



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

1. Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan (Matthew 3:16-17)

Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan by His cousin, John the Baptist. It was a moment where Jesus' divinity was revealed, with the voice of the Father saying; "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." (Luke 3:22). His baptism took place before His active ministry began, as with our own baptism – it begins a new life of mission being sent out into the world as a child of God, spreading the Good News. bringing God's love to others' so that God's Kingdom may grow.

- How does knowing that you are God's beloved child shape the way you treat yourself and others?

Let us ask God to help us live as true disciples, spreading Your Good News and bringing Your love to others so that Your Kingdom may grow on earth

2. The wedding feast of Cana (John 2:1-5)

The Wedding at Cana took place at the start of Jesus' ministry. It was there He turned the water into wine. This is considered to be Jesus' first miracle. Mary His Mother was present; she had an important role to play in this moment when she says; "Do whatever he tells you." (John 2:5). Mary always directs us towards Jesus, He who is at the centre of our lives. Our lives should be centred around Him, and we must witness to Christ in our everyday, to those we encounter.

- How can we each day, be a witness of Christ to others?

Let us pray for the courage to witness to the love of Christ when encountering all people, whether that is in our work, when out and about, at the shops or with our friends and family.

3. The proclamation of the kingdom of God (Mark 1:15)

Jesus, at the start of His ministry, proclaims the Kingdom of God. In St Mark's Gospel, He says; "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15). The Kingdom of God is not some place elsewhere, but is here on earth, it is within us through the Holy Spirit. Our mission is to enable the Kingdom to grow here on earth, and to continue Jesus' ministry in proclaiming that it is here. We are able to do so in our everyday actions, in our conversations and in the decisions we make.

- In what ways can you proclaim the Kingdom, to tell others about it?

Let us ask God for the opportunities to proclaim the Kingdom and for the words and wisdom in these opportunities.

4. The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-2)

Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, James and John. It is a significant moment for these chosen disciples, to have a glimpse of Jesus' divinity. The voice of the Father is heard saying; "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5). This instruction from the Father to listen to Jesus is important. Jesus is the one who teaches us how to live as His disciples, how to live life to the full and to ultimately enter into eternal life.

- How often do you spend time listening to Jesus?

Let us ask the Lord to open our hearts to listen to His voice each day and follow Him closely.

5. The institution of the Eucharist (Matthew 26:26)

The Last Supper; Jesus gathers with His disciples in the upper room, to share the Passover meal with them. Here He teaches that the bread and wine are His Body and Blood. Every time we go to Mass we can receive the Body and Blood of Christ, which is the greatest gift we have been given. We are nourished by the Eucharist and this gives us strength to serve others and bring Christ to the world.

- How does receiving the Eucharist challenge you to be Christ's presence in the world, especially to those who are hungry, excluded, or in need of support?

Let us to pray to be strengthened by the Eucharist, so we may be able to minister to those in need, in a Christ-like way.

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