

Tuesday 26th January 2021

OLI: To recognise the feasts of Our Lady



Mary

Mary was with Jesus from the beginning to the end of his life journey. Christians pray that she will share their life journey with the same motherly love.

MARY

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, has a special place in the Church's seasons and feasts. In Advent, the Church celebrates her 'Yes' to God and her example of preparing for the coming of Jesus. On Good Friday the Church celebrates her love and faithfulness as she stood at the foot of the cross. For the Church, May is Mary's month, and in October Catholics are encouraged to pray the Rosary. There are also special feasts through the year and many local traditions and celebrations throughout the world.

THE ROSARY

The Rosary is a special prayer used by Christians. It used to be called Our Lady's Psalter because it is really a journey with Mary through the life of Jesus. It has twenty steps or decades. To pray a decade you say one 'Our Father', ten 'Hail Marys' and one 'Glory Be'.

The repetition of the prayers is a way of freeing yourself from busy thoughts and fixing your attention on Jesus just as Mary, his mother, often would have done. The twenty steps are made up of five joyful, five sorrowful and five glorious times in the lives of Jesus and Mary. In 2003 Pope John Paul II invited the Church to pray five Mysteries of Light. These were events in the life of Jesus when his disciples began to understand who he was.

The Baptism of Jesus: "You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

The Wedding-feast at Cana: "Do whatever he tells you."

The proclamation of the kingdom in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are ..."

The Transfiguration: "This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him."

The gift of the Eucharist at the last supper: "This is my Body. This is my Blood."

During the Liturgical Year there are many feast days set aside to remember and celebrate the journey of Mary. Mary's journey had joys and sorrows. Mary was with Jesus during his journey on earth from the beginning to the end. The Church remembers Mary especially in May and in October and encourages people to pray the Rosary during those months.

The Mysteries of the Rosary show the steps or stages in the life journey of Jesus and Mary. Some are joyful, some sad, some full of light and some glorious.

Look at a Rosary and explain how it is prayed. Each set of ten beads is for thinking about one of the Mysteries while praying ten Hail Marys. Each large bead is for praying the Our Father at the beginning and the Glory Be at the end.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

'Mysteries' are events in the life of Jesus which we need God's help to understand.

Joyful

Annunciation

Visitation

Nativity

Presentation in the Temple

Finding in the Temple

Mysteries of Light

Baptism of Jesus

Marriage Feast of Cana

Proclamation of the Kingdom

The Transfiguration

The Gift of the Eucharist



Sorrowful

Agony in the garden

Scourging at the Pillar

Crowning with thorns

Carrying the Cross

Crucifixion and death

Glorious

Resurrection

Ascension

Coming of the Holy Spirit

Assumption

Crowning of Mary

Our Lady is also honoured by special feast days, here are six of them:

- Mary, the Holy Mother of God - 1st January
- The Annunciation of the Lord - 25th March
- The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 31st May
- The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 15th August
- The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, (Mary's birthday) - 8th September
- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 8th December

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q What do you know about any of these feast days?
- Q Why is Mary so honoured by these special days?

Today's activity:

I would like you to create some artwork to celebrate Mary. I have included some ideas below, or you could come up with your own. I have also included a Mary stained glass window page if you would like to colour it.

<http://www.thatartistwoman.org/2008/12/pastel-resist-madonna-art-project.html>



<https://www.catholicicing.com/printable-mary-statue-craft-for-kids/>