



The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

Intention:

The angel's visit and Mary's response changed the whole course of her life! Gone were her dreams, expectations and plans. An unknown, uncharted path opened before her ... and her first steps were to someone in need! Coronavirus has entered our world putting a halt to the usual rhythm of daily life. The new pathway is unknown. Like Mary we are invited to 'live into' new ways of reaching out and of staying connected with others. Mary brought joy and God's presence with her. We pray for the grace to reach out joyfully to our neighbours near and far and to gather them into God's life-giving presence.

The Annunciation - Awareness

The Lord is with you ... Do not be afraid ... Luke 1:28-38

In this time of the coronavirus epidemic, we are like Mary! She was 'perplexed'. She pondered. She asked: 'How can this be?' And she trusted the angel's message. We pray for the grace that we might live each day from a place of deep trust in God's abiding presence and personal love – Love casts out fear!

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ... O my Jesus...

Mary draw your mantle of protection around our suffering world. Intercede for us all in this time of great need.

The Visitation - Neighbourliness

Mary set out in haste ... and entered in... Luke 1:39-40

Mary heard of her cousin's need. As we listen to media reports about the spread and consequences of the coronavirus, we hear the anguished cries of our local and global neighbours. Physical isolation provides us with the opportunity to intentionally and creatively 'visit' those in any kind of need: those near and dear as well as our neighbours around the world. In this way we leave the smallness of our comfort zone to focus on the needs of another, as Mary did!

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The Birth of Jesus – Seeking

They... found Him ... Luke 2:16

The shepherds found Joseph and Mary and the new-born Jesus in the stable. What poverty! What homelessness! The shepherds listened, made a choice to 'go and see'. In their search the wisemen sought guidance and advice. Both found Jesus in an unexpected place with ordinary parents and recognised this tiny One as Emmanuel. Where do I find God present in my new situation marked by Covid-19? What choices do I make to search for God? And when I find God's presence in unexpected, ordinary places and people, how do I respond? ... with wonder and gratitude?

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The Presentation in the Temple – Obedience

...according to the law of Moses [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ... Luke 2:22

Joseph and Mary kept the law at some cost to themselves. Laws, like those recently issued by our government, can feel like an imposition. They restrict some of our 'taken for granted' freedoms. They remind us that we are not in control. What is my attitude towards the current restrictions? Mary and Joseph kept the law as an expression of their love for God. Do I see the laws as loving care? And that, by happily following them, I am loving others and exercising genuine care?

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The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple – Questions

Why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety? Luke 2:48

Sometimes loss can reduce us to silence so we become dumb witnesses preoccupied with our pain, and so unable to attend to the plight of others. A sense of loss can cause great anxiety. It can also reveal the real value of what we are missing. How might the consequences of Covid-19 lead me to name and appreciate what I feel I have lost? Perhaps in my searching, I will discover new treasures of God's presence!

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Rosary Reflections by Carmel Drew rsj
Designed by Cyrilla Almeida

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