

Praying the Rosary during 'Thy Kingdom Come'

Praying the Holy Rosary is an invitation to reflect on the events of the gospel in company with the Blessed Virgin Mary. The division of the themes of the Rosary into Joyful, Glorious and Sorrowful Mysteries is familiar to us, but during 'Thy Kingdom Come', as we pray more earnestly for the mission of the Church, it is the Luminous Mysteries which provide a framework for us to offer our meditations.

Pope St John Paul II said of the Rosary that it is the place where "the Christian people sits in the school of Mary, and is led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love".

Praying the Rosary we ask that the face of Christ may be more visible through us, and that in our words and works his love may shine more clearly.

Introductory Prayers

I believe in God,
**the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead,
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.**

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.**

(x3)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

The Mysteries of Light

i. The Baptism of Jesus

When Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Matt 3.13-17

We give thanks to God for showing us himself in the life of Jesus Christ, and pray that all the baptised may grow in knowledge and love of him. May the Spirit which moved over the waters at the baptism of Jesus fill our hearts and lives, that we may know ourselves to be God's beloved sons and daughters.

Each mystery comprises the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, 10 'Hail Mary's' and the Glory be to the Father... These follow the announcement of the mystery, the scripture passage and the prayer intentions.

ii. The Wedding Feast at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

John 2.1-10

Jesus' first miracle displays the over-flowing joy of the Kingdom of God, and the transforming grace he brings to human hearts. We pray that in the renewal of our lives God's glory may shine, bringing change and hope to our nation and our world.

iii. The proclamation of the Kingdom of God and the call to Conversion

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Mark 1.14-15

Jesus calls us to continually hear the call to change and to be conformed to him. We pray for the grace in our own lives to grow in holiness, and to participate joyfully in his work of sharing the Good News. May God grant us courage and confidence as we share our faith.

iv. The Transfiguration

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Mark 9.2-4

The mount of transfiguration shines with God's beauty and glory; we pray that our eyes may be open to discern that beauty and glory of God in the world around us –in creation and creativity, and in dignity and destiny of each human person. We pray that vision of God's glory in the world may transform our actions.

v. The Institution of the Eucharist

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

1 Corinthians 11.23-24

At the Eucharist Our Lord gives himself to us in self-giving love. We pray for the courage to let the self-giving love of Jesus be the pattern for our lives; we pray too for confidence in drawing others to meet Jesus in the Eucharist, that with us they may taste and see that the Lord is good.

Concluding Prayers

At the conclusion of the Rosary these prayers may be used:

Almighty God,
your ascended Son has sent us into the world
to preach the good news of your kingdom:
inspire us with your Spirit
and fill our hearts with the fire of your love,

that all who hear your Word
may be drawn to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

O Mary, recall the solemn moment when Jesus, your divine Son, dying on the cross confided us to your maternal care. You are our Mother; we desire ever to remain your devout children. Let us therefore feel the effects of your powerful intercession with Jesus Christ. Make your name again glorious in this place, once renowned throughout our land by your visits, favours and many miracles.

Pray, O Holy Mother of God, for the conversion of England, restoration of the sick, consolation for the afflicted, repentance of sinners, peace to the departed. O Blessed Mary, Mother of God, Our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us. Amen.

O Lord God, Word incarnate, Jesus of Nazareth, have mercy upon us.