

## **National Day of Prayer for Deliverance from the Coronavirus Noon Rosary**

Good Moring and welcome to our Livestream Rosary today on our National Day of Prayer to God for Deliverance from the Coronavirus.

We are joining our fellow Christians in Scotland and around the world, as well as all people of good will

We gather together online from our homes and around our home altars to pray:  
for an end to the public health threat of this global pandemic;  
for our loved ones be safe, especially our vulnerable;  
for our families' livelihoods to be protected;  
for our carers to be strengthened and kept safe;  
for our civic and religious leaders to be wise in their guidance of us;  
for those with care of our financial markets to act on behalf of the common good;  
for our medical scientists to quickly find a vaccine;  
for our nations to return to the LORD God with faith, love and hope;  
and so, for our world to return to security and peace.

Today is Mothers' Day and we wish special blessings on our mums across the land and the world. May the Lord bless and keep them in His love and in the gratitude of their families.

Our Scottish Bishops ask Catholics today to turn to Our Lady, Mother of God and of the Church and recite the Holy Rosary for Her intercession to be set free from the present threat

I am also asking you to turn to Saint Joseph, the Patron and Protector of the Universal Church. He was the one chosen by God to save Jesus and Mary from the threat of King Herod, and to protect them while in isolation in Egypt. May he pray for our safety from this current menace and cause us to grow strong in this time of national retreat.

We thank God for His providence that has assured our world of social media ahead of this emergency so that our Church can still accompany our people, our priests going out to be with them as good shepherds along the paths of the internet, keeping them safe from harm and assuring them of spiritual nourishment

In this Rosary let us pray for each other

## **The Five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary In the Footsteps of Saint Joseph**

### **The Annunciation**

Our meditation on this mystery usually reflects on the Angel Gabriel's visit to Our Lady. But we also remember the Angel announced the good news to Joseph too. The Angel told him not to be afraid. What was disrupting his family's plans was all in God's hands. At the end of Joseph's anguish God would send His Son Jesus to save the world.

In this decade we pray for our loved ones to be spared and kept safe from this virus and for our families' livelihoods to be made secure.

### **The Visitation**

Joseph was so humble and quiet in his affairs that his presence is not mentioned when Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth but he would have been sure to have accompanied his wife Mary on the hazardous journey from Nazareth to near Jerusalem. Probably the idea came from Mary and Joseph together to visit Elizabeth, to bless her with Jesus' presence in her need and to help her. Just as they came to the aid of the elderly and vulnerable Elizabeth in her need, they will come to us in our need and give us the confidence that the Lord is with us till our troubles pass.

In this decade we pray for those infected with the virus to recover, especially the elderly and those with underlying causes, and for all those caring for us in our front line and essential services to be blessed.

### **The Nativity**

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem they found the town struggling to cope with the emergency of the census of the Emperor Augustus which was overwhelming the town's services and hospitality business. Trusting in the Lord and the little acts of kindness of the local people Joseph found a stable for Mary to give birth to Jesus. In this time of convulsion for our cities and services, Joseph is praying for us as local citizens to be kind and accommodating of each other so we all get through together.

In this mystery we pray for our civic and religious leaders to be strong and to guide us wisely, and for our fellow citizens to act in the common good of all.

### **The Presentation in the Temple**

Arriving in the Temple Joseph and Mary offer two pigeons for the redemption of their son. It is the offering of those whose means are limited by their circumstances. No doubt the unexpected public measures in place in Bethlehem and the surprise of Mary

giving birth there had left them unprepared to make any other kind of offering. Still, it was the most pleasing the Lord God had ever received and, in return, He gave them the gift of His Only Begotten Son. When we have been caught out by surprise by the circumstances and cannot give what we would like, to God or to each other, Joseph reminds us all that matters is that we give humbly, gladly and with our whole heart, and it will be more than enough.

We pray for our medical scientists to find a vaccine soon that will allow us to be free from this threat once and for all.

### **The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple**

When Joseph and Mary lost the boy Jesus for three days their lives were turned upside down. No-one could ever know the worry and upset they felt. It was a crisis, an emergency, full of anguish, fear and sadness. Yet they kept going, kept searching for Him and never lost hope of finding Him until their glad reunion in the Temple. Joseph reminds us not to give up in this time of trial; not to give up hope that this time will pass, not to give up hope in God or in our faith, not to give up hope in each other.

We pray that Christians will turn to God in this time of emergency so that it becomes a season of renewal of our faith and devotion and leads the world to come home, once and for all, to our Heavenly Father. We commend all those who die of the coronavirus into the merciful arms of God.