



The Rosary

Praying the Rosary

Over the past few weeks this page of the newsletter has introduced the Rosary and the prayers we use when we pray it. If you missed those pages then you might like to download them from our parish website. The web address is www.rcsjw.org.uk/parishlife/index-parishlife.html and then just follow the link at the bottom of the page to 'Rosary for children'.

The Presentation of the Lord

The Mystery we considered last week was the birth of Jesus and this week we pray with the story of what happened with Jesus shortly after his birth.

It is a story that is filled with unexpected things - some of them very happy, and others with a promise of difficulty and pain for Jesus himself and for Mary his mother. You can read the story in Luke's Gospel (Luke 2.22-38) and perhaps you can find it also in your own Children's Bible.

There are also many paintings of this Mystery and as perhaps you are becoming used to doing you can find some of these paintings on the National Gallery website. Just go to www.nationalgallery.org.uk/ and type 'Presentation' into the search engine (top right hand corner of the Home page'). Which painting do you like best?

Often in paintings Jesus is shown being presented at the altar. There was an altar in the Temple of Jerusalem, but the painters maybe wanted us to think of how Jesus continues to be presented at the altar at Mass in our churches. We present him to God the Father, thanking God for the great love that Jesus shows. And Jesus presents himself to us, as the holy food and drink at Holy Communion.



In the story in Luke's Gospel you will read of the people the Holy Family met in the Temple. These were the wise old people Anna and Simeon. They had great love for God and they recognised how special Jesus was. The song of Simeon is one of the great prayers of the Church, even today 2000 years later. It is a prayer that many people pray last thing at night.

At last all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

It is often known by the first words of the prayer in Latin: Nunc Dimittis. Get your Mom and Dad to let you google those words and listen to the prayer being sung by Aled Jones or by some of the great cathedral choirs.

Praying the Mystery

As in previous weeks you might like to use one of the paintings, or the song, to help you enter into the prayer, and then pray the usual prayers we say as we pray a Mystery of the Rosary - the *Lord's Prayer*, 10 *Hail Mary's* and 1 *Glory Be*.

Westminster Cathedral

The children who are preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time next year are going on a pilgrimage to Westminster Cathedral next weekend. Whether you are part of that group or not you might like to visit the Cathedral website (www.westminstercathedral.org.uk) and see something of that lovely building and hear some of the wonderful music that is sung there.

Some Questions to think about...

What can we learn from the story of the Presentation?

Why did Jesus and his family do what God asked, even when it was not easy or caused them pain?

How can we share the good news of Jesus and his love?