political leaders and all those who are faced with the task of making wise and difficult decisions for the wellbeing of the community.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Father, for you all things are possible, remove this epidemic from our midst. We trust in your compassionate care.*

## Jesus Carries his Cross – Burden

*At sundown they brought to him all who were sick ... and the whole city (world) was gathered. Mark 1:32-34*

As we ponder Jesus struggling under the weight of his cross, we are aware of all those who are weighed down by fear, anxiety, uncertainty and for some, coronavirus infection. We bring each person and lay them tenderly in the compassionate heart of Jesus.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Father, for you all things are possible, remove this epidemic from our midst. We trust in your compassionate care.*

## The Crucifixion – Surrender

*Father into your hands... Luke 23:46*

We place ourselves, those we love, those who are isolated or homeless, those who have lost their jobs, those who are sick, or dying and all who have died, into the loving heart of our good God. We ask for the courage to stand in solidarity with all those who are suffering as Mary stood by her Son on the cross.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Father, for you all things are possible, remove this epidemic from our midst. We trust in your compassionate care.*

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# The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

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## *Intention:*

*Jesus says: I am the resurrection and the life. Do you believe this? John 11:25. Living in Christ means that each new dawn brings with it an opportunity to open to a new way of being, a new way of living. We pray for the grace to be surprised by God's unexpected presence in, and through, the simple things of life. Wonder, joy and gratitude are marks of 'Easter people'.*

## The Resurrection – Life

*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen. Luke 24:5*

Pondering the resurrection begins from where we are: the women came to the tomb; Mary wept; the disciples hid behind locked doors. We need to be honest about how we are feeling in this crisis. It is in this place of honesty that the risen Christ will visit us, silently filling us with joy and energy. Gone are our tears and fear! We pray for the grace for our eyes to be opened to recognise the risen Christ in the many ways people are bringing life and joy to others. 'The Lord has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Mary, mother of God and our mother, hear our plea; pray for your children in our hour of need. Amen*

## The Ascension – Freedom

*Why do you stand looking up towards heaven? Acts 1:11*

The current safeguards of social distancing may cause us to feel 'stuck to the spot'. Maybe that was how the disciples felt as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds! With the disciples I'm challenged to reflect: How am I as I grapple with the recent swift changes? Where am I looking? Who or what is holding my attention? My responses will free me to do what Jesus says: 'Go to Jerusalem' ... my people... 'I am with you'!

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Mary, mother of God and our mother, hear our plea; pray for your children in our hour of need. Amen*

## The Descent of the Holy Spirit - Empowerment

*[Jesus]breathed on them and said: 'receive the Holy Spirit'. John 20:22*

Receive the Holy Spirit ... What gift! There are seven, a perfect, abundant number! Take time to ponder what each gift holds for us at this time. Gifts become more precious when shared... so let's do that with and for others. We can 'breathe' the gifts and fruits of the Spirit across time and space, filling our world with God's love, joy, peace, patience, kindness ... (Galatians 5:22) I breathe in Love (or any of the other gifts or fruits of the Spirit), pause to allow it to fill me, and then breathe that gift out to the world (or to a specific person, place or situation). What a gift to the whole world! What a sense of purpose and mission this 'breath prayer' could bring to our lives. We have freely received, let us freely give with each breath!

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Mary, mother of God and our mother, hear our plea; pray for your children in our hour of need. Amen*



## The Assumption – Reverence

*Blessed is the womb that bore you. Luke 11:27*

Mary was assumed, body and soul into heaven. Her whole person was honoured as giving glory to God. We are invited to reflect on the sacredness. Social distancing is an act of reverence we can offer others. By using our senses: sight, taste, touch, hearing and smell, we are drawn into God's presence. I pray for the grace to live peacefully within the physical capacity of my 'now'.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Mary, mother of God and our mother, hear our plea; pray for your children in our hour of need. Amen*

## Mary is Crowned Queen of Heaven – Faith

*Here is your mother. John 19:27*

Mary shows us how to live now and for all eternity! As we ponder Mary's life we can be stunned by its simplicity. Her unwavering gaze was on her son, the Word Incarnate. She was with him in times of celebration, fatigue, suffering and death. Mary was blessed because she believed. We pray for the grace to imitate her focus on Christ. We pray with Mary as we witness the unfolding of the Paschal mystery in our time.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

*Mary, mother of God and our mother, hear our plea; pray for your children in our hour of need. Amen*

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## First Prayer to Our Lady

**O Mary,**

You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection,  
O Holy Mother of God;  
Do not despise our petitions  
in our necessities,  
but deliver us always  
from every danger,  
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

## The Second Prayer

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God". In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

**Virgin Mary,** turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their

loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

**Mother of God** and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

**Blessed Virgin,** illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

**Mary Most Holy,** stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen †