

A Rosary for Peace in Gaza



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THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

First Mystery: The Annunciation

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary" (Lk 1:26-27).

Intention: For the safety of all who bring news to the world of the conflict in Gaza: reporters, investigators, and aid relief workers.

Second Mystery: The Visitation

"In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!'" (Lk 1:39-42).

Intention: For the care and respect of the elderly and vulnerable.

Third Mystery: The Birth of Our Lord

"In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. Each went to their own town to be registered. Joseph travelled from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Lk 2:1-7).

Intention: For the Children of Gaza, their safety, healing, and future.

Fourth Mystery: The Presentation in the Temple

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, every male shall be consecrated to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is written in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" (Lk 2:21-24).

Intention: For the opening of humanitarian corridors of aid and medical supplies. To safeguard the dignity of the innocent citizens of Gaza.

Fifth Mystery: The finding of Jesus in the Temple

When he was twelve years old, Jesus and his parents went up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers" (Lk 2:41-47).

Intention: For the release of hostages and prisoners of war and their return to their families whose absence they mourn.



THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

First Mystery: The Agony in the Garden.

"Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here, while I go to pray.' And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.' And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will'" (Mt 26:36-39).

Intention: For those alone, fearful, abandoned, exhausted, grieving, and despairing.

Second Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar.

"Pilate released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified" (Mt 27,26).

Intention: For an end to terrorism and the indiscriminate destruction and harm inflicted on others in pursuit of harmful ideologies.

Third Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns.

"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'" (Mt 27:27-29).

Intention: For those displaced from their communities and homeland, those without food, water, shelter, security, those stripped of their homes.

Fourth Mystery: Jesus Takes up His Cross.

"And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull)" (Mk 15:21-22).

Intention: For all who mourn: those who have lost a spouse, a child, a parent, a sibling, grandparents. Help them to carry their cross.

Fifth Mystery: The Crucifixion.

"And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do' ...It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!' And having said this he breathed his last" (Lk 23:33-46).

Intention: For all who have died in this conflict, especially the innocent.



THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

First Mystery: The Baptism in the Jordan.

"And when Jesus was baptized, he came up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased'" (Mt 3:16-17).

Intention: For all Christians: awaken in them a desire to support of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Second Mystery: The wedding feast of Cana.

"There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you'" (Jn 2:1-5).

Intention: For the gift of hope in the midst of despair, that a time of plenty will return with lasting peace.

Third Mystery: The proclamation of the kingdom of God.

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mk 1:15).

Intention: For Christians in the Holy Land, their safety, resilience and the assurance they are not alone. Through their witness, may they proclaim the Kingdom of God.

Fourth Mystery: The Transfiguration.

"And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light" (Mt 17:1-2).

Intention: May adversaries set aside prejudice, racism, bigotry, hatred and see the sacredness of each human being.

Fifth Mystery: The institution of the Eucharist.

"Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body'" (Mt 26:26).

Intention: For the lives that are broken and offered in this conflict; bless them with the gift of healing.



THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

First Mystery: The Resurrection.

"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, two men stood by them in dazzling clothes; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen'" (Lk 24:1-5).

Intention: For the gift of peace. May the sign of the empty tomb be the seed of hope for a world of peace.

Second Mystery: The Ascension.

"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and took his place at the right hand of God" (Mk 16:19).

Intention: 'Go to all the nations'. May the world's nations provide aid and resources for those most in need.

Third Mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit.

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them what looked like tongues of fire, which came and rested on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues." (Acts 2:1-4).

Intention: For the Leaders of Gaza and Israel; may the Spirit draw them together in mutual respect, openness to dialogue and diplomacy, and a determination for peace.

Fourth Mystery: The Assumption.

"Henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me" (Lk 1:48-49).

Intention: For doctors, nurses, paramedics and medical staff. For their safety as they minister to the lowly and lift them up.

Fifth Mystery: The crowning of Our Lady Queen of Heaven.

"And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev 12:1).

Intention: May Mary, Our Mother intercede for the people of the Holy Land and the work of peace.

