



Meditations on the decades of the Rosary by Eric Williams of the SVP Conference at St Mary's, Chorley

1. The Resurrection (Luke 24:1-5)

The Resurrection fills us with joy and hope, reminding us that Christ's victory over death is also our victory. Because He has risen, we know that our failings, fears, and injustice do not have the final word—life, peace, and grace do. With the Risen Lord walking beside us, we can face every challenge with courage and every day with hope, confident that His light will always shine brighter than any darkness. Likewise, the barriers of injustice and strife can also be overcome, but only through personal effort and co-operation with God's grace. Just as only our Lord could die for us on the Cross, so too, only we can do the tasks which God has appointed us to do. Others cannot do them for us.

- In what areas of your life do you need to let the light and hope of the Risen Christ replace fear, doubt, or discouragement?

Let us ask God to show us clearly what tasks He has set us to do.

2. The Ascension (Mark 16:19)

At the Ascension Jesus returns to the Father but leaves us to do his work on earth. Even though Jesus isn't physically present on earth as he was in his time of ministry, we still need to stay close to him.

- What helps you to feel closer to God in your daily life?

Let us pray for the grace to realise that with God all things are possible.

3. The descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4)

The Apostles were not left alone for long after our Lord's Ascension. Even so, during those ten days their courage deserted them. They were forlorn, and they withdrew from active life. With the reception of the Holy Spirit they were reborn, and they immediately took up the challenge of spreading the Gospel. From then on, the Church advanced rapidly. This shows how God works through His people who, in turn, cannot work without Him. The Lord desires a united world, where all barriers have been removed, and where justice and peace reign. He uses us as His instruments to bring about love and mercy to those around us.

- How do you share the Gospel with others?

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to be present in our lives and guide the Church to be an instrument of love and mercy.

4. The Assumption of Our Lady (Luke 1:48-49)

Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life. If we believe and live as Mary did, we will get to heaven. Mary reflected the love of God in her life and we must try to reflect this in ours. We can do this by showing respect and love for those around us.

- What is one way you can show love and respect for the dignity of others around you this week?

Let us pray to try to see God in others, even if that seems quite difficult at times, and let us try to unite the whole world as God so desires we should do.

5. The Coronation of Our Lady (Revelations 12:1)

Our Lady was given her rightful place in Heaven. It was hers firstly by virtue of the privileges and graces which were given to her by God, and how she responded with her 'yes' to His Will. Once again, God illustrates to us how He can provide the means, whilst we then have to provide the methods. We have to co-operate in order for His plan for the world to be implemented.

- How can you better cooperate with God's plan through your choices and actions each day?

Let us pray that we shall accept the Lord's invitation to take up the opportunities He gives to us, and work well to respond to it.

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