

**Novena to Our Lady of the Rosary
(7th October)**

**Our help is in the name of the Lord...
... who made heaven and earth.**

Monday 28th September:

Monday in 26th Week in OT

From the Joyful Mysteries: The Presentation of the Lord

In encountering the Lord in the Mass, in Word and in Sacrament, the Lord enters his Temple, he who is and who was and who is to come, God amongst us, comes to make his dwelling.

Tuesday 29th September:

SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

From the Joyful Mysteries: The Annunciation of the Lord.

Although, we usually pray the Sorrowful Mysteries today, the Feast of the Archangels brings the Annunciation to mind. The Gospel of the Lord has been announced to us. As we mediate on the Word of God, we too recognise how we, like Mary, have been chosen to bear the good news of salvation to others.

Wednesday 30th September: St Jerome

From the Glorious Mysteries: The Descent of the Holy Spirit.

St Jerome tells us that 'ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ. At Emmaus, the two disciples did not understand that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory. And so, Jesus, 'starting with Moses and all the prophets, explains all the passages in scripture that were about him'. Jesus sends us the advocate so that we may be guided in the truth and continue his mission to save souls for the eternal life.

Thursday 1st October:

St Therese of the Child Jesus.

From the Luminous Mysteries: The Institution of the Eucharist.

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption, who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Friday 2nd October: The Holy Guardian Angels

From the Sorrowful mysteries: The Scourging at the Pillar.

A Christian has discovered that Christ's choice at Holy Baptism has removed us from the world and set us on a path back to the heavenly kingdom, the Father's house, and, therefore, our true home. On this journey, the Christian finds a rough road, with many stones that causes us to stumble. In this generation and in every generation past and to come, Christians discover a persecution, a *scourging at the pillar* of the secular society. On our own it is very difficult to stand up to such ridicule and often individuals give in to the popular culture; but if they have made the Church the bedrock of their community life, it is easier to withstand the irrational voice of many competing ideologies.

Saturday 3rd October:

The Blessed Martyrs of Sussex

From the Sorrowful Mysteries: The Agony in the Garden.

Although, we usually pray the Joyful Mysteries today, the sacrifice of the Blessed Martyrs of Sussex brings the Agony in the Garden to mind: in his agony in the garden, Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, kneels before His Father, and knowing what is to come – the pain and the humiliation, he accepts it all because His will is in conformity to His Father's will.

Sunday 4th October:

Rosary Sunday & 27th Sunday in OT A.

From the Glorious Mysteries: The Resurrection

It is the preaching of Christ crucified and risen from the dead that convinced so many early Christians to convert to the faith. Unless Christ rose from the dead, our faith is in vain; but He did rise from the dead, and faith – which is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen – is not in vain, but a virtue. We know that Christ's sacrifice on the cross accomplished our salvation, not because we know that He died, but because we know that He lives. And in living, He brings new life to all who have faith in Him.

Monday 5th October: Saint Faustina Kowalska

From the Joyful Mysteries: The Nativity of the Lord.

Christmas above all the feasts most energises the Christian community. There is something quite awe inspiring in thinking that our God would humble himself and choose to dwell among us, not in triumph and majesty, but in sharing the humblest of human condition, that of a new-born baby. We could spend the whole Novena reflecting simply on this mystery and not exhaust the joy in knowing that the *'Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us'*. This should inspire us to find our place within the Church of God, the place where we find our identity of being made a child of God.

Tuesday 6th October: Saint Bruno

From the Sorrowful Mysteries: The Crowning with Thorns

Those who stand firm to the end will win the martyr's crown. With earthly eyes, it does not look like much, a twisted crown of thorns; but to the eyes of the soul it is a symbol of victory over sin and death. St Paul tells us that the sufferings that we endure in this life are nothing compared to the glory that will be revealed. Christ's Lordship is not based on fine robes, sceptres or crowns, but on his acceptance of His Father's will. The honours of this world mean nothing; the

love of God is all. Indeed, we are not members of some earthly institution, but part of the mystical body of Christ, the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church and we praise God for all those who teach and hand on the faith of the Church.

Our Father...

Hail Mary... x10

Glory be...

O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.

Let us pray,

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reign with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.