

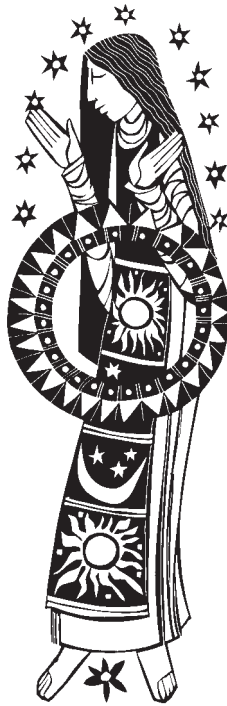
The Rosary

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.

There is a tradition that the Rosary was a prayer introduced by Our Lady herself. She is said to have appeared to St Dominic and asked him to teach this prayer to people to help them to learn about the Catholic faith. You can see a picture of this event if you look on <http://www.pacifier.com/~rosarweb/shrine.htm>

Do you see that there is a dog in the picture on this page, and on the website? On the website you are given one explanation as to why 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 mean '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.

We are going to start, not at the beginning, with the Joyful Mysteries, but with the five Mysteries of Light . The first of these five is the Mystery of the Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan.

How do you pray the Rosary?

There are many ways of praying the Rosary but one good way to start is to begin by reading the scripture story which tells us of the particular mystery we will be praying about. Spend a little time thinking about the story and what it tells you about God's love. Then, remembering that love, say the 'Lord's Prayer'. Next say the 'Hail Mary' ten times, counting the beads as you go. Then finish with the 'Glory Be.'

The First Mystery of Light: The Baptism of Jesus

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Mark 1:7-11



- What reminders of your own baptism can you find at home? Are there photographs or a video? Perhaps your baptism candle or the white shawl you were dressed in?
- What memories do your family have of your day of baptism?
- What do those things say about you and about the love that God and your family had and have for you?