

The Rosary

What is it?

The Rosary is the name which we give to a chain of beads which we use to pray, remembering various mysteries - or great events - in the life of Jesus and Mary. Remembering these events we are helped to remember the love that God has for the world, and in our prayer we are able to offer our thanks and love in return.

It is said that Our Lady herself taught us to pray the Rosary. The story is that she appeared to a man called Dominic and asked him to teach this prayer to people to help them to learn about the Catholic faith.

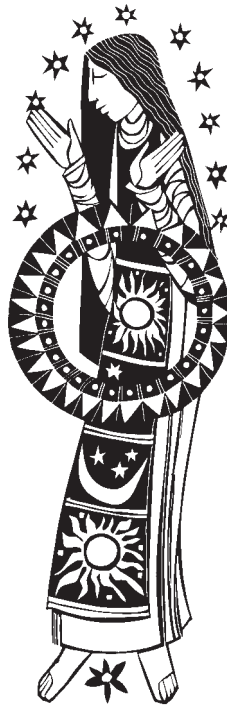
There is a picture of this at <http://www.pacifier.com/~rosarweb/shrine.htm>

There's a picture of Dominic here too. Do you see the dog by his side. On the website you are given one explanation as to why St Dominic is often shown together with a dog. Another is because, especially in Latin, the saint's name is very close to the Latin words *domini canis*, which means 'The Dog of the Lord.!'

The Mysteries

In the Rosary there are four sets of five mysteries, or holy events. The first are the Joyful Mysteries of Jesus's birth and early life; the second are the Mysteries of Light, Jesus bringing the glory of the kingdom to life of earth; the third, the Sorrowful Mysteries of his Passion and Death; the fourth the Glorious Mysteries - the Easter events beginning with his rising from the dead. Each set of Mysteries itself contains five particular Mysteries.

Next week we shall learn about the first five - the Joyful Mysteries. These are about the very beginning of Jesus' life, as a baby and a child, and also about the love and courage of Mary his mother. *Have a look in your bible now to see if there are any pictures there of Jesus as a baby or a young boy, or of Mary.*



How do you pray the Rosary?

To pray the Rosary there are a number of prayers we need to know by heart. Perhaps you already know some of them. And if you do not, then now is your chance to learn. And they are good prayers to learn because they are amongst the most important of our Catholic prayers.

The Lord's prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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.

The 'Glory Be'

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 'Hail Mary'

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.

- *See whether others in your family know these prayers. If they do maybe they can help you learn them. And if they do not know them either, you can begin to learn them together, and see who can learn them first!*
- *There is one of these three prayers which we always say at Mass. Which one is it?*

