

Prayer Focus – The Season of Easter

The Season of Easter: The liturgical colour for this season is white and gold, the colours used by the Church to celebrate its most joyous times. The prayer focus should be at its most colourful and vibrant. The 'Alleluia', our song of joy, should have a prominent place alongside signs, symbols and images of the Resurrection which are reminders of the new life given by Jesus. These can include, Resurrection crucifixes where Jesus is portrayed in robes, flowers, Easter Gardens, the empty tomb, decorated eggs, chicks and lambs. On the Solemnity of the Ascension (May 29), which is 40 days after Easter Sunday, the Church celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven and so images of this event could be displayed.

May: This is the month devoted to Our Lady, (please note that it does not take precedence over Easter). It can be reflected through images and icons of Mary. Traditionally, May prayer areas are filled with flowers surrounding a statue or image of Our Lady. Different cultural images and statues of Mary can be used to remind the children of the devotion to Our Lady throughout the world.

What is the Rosary?

The Rosary is an important form of Christian Prayer. It is prayed using Rosary beads (see picture). The current form probably originates from St. Dominic. The beads are set out in five groups of ten and each is called a decade. Each circuit (5 decades) is known as a Mystery. The word Mystery comes from a Greek root meaning 'the telling'. Each Mystery has a theme which retells the key events in the life of Jesus and his mother Mary. The Rosary consists of The Joyful Mysteries, The Sorrowful Mysteries, The Glorious Mysteries and the Mysteries of Light.

As the Rosary is prayed, people reflect and meditate on the five important events in each Mystery. A good guide for the structure of the Rosary can be found here:

www.catholicfaithstore.com/daily-bread/how-to-pray-the-rosary/

In school, you may see a Missionary Rosary. This is a colourful rosary made up of 5 different colours. Each colour represents a different continent in the world and helps us to pray for the people living on those continents and particularly those living in poverty and adversity. You can find an easy guide to praying the Mission rosary here: missiontogether.org.uk/the-mission-rosary/

Easter traditions from around the world

There are many different ways that Catholics celebrate Easter around the world. This would be a great project to investigate a range of traditions. e.g.

Poland

The day before Easter, families prepare a "blessing basket." It's filled with coloured eggs, sausages, bread, and other important food and taken to church to be blessed. In Polish culture, Lent isn't over until a priest blesses this basket.

France

According to Catholic teaching, no church bells can ring between Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil, on account of the solemnity of the days around Jesus's death. Eventually, a legend evolved that said the church bells weren't rung because they grew wings and flew to Rome to be blessed by the Pope. Then they returned on Easter day with chocolate and presents for local children.



For other Easter customs and traditions: www.whyeeaster.com/customs/

Dates for the Diary*

April 2025

Mon 28 Solemnity of St. George, Martyr, Patron of England
Tue 29 Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe

May 2025

Thu 1 Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker
Sat 3 Feast of Ss Philip and James, Apostles
Sat 10 Memorial of St. John of Avila, Priest, Doctor of the Church
Sun 11 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Mon 12 Memorial of St. Pancras
Tue 13 Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima
Wed 14 Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle
Mon 19 Memorial of St. Dunstan, Bishop
Thu 22 Memorial of St. Rita of Cascia

**For a complete list of dates, readings and colours please refer to the Archdiocese of Birmingham Ordo 2024-2025.
Further prayer resources can be found on <https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/>*

Pope's Prayer Intentions

April: For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

May: For working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanised.

Mission Together & Father Hudson's Caritas Resources

Mission Together

Our Lady and the Rosary resources: In the Catholic Church May is traditionally a month dedicated to Our Lady. Mission Together have lots of resources to help children deepen their relationship with Mary through prayers, assemblies, activity sheets, comprehension tasks, and rosary guides. There's also a *Queen of the May* Celebration of the Word and Procession plan. Download here <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/our-lady-and-the-rosary/>

Father Hudson's Caritas

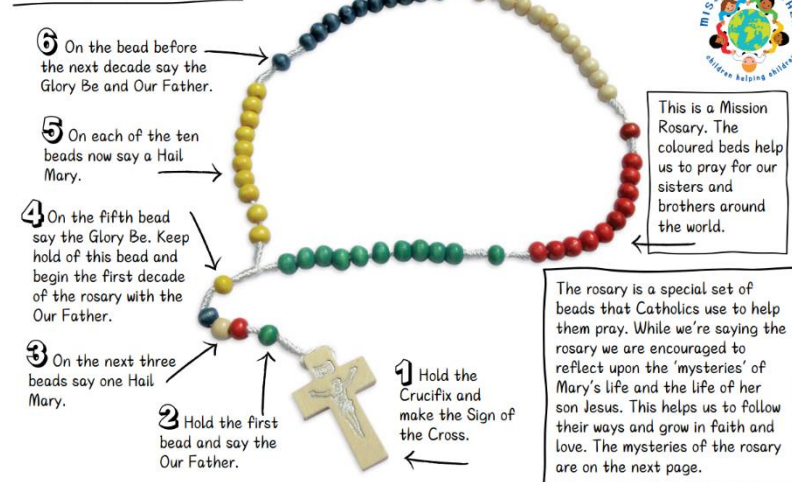
During this half term, FHC will be celebrating the Good Shepherd Masses. The dates are: 30th April- St Chad's Birmingham, 1st May- Our Lady of Lourdes Hednesford, 19th May- St Gregory's Stoke. For the jubilee year, there will also be some online workshops for staff to learn more about their work. For further information, contact EmilyPugh@fatherhudsons.org.uk.

Prayers for the Season: Easter

Regina Caeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia!
For he whom you were made worthy to bear. Alleluia!
Has risen as he said. Alleluia!
Pray for us to our God. Alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!
For the Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia!
Let us pray;
God, who through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
has made glad the whole world, grant us, we pray,
that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother,
we may attain the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

How to pray the Rosary



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