

What is the Rosary?



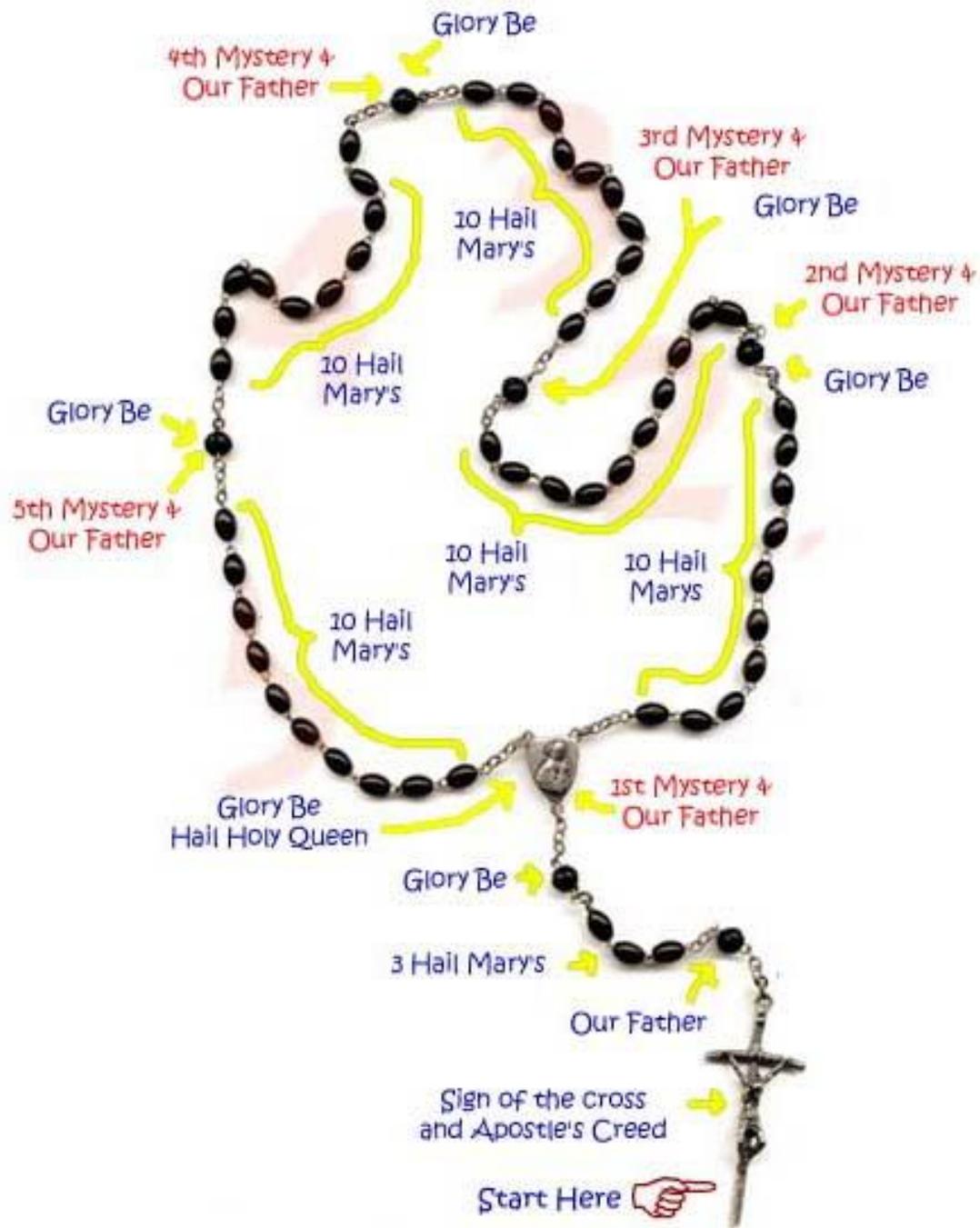
The Rosary is a series of prayers. When we use the rosary to pray we meditate on (think about) the life of Jesus Christ, and his mother Mary.

It is mainly Catholics who use the Rosary.

The full Rosary is made up of four sets of five mysteries.

The meditation on each mystery is accompanied by the praying of the *Lord's Prayer*, followed by ten *Hail Mary's* and one *Glory Be*.

Normally only one set of mysteries is prayed at a time.



The joyful
Mysteries



1. The Annunciation

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. And coming to Mary, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." (Lk 1:26-28)



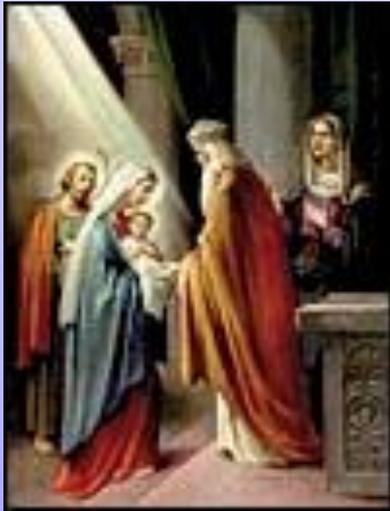
2. The Visitation

Mary set out and traveled to the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Lk 1:39-45)



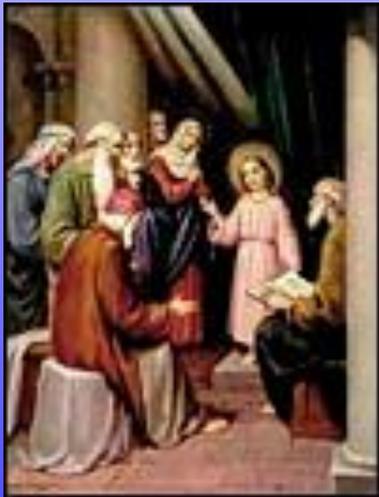
3. The Birth of Our Lord

And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger . . . And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Lk 2:1-20)



4. The Presentation in the Temple

Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple to present him to the Lord. At the temple Simeon and Anna came forward, gave thanks to God and spoke about Jesus to all who were present. (Lk 2:22-38)



5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

The boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:41-50)

The Mysteries of Light



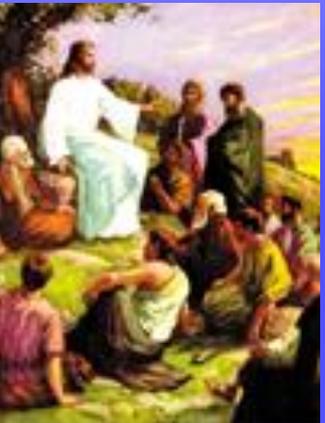
1. The Baptism in the Jordan

And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mt. 3:17)



2. The Wedding at Cana

"Women, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." (Jn 2:1-12)



3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:15)



4. The Transfiguration

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. (Lk9:29)



5. The Institution of the Eucharist

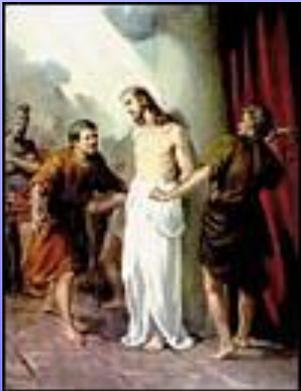
Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. (Jn 13:1)

The Sorrowful Mysteries



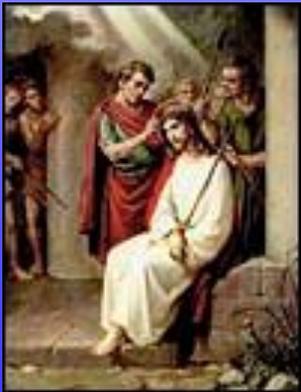
1. The Agony in the Garden

Jesus went to a place called Gethsemane to pray. "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." (Mt 26:36-46)



2. The Scourging at the Pillar

The chief priests with the elders and the scribes held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, had Jesus scourged and handed him over to be crucified. (Mk 15:1-16)



3. The Crowning with Thorns

They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Mt 27:27-31)



4. The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus, weak from being beaten, was unable to carry His cross to Golgotha alone. Simon, a Cyrenian, helped him. (Mk 15:20-22)



5. The Crucifixion

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Lk 23:33-46)

The Glorious Mysteries



1. The Resurrection

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. An angel appeared and said, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for He has been raised just as He said." (Mt 28:1-10)



2. The Ascension of Our Lord

As Jesus blessed them He parted from them and was taken up to heaven. (Lk 24:44-53)



3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit." (Jn 14:15-21)



4. The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven

"Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory." (from *Munificentissimus Deus* (1950):DS 3903)



5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

"We believe that the Holy Mother of God, the new Eve, Mother of the Church, continues in heaven to exercise her maternal role on behalf of the members of Christ." (from the Solemn Profession of Faith: Credo of the People of God)

Now we have looked at the Rosary I would like you to pick out your favourite mystery from each section, illustrate it and explain what it is.

When you have done that write a sentence to say why it is important to you.