

Extraordinary Year for Mission

The Holy Father has designated the month of October 2019 as the Extraordinary Month for Mission in conjunction with the occasion of the centenary of the promulgation of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter, *Maximum Illud, On the Propagation of the Faith Throughout the World*, with the aim of fostering an increased awareness of the *missio ad gentes* (Mt. 28:19-20) and taking up again with renewed fervour the missionary transformation of the Church's life and pastoral activity.

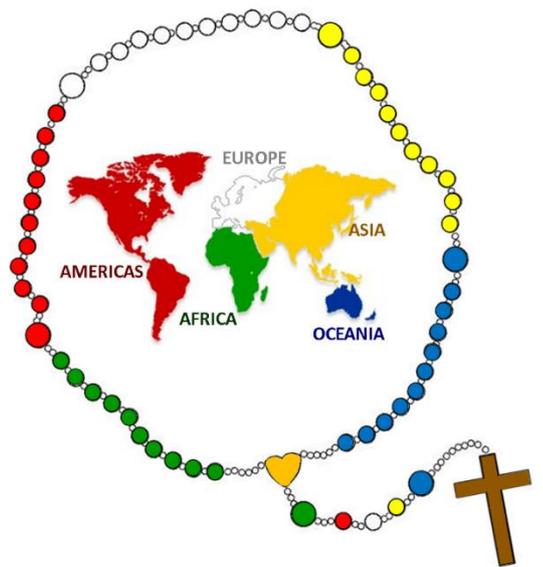
However, the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei has decided to extend the event for a year beginning from the Feast of Epiphany, 6th January 2019 until 20th October 2019. The theme for this Extraordinary Year for Mission is, *Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World*.

Extraordinary Year for Mission Logo

The MMS logo, the Mission Cross with colours for all five continents, is a bright and colourful sign of Christ's victory resurrection. The earth is transparent because the work of evangelisation knows no barriers or borders: it is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. The words Baptised and Sent which accompany the image indicate two elements characteristic of every Christian: baptism and sharing the good news.

Mission Rosary

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen inaugurated the World Mission Rosary in February 1951 to encourage Catholics not only to pray for themselves but also for the whole world. Each of the five decades is of a different colour to represent each of the five continents. Each decade of the Mission Rosary calls to mind an area where the Church continues her evangelizing mission:



GREEN: for the forests and grasslands of AFRICA.

RED: calling to mind the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the AMERICAS.

WHITE: representing EUROPE, the seat of the Holy Father, shepherd of the world.

YELLOW: the morning light of the East, for Asia.

BLUE: for the ocean surrounding the islands of the OCEANIA.

Thus, the Mission Rosary is a simple way to pray for the mission lands and the missionaries. With the Mission Rosary, we pray with the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the needs of the Church and of the whole world, embracing the whole world with our prayers, transcending all borders, people and cultures, as we are sent on a mission by the virtue of our Baptism. Will you please make a tour of the world on your Mission Rosary?

Praying the Mission Rosary

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

(Monday and Saturday)

1. The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you. You are to conceive and bear a son. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and so the Child will be holy and will be called the Son of God." Mary replied, "I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said." (cf. Luke 1:26-38)

Reflection: O Mary, God called you to be the Mother of Jesus and you, in total availability, welcomed His call and answered "YES".

Intention: Lord, we pray for the peoples of Africa. Help them to hear God's call to follow you through your Church, so that the progress and development of this continent may foster justice, brotherhood and peace.

2. The Visitation of the Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah to help her cousin Elizabeth. Now, as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greetings, she gave a loud cry and said, "You are most blessed among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (cf. Luke 1:39-42)

Reflection: O Mary, you generously helped your cousin in her time of need. Help us to be grateful for times God has "visited" us through the help of other people.

Intention: Lord, we pray for the continent of the Americas, still profoundly marked by social, economic and religious differences between the North and the South. Help those diverse people base their relationships on a true spirit of solidarity, especially with the most needy.

3. The Birth of our Lord

Joseph travelled from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. (cf. Luke 2:1-7)

Reflection: O Mary, you became the Mother of Jesus. We, too, desire to welcome Him so others may see that God is with us.

Intention: Lord, we pray for the European continent, the origin of many missionaries who have gone to proclaim the message of Christ Jesus throughout the world. May the Church in Europe experience a renewed enthusiasm in its life and missionary thrust.

4. The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple

Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. When they brought in the Child Jesus to do for Him what the Law required, Simeon took Him into his arms and blessed God, saying, "Now my eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of Your people, Israel." (cf. Luke 2:22 – 32)

Reflection: O Mary, you offered the child Jesus back to God to be the light and salvation of all nations.

Intention: Lord, we pray for the continent of Asia, so rich in ancient traditions and religions. Help the missionaries working there to proclaim the Gospel of Christ through dialogue and respect.

5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to Jerusalem for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without His parents knowing it. Three days later, they found Him in the Temple, sitting among doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard Him were astounded at His intelligence and His answers. (cf. Luke 2:41-47)

Reflection: O Mary, you and Joseph searched for Jesus three days. Today, countless millions are still searching for Him, anxious to know Him and to experience His love and salvation.

Intention: Lord, we pray for the continent of Oceania and for its people inhabiting so many islands. Bless the efforts of missionaries to make You known there, and strengthen them so that they may overcome the difficulties they encounter.

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

(Tuesday & Friday)

1. The Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane

When the Passover meal was over, Jesus left to make His way as usual to the Mount of Olives with His disciples. Then He went a little further, knelt down and prayed. "Father," he said, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me. Nevertheless, let Your will be done, not Mine. Then, the angel appeared to Him, coming from Heaven to give Him strength. (cf. Luke 22:39-42)

Reflection: O Mary, in this mystery, we contemplate your beloved Son's agony in the garden, abandoned by all His disciples and friends.

Intention: Lord, we pray for all the missionaries in Africa who feel alone, are discouraged or are suffering persecution because of the Gospel they proclaim. Help them to experience the consoling presence of God the Father, and to be always faithful to their missionary vocation.

2. The Scourging at the pillar

Pilate said to the chief priests and the elders, "what shall I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?" They all said, "crucify him!" Pilate ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed Him over to be crucified. (cf. Matthew 27:21-26)

Reflection: O Mary, in this mystery, we remember how, for our sins, your merciful Son was merciless mocked and whipped by the soldiers.

Intention: Lord, we pray that the work of evangelization in the Americas may help Christians to be more committed to solving the great problems afflicting their societies: consumerism, pleasure-seeking, drug addiction and desperation of youth.

3. The Crowning with thorns

The soldiers stripped Jesus and made Him wear a purple cloak; then twisting a crown of thorns, they forced it onto His head and placed a reed in His right hand. To make fun of Him, they knelt before Him saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they spat on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head with it." (cf. Matthew 27:27-30)

Reflection: O Mary, the soldiers crowned your Son with thorns. Remember the people who ridicule, persecute and oppress those who love and serve Christ in the poor.

Intention: Lord, we pray for elderly missionaries, who have been forced to return to Europe due to ill health after many years of work in the mission lands. Assist them with your presence, comfort them in their needs, and help them to offer their suffering for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

4. The Carrying of the Cross

Pilate handed Jesus over to the Jews to be crucified. They then took charge of Him, and carrying His own cross, he went out of the city to the place of the Skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha. As they were leading Him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the fields, and laid the cross on him, to carry it behind Jesus. (cf. John 19:17)

Reflection: O Mary, Simon of Cyrene helped your only Son to carry the cross. Today, Jesus helps us to carry our own daily crosses, empowering us to relieve the burdens of others.

Intention: Lord, we pray for all those who have given their lives for others, especially the missionaries who suffered torture, imprisonment and martyrdom in the continent of Asia, witnessing the faith. May their blood be the seedbed of new Christian communities.

5. The Crucifixion and Death of our Lord

When they reach the place they call The Skull, they crucified Jesus there. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." When the sixth hour came, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend My Spirit." With these words, Jesus breathed His last." (cf. Luke 23:33-45)

Reflection: O Mary, in this mystery, we contemplate you standing at the foot of the cross, given to all beloved disciples as our mother.

Intention: Lord, we pray for all those who suffer from poverty and isolation in the remote islands of the Pacific Ocean. Through our prayers and the works of evangelization, may they come to experience the fraternal communion that unites all members of God's family.

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

(Wednesday & Sunday)

1. The Resurrection of our Lord

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women went to the tomb. They found that the stone has been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering they could not find the body of Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled about this, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side and said to them, "Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here, He has risen." (cf. Luke 24:1-6)

Reflection: O Mary, in this mystery, we contemplate the resurrection of Christ and His victory over death, sin, selfishness, our "idols" and whatever that keeps us from the Resurrected Christ.

Intention: Lord, we pray that the Spirit of the Risen Lord may enlighten the two major religions in Africa – Christianity and Islam – to overcome conflicts, and seek ways of increasing mutual understanding through their common love for the one true God.

2. The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven

Jesus said to the apostles, "You will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem, but throughout Judea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end." (cf. Acts 1:8-9)

Reflection: O Mary, you returned with the disciples to Jerusalem, believing that Jesus would be with us always to the end of time.

Intention: Lord, we pray for the Church of the Americas, that taking her place in the forefront of the Church's missionary activity, the Gospel of Life may defeat the "culture of death" now pervading so many aspects of the global society.

3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the Apostles

When the day of Pentecost came, the disciples and Mary were all together in one place. Then, suddenly there came from Heaven a sound of a violent wind which filled the entire house where they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues of fire. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages. (cf. Acts 2:1-4)

Reflection: O Mary, in this mystery, we contemplate the beginning of the Church, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit who enabled them to proclaim the Good News to all peoples.

Intention: Lord, we pray that the Holy Spirit, who is the soul and the principal agent of mission, may inspire parents in Europe to foster a truly Christian family life, open to missionary vocations for their children.

4. The Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven

God, being rich in faithful love, through the great love with which He loved us, brought us to life with Christ and raised us up with Him and gave us a place with Him in Heaven in Christ Jesus, for the good works which God has already designated to make up our way of life. (cf. Ephesians 2:4-6, 10)

Reflection: O Mary, you listened to God's Word, pondered it in your heart and put it into practice. By the merits of Christ, you experienced the first fruits of the Resurrection.

Intention: Lord, we pray for all the nations of Asia, and the many people who do not yet know You, that through the power of Your redeeming Cross and Resurrection, all may know the ultimate joy of Your salvation.

5. The Queenship of the Virgin Mary

A great sign appeared in Heaven: a woman, clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars in her head. (cf. Revelation 12:1)

Reflection: O Mary, your faithfulness to God's call was confirmed in heaven, and now you show your loving care for all your children by constantly interceding for us.

Intention: Lord, we pray that the works of evangelization in the continent of Oceania may create the civilization of love, where indigenous groups can maintain their cultural identity, and so face the challenge of globalization.

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

(Thursday)

1. The Baptism of the Lord

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be done so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as He came up from the water, suddenly the Heavens were open and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and alighted on Him. Then a voice from Heaven said, "This is My Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:13-17)

Reflection: O Mary, in this mystery, we remember how your Son made Himself one with us sinners, so that we might have new life in Him.

Intention: Lord, we pray for all catechumens throughout the world, preparing to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. Help them to open their hearts to the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that they too may proclaim Your Good News.

2. The Wedding Feast at Cana

On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and His disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no more wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." (cf. John 2:1-5)

Reflection: O Mary, in this mystery we remember how your Son gave new joy to those around Him, at your intercession.

Intention: Lord, we pray for all those in Americas who face the sadness of poverty, and we ask that the Church may respond to their plight with decision and generosity.

3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Now, after John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the Good News of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the Good News." (cf. Mark 1:14-15)

Reflection: O Mary, in this mystery, we contemplate how your Son brought the Good News to every human being, and especially to the poor. Pray for us all, so that we may live our faith with pride and loyalty.

Intention: Lord, we pray for the Church throughout Europe, that it may be sustained in her commitment to preach the Gospel afresh, and that many may respond with all their hearts and mind.

4. The Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor

Six days later, Jesus took with Him, Peter, and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And Jesus was transfigured before them, and His clothes became dazzling white. And there appeared to them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus." (cf. Mark 9:2-7)

Reflection: O Mary, in this mystery, we contemplate the glory of your Son. Pray for us that we too may see His beauty, and we may be signs of His presence among our brothers and sisters.

Intention: Lord, we pray for all those who proclaim the glory of Your name in all the world: sustain them when they have to carry their crosses, and let them experience the power of Your resurrection. In a special way, we ask you to be with the Christians who have to live their faith in loneliness and isolation.

5. The Institution of the Eucharist

When the hour came, Jesus took His place at the table, and the apostles with Him. Then He took bread, and when He gave thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." And He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My Blood." (cf. Luke 22:14-20)

Reflection: O Mary, in this mystery, we wonder at your Son's generosity in giving us His body and blood at Mass: help us always to cherish and celebrate with reverence this gift.

Intention: Lord, we pray for all those throughout the world who are not able, or not permitted, to celebrate the Eucharist. Sustain them with Your strength and grant them the gift of freedom to practice their faith. Give us an ever greater love for Your presence in the Eucharist, and ever deeper desire to live this mystery in our daily lives.

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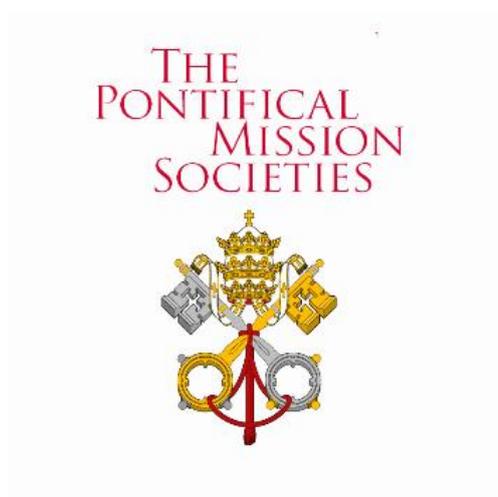
Holy Mary, Model and Star of Evangelization,	pray for us.
St. Paul the Apostle,	pray for us.
St. Francis of Assisi,	pray for us.
St. Francis Xavier,	pray for us.
St. Therese of Lisieux,	pray for us.
St. Teresa of Kolkata,	pray for us.
College General Martyrs,	pray for us.
All holy men and women, saints of God,	pray for us.

Let us pray,

Heavenly Father,
when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead,
he commissioned his followers to “go and make disciples of all
nations” and you remind us that through our Baptism
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel,
so that the mission entrusted to the Church,
which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious
expressions that bring life and light to the world.

Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving
love and mercy of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. Amen



Pontifical Mission Society of Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei