

## 7th October: Our Lady of the Rosary: The Rosary.

Many of the appearances of Mary, especially at Lourdes and Fatima, have been associated with the praying of the Rosary. Numerous popes and saints have urged the faithful to pray the Rosary. Opening the Marian Year in 1987, the Rosary was a global prayer for peace offered by large groups at Marian shrines such as those in Washington DC, Lourdes, Frankfurt, Manila, Bombay, Rio de Janeiro and Dakar. The popularity of the Rosary has been attributed to St. Dominic and the Dominican Order. It grew out of the laity's desire to have 150 prayers to match the 150 psalms chanted by the monks in monasteries. In 1569, St Pius V officially recommended the praying 'of 150 angelic salutations... with the Lord's prayer at each decade... while meditating on the mysteries which recall the entire life of the Lord Jesus Christ'. The Rosary is a scripture-based prayer. It began with the Apostles' Creed, which is itself a summary of the great mysteries of Catholic faith, based on scripture, from creation through redemption and up to the Resurrection of the body and everlasting life. The Our Father, which introduces each mystery, is taken from the Gospels. The first part of the Hail Mary is composed from verses from the Gospel of Luke (1:29 and 1:42), the angel's announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. Saint Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary.

*(Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults, pages 334-336)*

**In 2002, Pope John Paul II added five new Mysteries of Light to the Rosary: The Baptism of Jesus; The Wedding at Cana; The Proclamation/Announcing of the Gospel; The Transfiguration of Jesus; The Giving of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.**

**'The Rosary** is the prayer which always accompanies my life; it is also the prayer of simple people and the saints; it is the prayer of my heart"  
*Pope Francis.*

**Rosary beads and leaflets are available, free of charge, at Our Lady's Shrine, St. Mary's Parish Church.**

### **The Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.**

This novena continues each Monday at 7.30pm until Monday, 19th October 2026. No 9.30am Mass on Mondays during the novena.

**Parishes of  
St. Mary's, Dungarvan, An Rinn & Sean  
Phobal , Kilgobinet, Colligan & Kilbrien.  
October 2026**



## **Fifteen Students begin Studies for Priesthood for Irish Dioceses.**

Fifteen new students have begun their training for the priesthood for the academic year 2026 – 2027. In total, there are now 74 seminarians in formation training to minister for Irish dioceses, and these are:

15 entering their Propaedeutic Year (a year before they go to seminary) in various seminaries;

51 are studying in the national seminary of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, and at the Redemptoris Mater (Mother of the Redeemer) Seminary in Dundalk.

8 are based in seminaries on the continent.

Welcoming the new seminarian figures, Bishop Phonsie Cullinan of Waterford and Lismore, who serves as chair of the Council for Vocations of the Bishops' Conference, said, "The number of those in training for Diocesan priesthood continues to rise. While the increase is modest, it is very encouraging. I believe that young men, and not so young, are discovering the personal love of Jesus Christ for them. They are not satisfied with the emptiness and shallowness of much in the culture around them. In various ways through the Church they are hearing the call to priesthood. Let us encourage them and continue to beg the Lord for all the graces they will need to fan into a flame the spark which has been placed in their hearts and minds."

*(Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, 16/9/2025.)*

### **Joy of Faith Youth Group.**

For 12 - 17-year-olds. Explore the treasures of our Catholic Faith, with faith, fun, friendship, games and outings. 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month. St. Mary's Pastoral Room, Mitchell St. Dungarvan. X25 DE 98. See noticeboards for details.

### **Misson Sunday Collection, 17/18 October 2026.**

The Mission Sunday Collection will be taken up as a second collection at all Masses on the weekend of 17/18 October 2026. Please use the white envelope in your box of envelopes or put your donation in an envelope marked Mission Sunday Collection with your name on it. Thank you.

## The 21st Century, a New Age of Martyrs?

### Vatican Commission for New Martyrs and Witnesses of the Faith.

A new Vatican commission meeting in Rome on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, has recorded the deaths of over 1700 martyrs in the 21st century, including Christians from other denominations, with between 100 and 150 new names added this year. The commission continues to collect notifications and information about Christians who died because of the Gospel in all parts of the world. The commission recognizes the “common martyrology” among the baptized and those from different Christian denominations. To the question of whether we are facing a new time of martyrdom, we must answer yes. The time of martyrdom continues. Islamic State terrorists having recently claimed the death of 130 Christians in August. The Vatican said that it has documented 304 martyrs in South America so far this century. Many were killed for reasons related to drug trafficking, deforestation, or for opposing the exploitation of natural resources. The number included missionaries and lay faithful, and that the common denominator in their cases was that they became “inconvenient” to those who control the illicit activities.

### Walter Macken (1915 – 1967) Novelist – The Mass and the Rosary.

The Irish novelist Walter Macken (1915 – 1967) wrote many books. Among them three historical novels about Ireland from the time of Cromwell in Ireland from 1649 to the 1916 Easter Rising and what followed. They are *Seek the Fair Land* (1959); *The Silent People* (1962) and *The Scorching Wind* (1964). Macken said that he ‘wanted to write the history of his people from the point of view of the ordinary person (man).’ In his book ‘*Seek the Fair Land*’ which focuses on the time of Cromwell, he tells of the persecution of priests and people. The priest, Fr. Sebastian, having celebrated Mass at a Mass rock said to the people: **‘Many of you here now, under the sky have never seen Mass celebrated in a church. It is only God who knows when any of you at all will be able to attend Mass when it is celebrated in a church. But the important thing is not the church, but the Mass and what it means.’** (p. 249)

**.....They will kill your priests....When they kill the priests they will be depriving you of many of the sacraments. You mustn’t ever despair. You will hold the rosary beads in your fingers when all else is gone, and you will be holding on to the hand of Our Lady; each of the five decades is a finger of the Blessed Virgin, whether the beads be made of gold or silver or horn or hardened bread. They can kill everything but the flame in your heart. That is something they must never put out, and they never will, if you keep holding her hand.’** (p. 250).

### Saint Carlo Acutis and His Devotion to Our Lady.

Carlo Acutis was 15 years old when he died of leukaemia on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006. His mother Antonia says Carlo had a close relationship to Mary since he was little. He spoke about her frequently. He always prayed to her and invited his father and herself to do so with him. From a very young age, Carlo prayed the rosary every day. **He described the rosary as the shortest ladder to heaven.** His mother says that he ‘recited it in pieces, while he went to school, or on the bus, or while we took walks. He always liked to pray it with the family or the community or in church or with someone else.’ (*My Son Carlo. pp 11 & 12 and p. 203.*) He always preferred to pray it with at least one other person.

### Pray The Rosary: Pope Leo XIV, Lourdes, 27/9/2026.

We will now pray the Angelus together, that simple and beautiful prayer which helps us each day to live in faithful obedience to God’s will, following the example of the Virgin Mary.

Before we do so, I would like to make an appeal that is particularly close to my heart, here in this place. It was here that the Immaculate Virgin appeared to Saint Bernadette with the rosary and, as it were, guided her in prayer. For this reason, today I invite all the faithful and all Christian communities to pray the holy rosary throughout the coming month of October, with the particular intention that wars may cease and that peace may be established among peoples in conflict. Let us accompany this prayer with concrete acts of penance and mercy, committing ourselves always to fostering dialogue and reconciliation. May our Most Holy Mother intercede for us!

### Pope Leo XIV’s Appeal to Young People During French Visit.

To young people, I say: have the courage to take up with responsibility the task of promoting peace — in your hearts, in your relationships, within your families, in schools and universities, in your cities and countries, and throughout all of Europe.

Do not give in to the mentality of violence and oppression.

Love life at every moment, and do not be afraid of the future!

Do not be afraid to start a family, to bring children into the world, to defend the dignity of every person, from the moment of conception to death.

Do not be afraid to work tirelessly for the good of your communities, including through political engagement.

Be builders of community!

*Pope Leo XIV, 28/09/2026: Auditorium of the  
Robert Schuman Congress Centre, Metz, France.*