



# Meditations on the Holy Rosary

## The Joyful Mysteries

### FIRST MYSTERY—THE ANNUNCIATION

#### Gospel Reading

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice full of grace! The Lord is with you.' (Luke 1:26–28)

#### Reflection

Mary was open to receiving the Word of God in the midst of her daily life. This openness to God allowed him to fill her with grace and the very life of Jesus. How can I open myself to hear his voice more clearly in my life and trust his goodness so that I am ready to say 'yes' to his plans for me?

### SECOND MYSTERY—THE VISITATION

#### Gospel Reading

Mary set out at that time and went with haste into the hill country to a town in Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.' (Luke 1:39–42)

#### Reflection

In this mystery, we ponder the joy that leads Mary to sing the most beautiful song of praise and thanksgiving to God. Having come to the aid of her cousin, Mary's own vocation is strengthened by Elizabeth's greeting. How can we encourage the members of our own parishes by recognising and acknowledging God's action in each other's lives?

### THIRD MYSTERY—THE NATIVITY

#### Gospel Reading

So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee for Judea, to David's town called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her

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child, and she gave birth to her son, the first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the living-space. (Luke 2:4-7)

### Reflection

God chose to make himself visibly present among us in the humble setting of a family. Amid the daily struggles to provide shelter, safety and sustenance, it is in the family home that God's plan for the whole world quietly grows. Let us ponder with eyes of faith what God is asking of us in our family at this time.



## FOURTH MYSTERY—THE PRESENTATION

### Scripture Reading

And when the days were complete for them to be purified in keeping with the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Look, he is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is opposed—and a sword will pierce your soul too—so that the thoughts of many may be laid bare.' (Luke 2:22, 34-35)

### Reflection

Our priests walk with us during some of the most significant moments of our lives, celebrating and suffering alongside us as we follow God's will. How can we support our pastors in their work within our communities of grace in the Church of Melbourne?

## FIFTH MYSTERY—THE FINDING OF THE CHILD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

### Scripture Reading

Jesus replied, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he was saying to them. He went down with them then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in divine and human favour. (Luke 2:49-52)

### Reflection

The leaders of the people are in awe of the wisdom Jesus displays as he puts forth his questions. Mary and Joseph are surprised by Jesus' confidence in following his Father's will. What might God be asking of us in the way we welcome the gifts and questions of our young people in the Church in Melbourne?

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