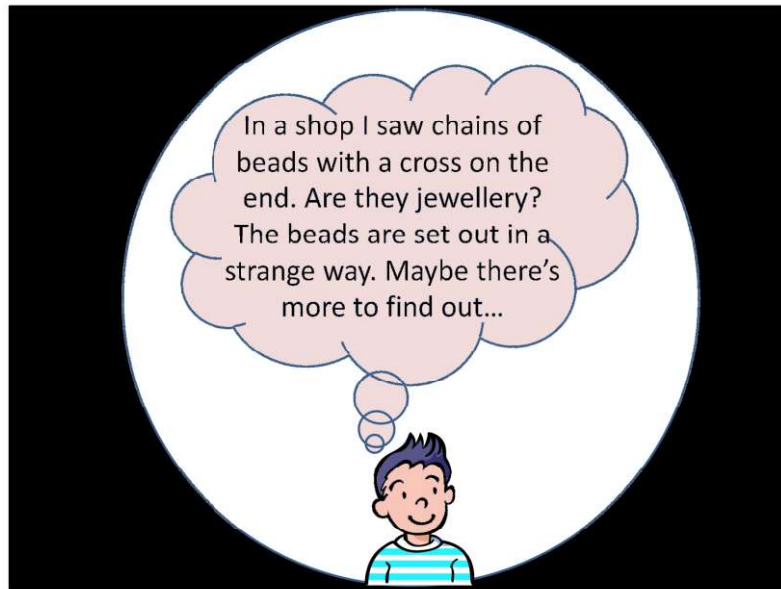




These are Rosary beads, shown in the next slide, which some Christians use to help them pray in a structured way.



This is a selection of Rosary beads found in the Shrine Shop at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk. Rosary beads can come in all colours and sizes and there are even small beaded rings to wear which are one decade (10 beads) of the Rosary. The crucifix – a cross with the figure of Jesus on – is suspended from the bottom of the Rosary beads and is the start and the end of the prayer sequence.

The Rosary is a set of 59 beads on a circular cord or chain.

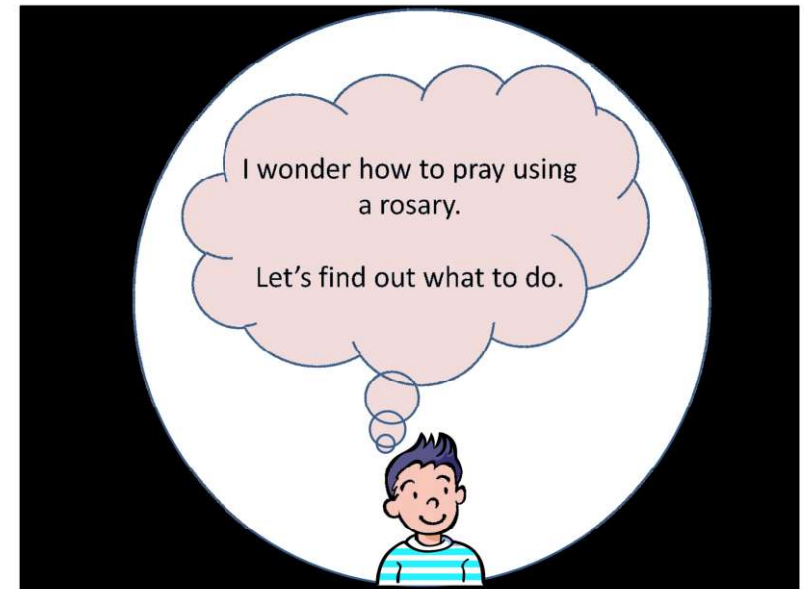
It is divided into 5 sets of 10 beads each (called decades).

A prayer is said for each of the beads.

The 5 large beads are for meditating on different mysteries.

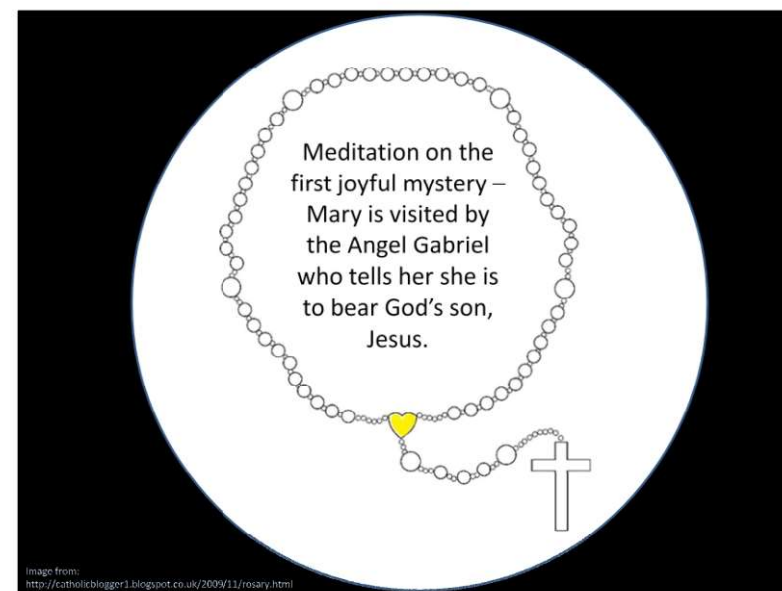
The remaining beads are for beginning and ending prayers and usually end with a crucifix.

Meditation is the act of thinking about or contemplating something deeply. With reference to prayer, it can be a way of praying by thinking about a Bible story or picture and considering how its meaning relates to oneself. Crucifix – a cross with a figure of Jesus on it.





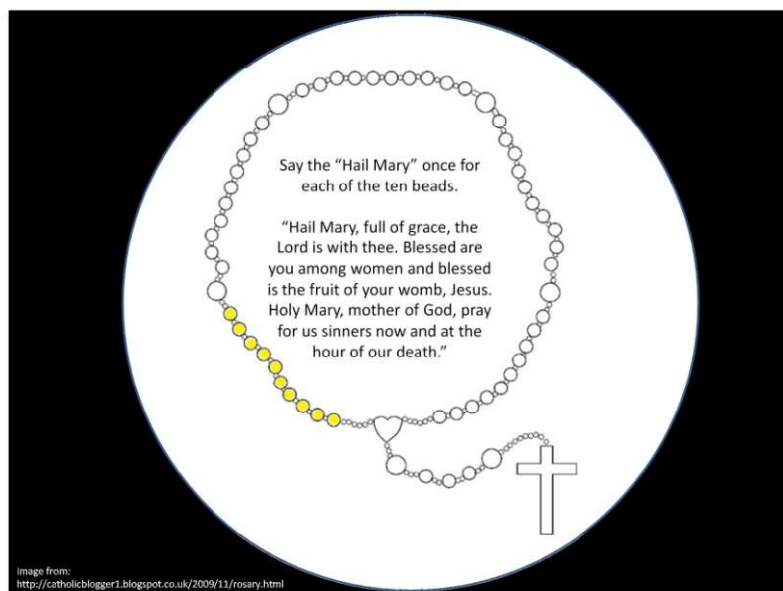
These could be prayer for friends and family or for local or world issues.



The Mysteries of the Rosary are meditations on episodes in the life and death of Jesus from the Annunciation to the Ascension and beyond, known as the Joyful (or Joyous) Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries, and the Glorious Mysteries. Each of these Mysteries contemplates five different stages of Christ's life.

Joyful Mysteries:

1. The Annunciation (Humility) Luke 1: 26-38; John 1:14
2. The Visitation (Charity/Love of Neighbour) Luke 1: 39-56
3. The Nativity (Poverty) Luke 2: 6-20; Matthew 1:18-25
4. The Presentation (Obedience) Luke 2: 22-39
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Joy in finding Jesus; prudence) Luke 2: 41-51



Hail Mary

The Hail Mary is not a prayer as such as it is not addressing God. Rather, it is a plea to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, for her to pray for us given her special relationship with Jesus.

Hail Mary, full of grace > (*Hail is another word for "hello"*)

The Lord is with thee

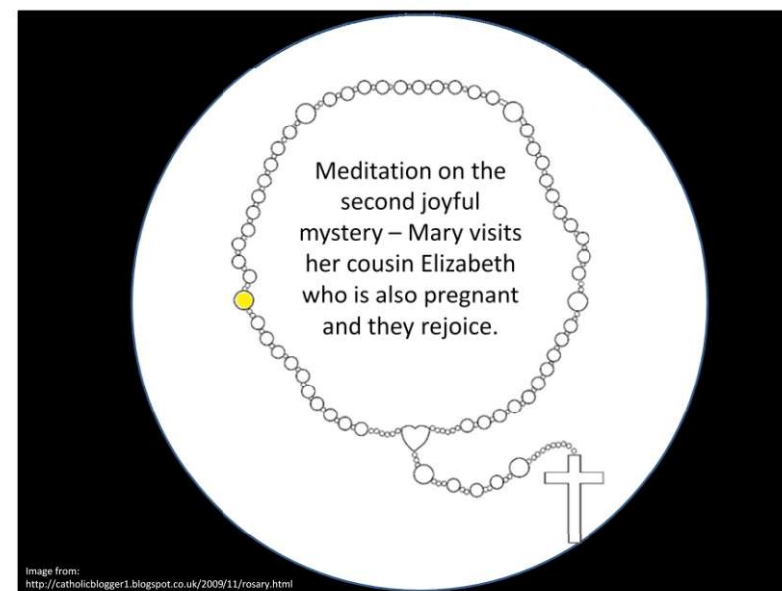
Blessed are you among women

And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. > (*The fruit of your womb = a baby*)

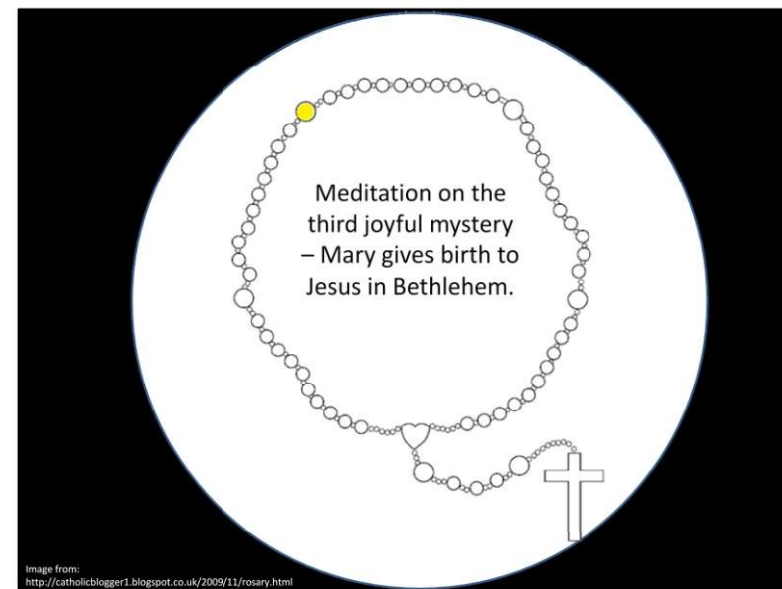
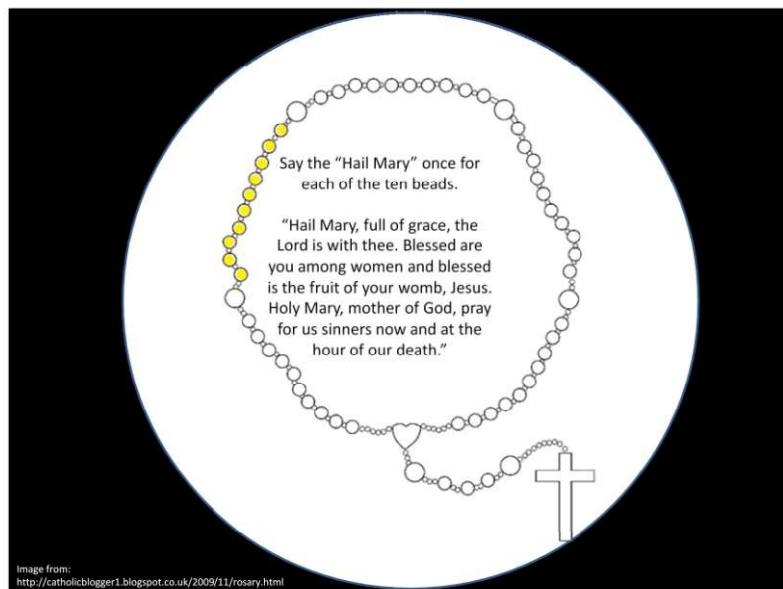
Holy May, mother of God

Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. > (*Asking for prayer, not being prayed to*).

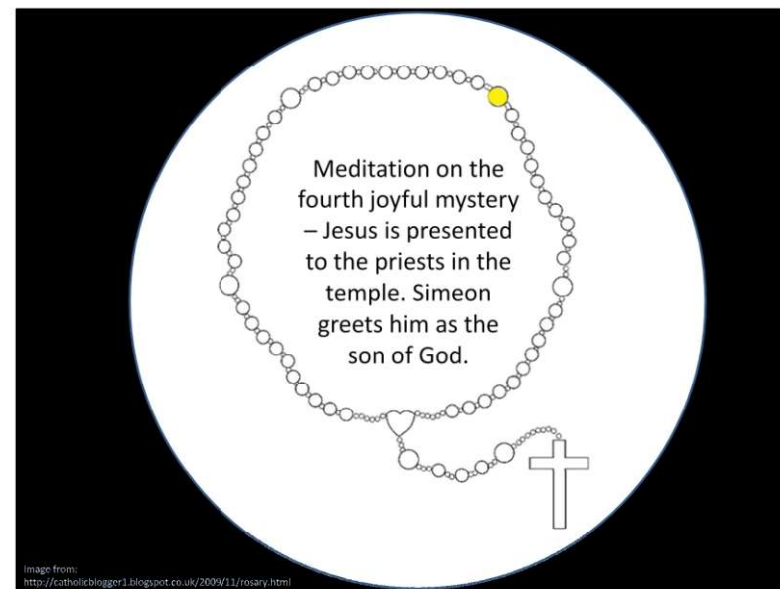
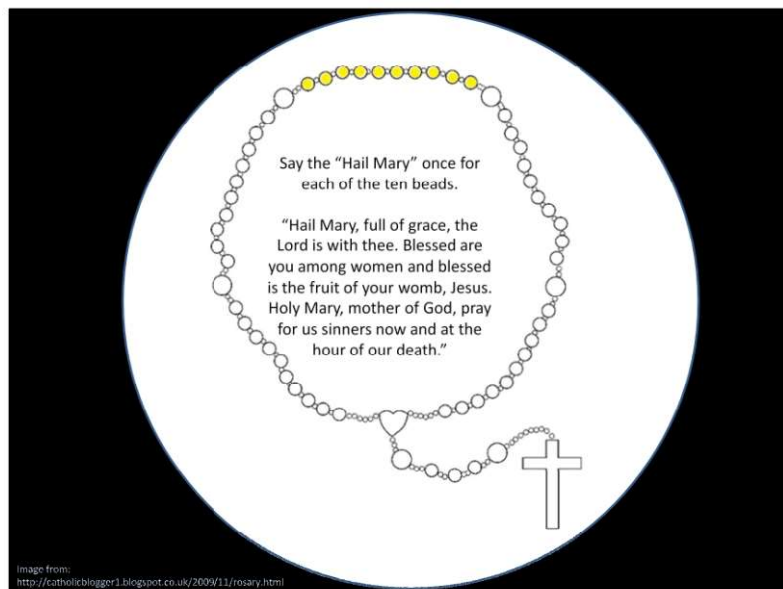
Amen.

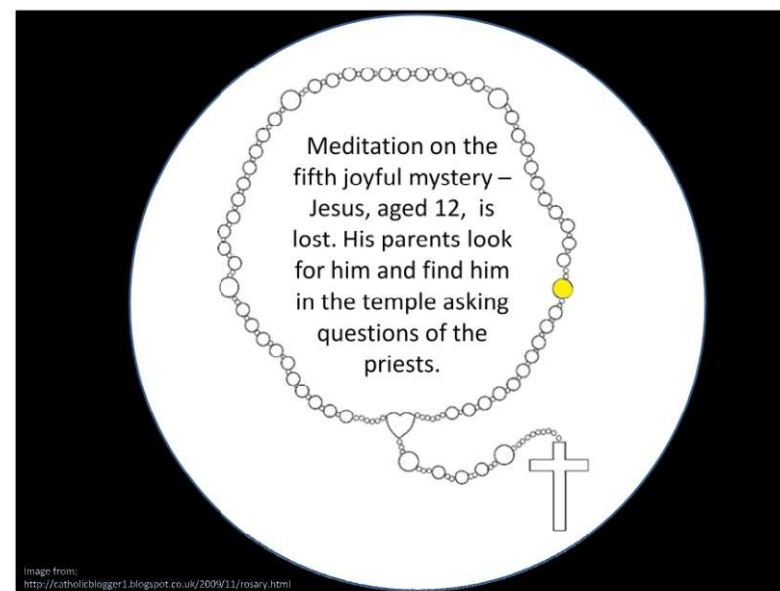
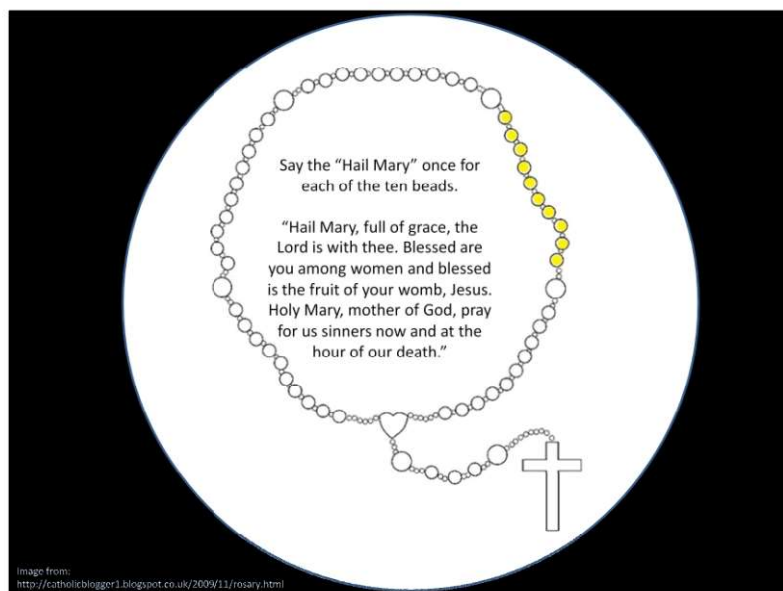


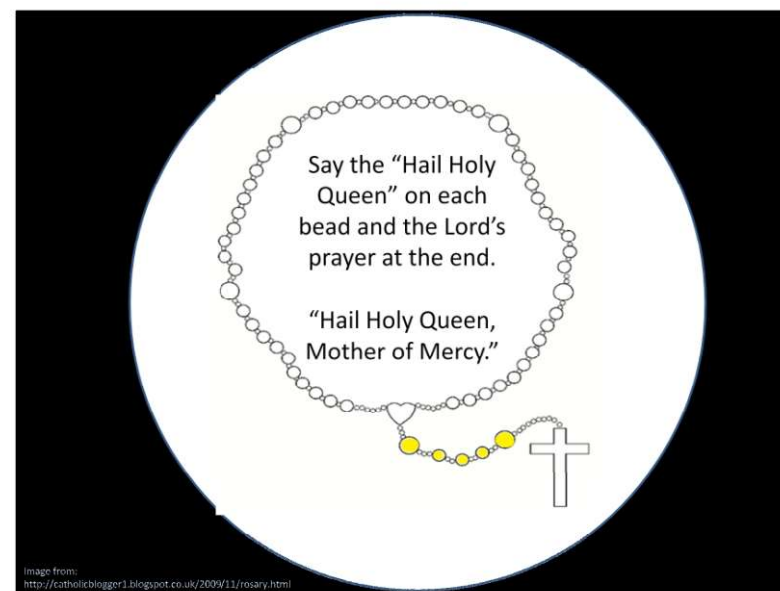
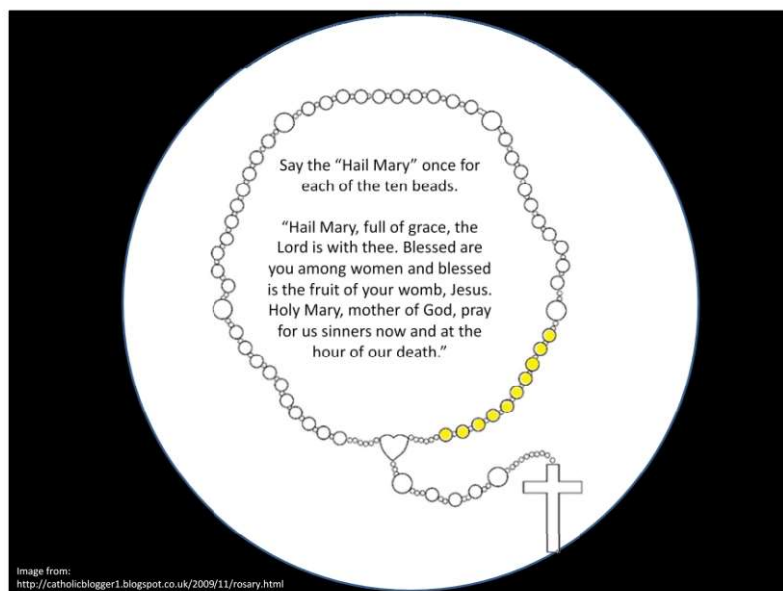
Elizabeth was believed to be barren (not able to bear children) so this was a miracle when she discovered she was indeed pregnant. (Luke Ch 1 vv39 – 56)



This is the story of Christmas.



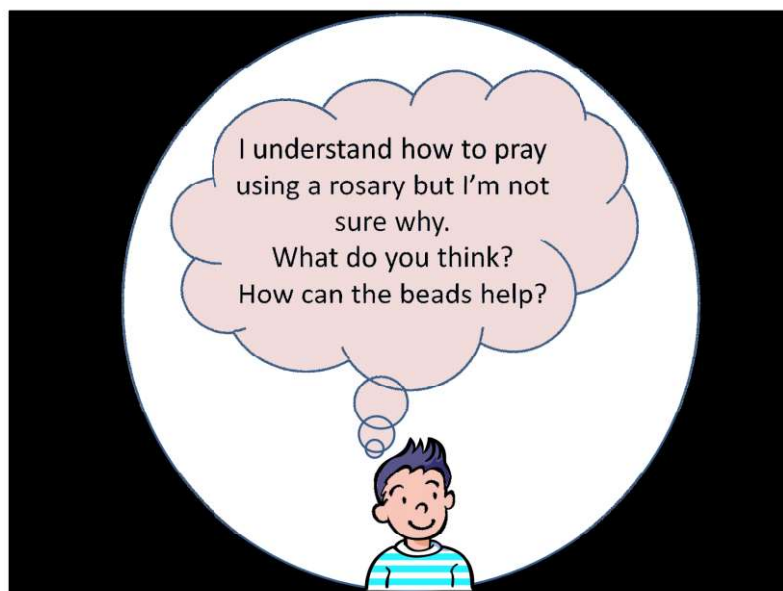




The Lord's prayer: This is the prayer Jesus gave to Christians to help them to pray to God.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses
 As we forgive those who trespass against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 But deliver us from evil
 For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
 For ever and ever
 Amen.

Trespasses = sins



The bead simply help keep count of the prayers. The rosary is a set prayer cycle but can be used in different ways. It is a prayer aid and meant to be supportive rather than restrictive. Ask the children what other things they think Christians might use to help them pray.

There are other mysteries which can be prayed about:

Luminous Mysteries:

1. The Baptism of Jesus (Fidelity to our baptismal promises) Matthew 3:11-17; Luke 3:15-22; John 1:22-34
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana (Faith in Mary's intercession and maternal care) John 2: 1-12
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom (Conversion of heart) Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 5:1-8; Matthew 6:33; Matthew 7:21
4. The Transfiguration (Become a new person in Christ) Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 17:1-8
5. The Institution of the Eucharist (Love of the Eucharist; active participation at Mass); Matthew 26:26-28; John 6: 33-59

*Note: The five Luminous Mysteries, or Mysteries of Light, were introduced in 2002 by Pope John Paul II in *Rosary of the Virgin Mary*.

Sorrowful Mysteries:

1. The Agony in the Garden (True sorrow for sin; repentance) Matthew 26: 36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22: 39-46
2. The Scourging at the Pillar (Modesty and purity; mortification or self-denial) Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; John 19:1
3. The Crowning of Thorns (Moral courage; love of our enemies) Matthew 27:29-30; Mark 15:16-20; John 1: 2-3
4. The Carrying of the Cross (Patience, especially when suffering; fortitude)

