

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary for the People of Afghanistan

+Sign of the Cross+

Apostles' Creed

Our Father

“Dear brothers and sisters, I join in the unanimous concern for the situation in Afghanistan. I ask you to pray with me to the God of peace so that the clamor of weapons might cease, and solutions can be found at the table of dialogue. Only thus can the battered population of that country — men, women, elderly, and children — return to their own homes, and live in peace and safety, in total mutual respect.”- Pope Francis, August 15, 2021

Hail Mary x3 for Faith, Hope, and Charity

Glory Be

First Luminous Mystery- The Baptism in the Jordan

Scripture: Luke 3: 21-22, “After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened, and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’”

Reflection: “The baptized are called to imitate Jesus’ example and strive in thought, word, and action to live his love. This means working to heal the wounds of sin, living the Beatitudes, practicing the twofold commandment of love of God and neighbor, and imitating the lives of the saints (CCC, nos. 1694-97). Having been anointed by the Spirit, “Christians can repeat in an individual

way the words of Jesus: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord' . . . (Lk 4:18-19)" (Christifideles Laici, no. 13)." -*Sacraments and Social Mission*

How is the Lord calling me to live out my Baptismal Promises in response to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan?

Our Father

Hail Mary x10

Glory Be

O my Jesus

Second Luminous Mystery- The Wedding at Cana

Scripture: John 2:1-5: "On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servers, 'Do whatever he tells you.'"

Reflection: "To the Queen of Peace, the Mother of Jesus Christ "our peace" (Eph 2:14), I entrust my urgent prayer for all humanity. . . to which we look with hearts full of hope, notwithstanding the dangers and difficulties that surround us. May Mary show us, in her Son, the Way of peace, and enlighten our vision, so that we can recognize Christ's face in the face of every human person, the heart of peace!"- Pope Benedict XVI (January 1, 2007)

How is Mary, through her Son, asking me to be a peacemaker today as I reflect on the situation in Afghanistan? How do I imitate her as Queen of Peace?

Our Father

Hail Mary x10

Glory Be

O My Jesus

Third Luminous Mystery- The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Scripture: Matthew 5:43-44: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."

Reflection: "We need to develop the awareness that nowadays we are either all saved together or no one is saved. Poverty, decadence and suffering in one part of the earth are a silent breeding ground for problems that will end up affecting the entire planet." (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, No. 137)

Can I pray for people who my country might consider to be my enemy? Do I pray for those who perpetrate violence and suffering in Afghanistan?

Our Father

Hail Mary x 10

Glory Be

O My Jesus

Fourth Luminous Mystery- The Transfiguration

Scripture: Luke 29:28-32: "He took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory."

Reflection: "Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all." St. John XXIII

Is the light of Christ, the Prince of Peace, shining in my own life? Do I recognize that suffering ends in glory as it did for Jesus?

Our Father

Hail Mary x 10

Glory Be

O My Jesus

Fifth Luminous Mystery- The Institution of the Holy Eucharist

Scripture: Mark 14:22-26 "While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.' Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

Reflection: "As we meditate on the Eucharist, we experience Christ's love for us—and for others. In the depth of prayer, we become so moved and sensitized to his love for those who suffer that the words of St. Augustine become a reality for us: "The pain of one, even the smallest member, is the pain of all" (Sermo Denis)." *Sacraments and Social Mission*

Do I experience the pain of all those in and from Afghanistan through the mystery of the Eucharist and the Mystical Body of Christ?

Our Father

Hail Mary x 10

Glory Be

O My Jesus

Hail Holy Queen

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, whose Only Begotten Son, by his life, Death, and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

-Pope Francis, *Prayer for Peace (June 4, 2014)*

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