

## **The Rosary During Time of Pandemic**

Traditionally for Catholics the month of May has been a time to honor Mary by praying the Rosary. Pope Francis is urging all families to pray the Rosary daily during the Month of May. We can pray it with others or alone. Pope Francis says in praying the Rosary, we are contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary, who will unite us as a spiritual family and help us during this difficult time.

In his spiritual classic *True Devotion to Mary*, St. Louis de Montfort writes:

*The holy Rosary is a gift come down from heaven; a great present that God gives to His most faithful servants. God is the Author of the prayers of which it is composed and of the mysteries it contains.*

Speaking about the Rosary, St. John Paul II said:

*“The Rosary has accompanied me in moment of joy and in moments of difficulty. To it I have entrusted any number of concerns; in it I have always found comfort. The Rosary is my favorite prayer. It is marvelous in its simplicity and its depth.”*

Personally, I find the Rosary to be a wonderful way to pray for a wide range of global, church and personal needs, and a great way to fulfill my promise to pray for people who have asked me to pray for them. In each of the four sets of mysteries, we pray “for all those who have asked us to pray for them.”

As you will see below, the complete Rosary has four sets of five mysteries with days on which the various sets of five mysteries are prayed. Each mystery invites us to meditate on an event in the life of Jesus and/or Mary. The scripture event for the twenty mysteries of the Rosary are referenced below. Also below you will find intentions connected to the current pandemic for each decade. You can add your own intentions to each decade.

### **Joyful Mysteries – Mondays/Saturdays**

***Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38).*** For the protection of all women carrying an unborn child at this time, especially those carrying an unplanned or unwanted child.

***Mary visits her Cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45).*** For all who live and work in nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and hospitals. For the elderly who cannot receive visits from family members. For all who have asked us to pray for them.

***Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-8).*** For children born into poverty and unhealthy and unloving family situations.

***Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:22-28).*** For all who have had to postpone Baptisms, First Communion, Entrance into Full Communion with our Church.

***Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-50).*** For all missing children and for children and young people who have died during this pandemic and for their grieving families.

### **Sorrowful Mysteries – Tuesdays/Fridays**

***Agony in the Garden (Mark 14:32-42).*** For all whose lives are in agony, body, mind and spirit because of Covid-19 and for all who are trying to help them.

***Scourging at the Pillar (Matt 27:26).*** For the victims of all forms of domestic violence brought about due to the stress of this pandemic.

***Crowning with Thorns (Mark 15:16-20).*** For all suffering from depression and headaches as a result of Covid-19. For all who have asked us to pray for them.

***Jesus Carries His Cross (Mark 15:21-22).*** For all carrying a cross of working long hours and placing their lives at risk as they care for others during this time. We pray especially for doctors, nurses, first responders and all others serving us in public places.

***Jesus dies on the Cross (Mark 15:23-41).*** For all who have died during this global pandemic and for their grieving loved ones. For all who have had to postpone funeral services or have had a loved one buried in a common grave. Blessed Mother Mary comfort the grieving.

## Glorious Mysteries – Wednesdays/Sundays

***The Resurrection (Mark 16:1-20).*** In thanksgiving for all those who were brought low with Covid-19 and are now doing well.

***Ascension (Acts 1:6-11).*** For members of our church family who have lost their jobs, have elderly loved ones that they cannot visit. For elderly church members who live alone. In thanksgiving for our Social Concerns volunteers and for all who bring food items to church. In thanksgiving for all who continue to financially support our church family. For all whose names are on our Prayer Chain list.

***The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13).*** That our Holy Spirit may guide all those seeking to discover a vaccine for Covid-19. For ears to hear what message the Holy Spirit is seeking to teach us globally, as a nation, as a church, as a family and individually during this pandemic.

***Assumption of Mary into Heaven (Rev. 12:1).*** For all dying at this time especially those who cannot receive visits from their loved ones, that our Blessed Mother may comfort them and for all those who have asked us to pray for them.

***Crowning of Mary Queen of Heaven (Rev. 12:1).*** For all branches of government that they may work together to protect their people, feed the hungry and jumpstart the economy in a responsible and effective way. For church leaders that they may be filled with a spirit of creativity as they seek to serve their people during this time of Covid-19.

## Luminous Mysteries – Thursday

***The Baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:21-22).*** May this time of pandemic be a time of new spiritual enlightenment. That we may see our prayer and service to others as a valid way of living out our baptism. For all adults awaiting to receive the Sacrament of Baptism and entrance into Full communion with our church.

***The Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:1-12).*** For marriages and families who are finding this pandemic to be particularly stressful. For engaged couples who have had to postpone their special day or have a very small celebration.

***The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God (Luke 4:14-15).*** For God's blessing on all who are proclaiming God's love for the poor by providing and distributing food to the hungry.

***The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36).*** That through this time of 'global correction' many lives may be spiritually and materially transformed beginning with our own lives. For the healing of our world.

***The Institution of the Eucharist (Luke 22:19).*** That during this time of fasting from the Eucharist, that our prayer of spiritual communion may lead us to a deeper hunger to return to our church family and receive the Eucharist sacramentally. For all those who have asked us to pray for them.

In his Letter encouraging all of us to pray the Rosary, Pope Francis has two prayers that he encourages us to pray at the end of praying the Rosary. Link to Pope Francis's two prayers.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/letter-on-the-month-of-may-full-text.html>

## **He Prayed the Rosary**

One hundred years ago, a university student found himself beside a man who seemed to be a well-to-do peasant. The man was praying the rosary.

The student asked, "Sir, why do you believe in such an outdated thing? Why don't you throw your Rosary out the window and use your time to study science?"

"Science? You think I do not understand science? Perhaps you can teach me."

The student said, "Sure, I'll help you, give me your name and address and I'll send you some literature."

The man fumbled in the pocket of his coat and finally found one of his cards.

Upon glancing at the card, the student bowed his head in shame and became silent. The card read: "Louis Pasteur, Director of the Institute of Scientific Research, Paris."

Fr. Eamon Tobin  
tobin2@live.com