**

*The rosary is one of the most recognisable symbols of prayer. They are wrapped around rear view mirrors in cars, or given to us as a gift, or purchased from a place that has special meaning to us. My wife, Poppy has one from Bethlehem. Traditionally, praying the rosary is done through a series of reflections on Christ’s life known as the ‘mysteries’. Rosaries, or prayer beads, can be a very useful aid to prayer. The beads provide our hands with something to do, as well as being a physical marker of our prayers. On a rosary, there is a cross, a series of 5 beads, and then a dividing bead. This is followed by 5 sets of 10 beads, known as a ‘decade’, each divided by a dividing bead.*

*They are very versatile, and portable. Quite often, I will take a rosary in my pocket and pray for each house I pass as I walk. In order to do this, I use my own method that works for me. However, the one prayed tonight is taken from Clay Roundtree, The Daily Prayer Rosary (2011).*

*We say the words in bold together, taking a leisurely pace.*

**At the Cross, we pray together:**

The Lord’s Prayer & The Apostles’ Creed

**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. And 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.**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, he descended to the dead, on the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

**We say the opening verse on the 1st bead.**

O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love, **according to your judgements give us life.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**On our triplet of beads, we say these responses:**

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith: fill us with your Spirit. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit. **Lord, have mercy.**

**On our 5th bead, we pray the collect:**

Blessed are you, God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory forever. As we behold your Son, enthroned on the cross, stir up in us the fire of your love, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and walk with you in newness of life, singing the praises of him who died for us and our salvation. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God forever.**

**On each dividing bead, we can announce a different prayer intention, or read a passage of scripture to focus our prayers. You can also substitute your own.**

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, **but it is Christ who lives in me (Gal. 2. 19b. 20a)**

**1st decade: Those preparing for baptism or confirmation.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.

**Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.**

So that you are justified in your sentence and righteous in your judgement.

**Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.**

Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

**Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked and sinners shall return to you.**

Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

(Psalm 51.1-5, 12-15)

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.**

**Dividing bead**

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: in returning and rest you shall be saved; **in quietness and trust shall you renew your strength. (Isaiah 30. 15)**

**2nd decade: those serving through leadership.**

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

**Let the wicked abandon their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts;**

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; o our God who will richly pardon.

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your way my ways, says the Lord.**

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

**As the rain and the snow come down from above, and return not again but water the earth,**

Bringing forth life and giving growth, seed for sowing and bread to eat,

**So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; it will not return to me fruitless,**

But it will accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the task I gave it.

(Isaiah 55. 6-11)

**Dividing Bead**

He was in the wilderness for forty days and Satan tempted him; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. (Mark 1. 13)

**3rd decade: those looking for forgiveness.**

Raise us up, O God, that we may live in your presence.

**Come, let us return to the Lord, who has torn us and will heal us.**

God has stricken us, and will bind up our wounds.

**After two days, he will revive us, and on the third day will raise us up, that we may live in his presence.**

Let us strive to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.

**He will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.**

O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you? How shall I deal with you, O Judah?

**Your love for me is like the morning mist, like the dew that goes early away.**

Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets, and my judgement goes forth as the light.

**For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.**

(Hosea 6. 1-6)

**Dividing Bead**

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, **and to stand before the Son of Man** (Luke 21: 36)

**4th decade: Those misled, betrayed, or hurt.**

Lord almighty and God of our ancestors, you who made heaven and earth in all their glory: All things tremble with awe at your presence, before your great and mighty power.

**Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy, for your are God, Most High.**

You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very merciful, and you relent at human suffering.

**O God, according to your great goodness, you have promised forgiveness for repentance to those who have sinned against you.**

The sins I have committed against you are more in number than the sands of the sea.

**I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven because of the multitude of my iniquities.**

And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, imploring your kindness upon me.

**I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, and I acknowledge my transgressions.**

Unworthy as I am, you will save me, according to your great mercy.

**For all the host of heaven sings your praise, and your glory is for ever and ever.**

(Manasseh, 1a, 2,4,6,7a, b, 9a, c, 11, 12, 14b, 15b)

**Dividing Bead**

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice. **Harden not your hearts.**

**5th decade: All who are hungry.**

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent, **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, wordliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws, **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind; from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil, **good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement, **good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy Incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation**, good Lord deliver us.**

By your ministry and work; by your mighty acts of power; and by the preaching of your Kingdom; **good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit, **good Lord, deliver us.**

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy word. **Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

Make our hearts clean, O God; **and renew a right spirit within us.**

(From the Litany)

**Dividing bead**

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children. Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear. Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous. Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us. In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

(Anselm, 1109 AD)

**5th bead**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Triplet of Beads**

The Lord God almighty is our Father: **he loves us and tenderly cares for us.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour: **he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.**

The Lord, the Holy Spirit, is among us: **he will lead us in God’s holy way. To God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be praise and glory forever. Amen.**

**First bead**

Jesus said, “There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance” (Luke 15.7)

**Cross**

May God bless us, that in us may be found love and humility, obedience and thanksgiving, discipline, gentleness and peace. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**