



Podcast: The Rosary, the Prayer that brings the world together, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Mgr Daniel McHugh

*Journey of Faith - Life from Holy Mass - with Monsignor Daniel McHugh*

Hello, I am Monsignor Daniel McHugh.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May I joined in the Rosary being prayed in St Peter's Basilica in the presence of Pope Francis to launch the Rosary Marathon for an end to the Pandemic, and the return to work and social life. It was beautifully done with families involved, and readings before the Mysteries. Around the same time the Rosary was being said at our National Shrine in Walsingham. On Sunday, the Rosary came from the National Pilgrimage Centre of Edele in Nigeria: the special intention there was "for all those who were unable to say goodbye to loved ones." The overall intention for the Rosary across the world unites us all, but so does the special intention at each Shrine. The Holy Father's leadership in Prayer during this Pandemic has been wonderful and now he has engaged National Shrines across the world. I sent a copy of the report on the Prayer at the Nigerian Shrine to our Spiritan Nigerian Priests Father Stan and Father Damian who look after the Nigerian and West Indian Chaplaincies (in case they had missed it).

Yesterday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the Rosary was Prayed from Poland, the National Shrine of Our Lady Czestochowa. I recalled visiting there way back in the days when I was an Assistant Priest at Holy Souls Parish, Acocks Green. I went with a young Parish Priest, who had stayed with us in the Parish for Pastoral experience. It was in the days before Poland was free from the Communist Dictatorship, imposed by the Soviet Union. It was an inspirational place; so much devotion to Our Lady, and so many people attending.

The Rosary "Marathon" in May will link us via the Internet with very many places where devotion to Our Lady, and the Rosary in particular is being prayed. I am looking forward to Knock in Ireland where I first experienced praying the Rosary with so many people; and Our Lady of Lebanon, which is in my thoughts and prayers in these days when the Archdiocese of Birmingham helped by FACE, the acronym for Fellowship and Aid to Christians of the East, in establishing a link between schools here and the Immaculate Conception School in Beirut, which is in the midst of COVID and experiencing great poverty due to breakdown in the political system, and a huge crisis with refugees from Syria.

The Rosary is a really special prayer: I first learned it at home where we often said it together as a family. Then, when we went to Ireland on holiday, we would say it together with our grandparents: there were bouts of giggling from us children inspired by the way / "the lilt maybe" in their accents! Then we went to Knock the National Shrine, with them, and there we saw people in Procession praying the Rosary. When I am the spiritual leader for a Pilgrimage these days the Rosary is a prayer everyone wants to say: we normally have a short scripture reading before the Mystery we are

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meditating on. I find that it gives a nice focus, and the beads with Our Fathers and Hail Marys are the background music for the meditation, if you like.

If you are not praying the Rosary, May, the month of Mary, is a good time to start. Certainly we have an important intention for our prayer with Our Blessed Lady, one that unites the whole world, the Pandemic. And, as people of Faith, we know our own fragility at this time, and our need of Grace to come through stronger.

The reading is taken from St Luke's Gospel Chapter 9 the account of the Transfiguration for the Fourth Mystery of Light: (Luke 9:28-36)

Now the Prayer, the Decade of the Rosary as we reflect upon the Mystery of the Transfiguration: may we come through this time of the Cross - as Jesus did - to glory. Our Father... Hail Mary...

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