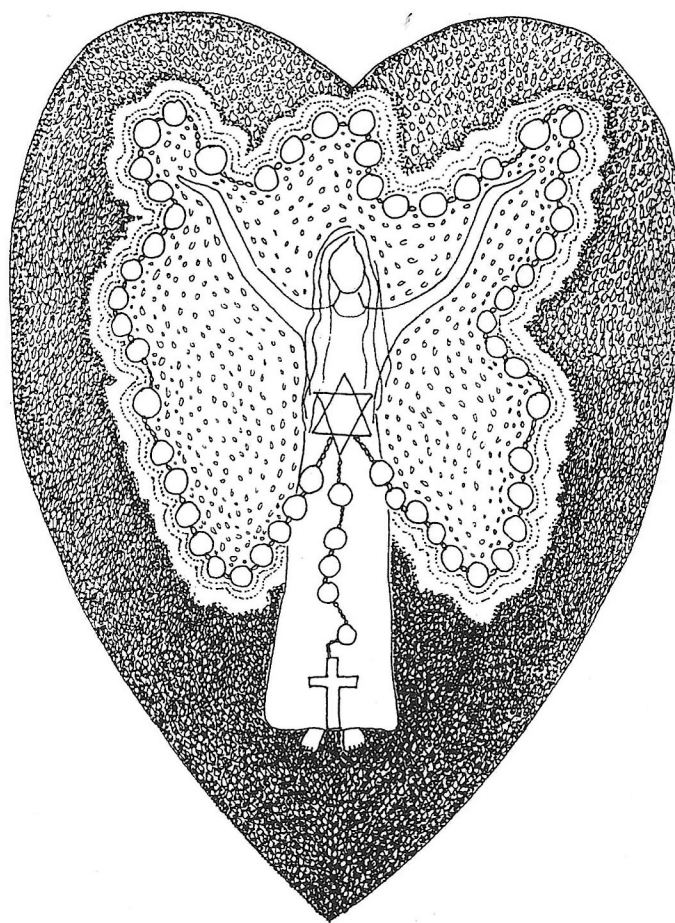


My Soul is Filled with Joy

Saying the Rosary for Peace



Pax Christi

**My Soul
is
Filled with Joy**

Saying the Rosary for Peace

Note: The Scripture quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible and from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible which uses inclusive language where possible.

Illustrations by Maggie Organ

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Introduction

For most Christians commitment to work for peace and justice is the direct outcome of faith in the Good News of the Gospel. This booklet is about using the Rosary, either by yourself or with others, to pray for peace.

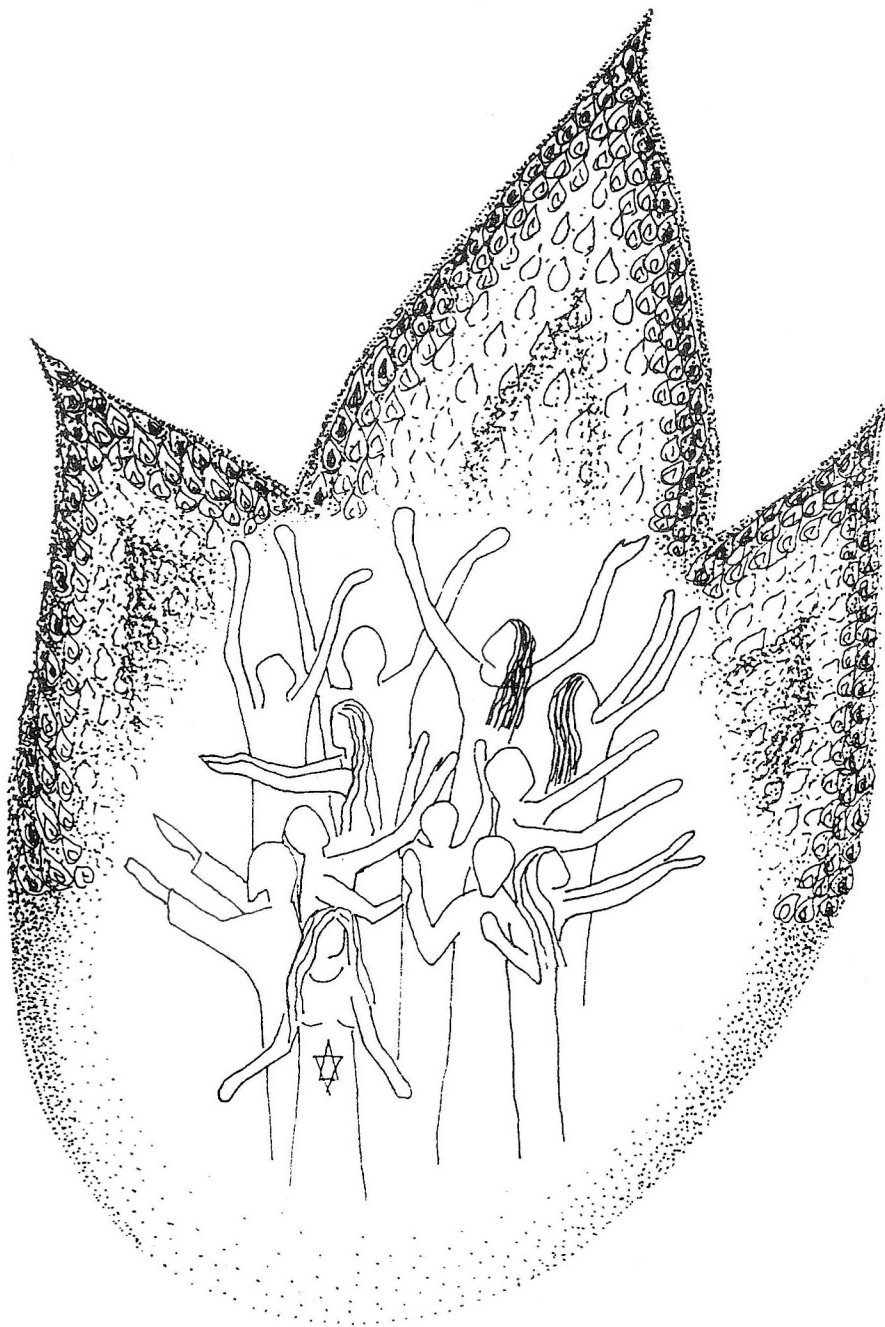
The Rosary is a form of prayer dating back at least 700 years: its origins are often attributed to St Dominic. In saying the Rosary the repetition of familiar words is a medium for meditating on episodes - called 'mysteries' - in the life of Christ and of Mary his mother. Each of the fifteen decades of the Rosary is made up of ten recitations of the 'Hail Mary', preceded by the 'Our Father' and followed by the 'Glory be to the Father'.

The term 'Rosary' is also applied to the rosary beads which are used in this devotion as prayer-counters. In modern times these beads represent one third of the complete rosary - that is, five decades or sets of ten beads, each preceded by a separate bead for the saying of the 'Our Father'. Usually only one round of five decades is recited on the one occasion. While the prayers are said one should meditate on the mystery which is proposed.

In this booklet Pax Christi suggests two ways in which the Rosary can be used as a prayer and meditation for peace.

In the first version the fifteen decades are divided into the three traditional groups of mysteries - the Joyful, the Sorrowful and the Glorious Mysteries. The prayer intentions prepare us to be peaceful people, recognising that God's gift of peace can only flow into our world in proportion to our openness to receive it ourselves and our concern for the needs and sufferings of others.

In the second version of the Peace Rosary the three groups of mysteries are the Justice, the Reconciliation, and the Peace Mysteries. This arrangement of the decades, with the Scripture readings suggested, encourages us to develop from an awareness of God's care for us individually to care for the needs of our societies and nations. It reflects our hope for the coming of God's kingdom.



This suggested adaptation of the Rosary takes account of the fact that it is often useful to have a traditional structure which can be recognised by the many diverse groups which come together to pray for and to promote peace in the world. The Rosary is most familiar to Catholics but other Christian groups are also turning to forms which can provide a framework for directed meditation as well as for communal prayer. Perhaps this could become one way of providing a common language, even for quite large groups, in which people can express the Gospel origins of their work for peace and by which their understanding of that commitment may be deepened.

Ideas for using the Rosary prayers and readings

Who

Christian peace groups, such as Pax Christi groups, might use the material at their meetings. Prayer groups, justice and peace groups, and Third World groups in parishes could use the material themselves and bring it to the attention of others.

When

Many Catholic parishes already have a time when the Rosary is said regularly. Often this is after one of the Friday Masses each week. Lent, Advent, and the months of May and October are popular periods in the year for this devotion. Consultation with the parish priest, prayer or liturgy group, could provide ideas for suitable times when the Rosary could be said with other parishioners. Penitential and Reconciliation services would also be appropriate occasions to use this material.

Where

A church context is not the only one to consider. On a personal level individuals might use the Peace Rosary for daily prayer and reflection, perhaps saying one decade each day in their own homes. The Rosary has also been recited as a prayer for peace during vigils at arms factories and nuclear bases where both large and small groups can easily join in with repetitive prayer.

What

The material makes use of the familiar Rosary format for prayer. The 'leader' announces the title of the mystery, reads a short text from scripture which elaborates on the theme, and then leads the others through the 'Our Father' and 'Hail Mary's', by reciting the first half of each prayer which the group then completes.

How

The material could be used in a variety of other creative ways. If there is plenty of time - such as during an overnight vigil in a church - and a small group of up to twenty people, individuals could be invited to share their experiences and thoughts about the themes before saying together each decade or mystery. This could be rounded off with a suitable hymn chosen by the group. Alternatively, specific bidding prayers for each mystery would help to focus prayer.

A slide illustrating each mystery would help people to maintain their concentration. The themes and slides for the five decades might be introduced before the recitation of the Rosary.

Youth groups could be divided into smaller groupings and each asked to devise a piece of drama based on one of the Justice Mysteries, for example, highlighting instances of injustice which Christians should identify and work to overcome.

Supplementary prayers and readings for each theme can be found in the following publications:

Peacemaking Day by Day

£3.50 from Pax Christi, 9 Henry Road, London N4 2LH

Prayers for Peacemakers

by John Ansell, Jenny Hunt, Gordon Matthews, Gerry McFlynn, and edited by Valerie Flessati. (Kevin Mayhew Limited) £8.50 from bookshops or from Pax Christi, address above.

Celebrating One World

£5.50 from CAFOD, 2 Romero Close, Stockwell Road, London SW9 9TY

(Please add 20% to cover postage if sending for the above publications.)

Scheme of Decades

Saying the Rosary for Peace I:

Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Our Lady
5. The Crowning of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven

Saying the Rosary for Peace II:

Justice Mysteries

1. For Justice in our hearts
2. For Justice between us and other people
3. For Justice within our society
4. For Justice between nations
5. For the coming of God's kingdom of Justice

Reconciliation Mysteries

1. For Reconciliation in our hearts
2. For Reconciliation between us and other people
3. For Reconciliation within our society
4. For Reconciliation between nations
5. For the coming of God's kingdom of Reconciliation

Peace Mysteries

1. For Peace in our hearts
2. For Peace between us and other people
3. For Peace within our society
4. For Peace between nations
5. For the coming of God's kingdom of Peace



A Prayer for Peace

Mary, Queen of Peace,
We entrust our lives to you.
Shelter us from war, hatred
and oppression.

Teach us
to live in peace,
to educate ourselves for peace.

Inspire us to act justly,
to revere all God has made.
Root peace firmly in our hearts
and in our world.
Amen.

Pope John Paul II

Saying the Rosary for Peace I:

Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation

"I am the handmaid of the Lord," said Mary, "let what you have said be done to me." Luke 1:38

Let us ask for peace of mind and heart, that we may be able to listen to God's word for us.

2. The Visitation

'Mary...went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.' Luke 1:39-40

Let us pray that we may always be ready to help and care for one another.

3. The Nativity

Mary 'gave birth to a son...and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn'. Luke 2:7

Let us pray that we may be more concerned about the homeless in our country.

4. The Presentation

And Simeon said 'Now Master, you can let your servant go in peace...because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see'. Luke 2:29-30

Let us ask that the nations of the world may see that their problems cannot be solved by violence.

5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Jesus replied 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' Luke 2:49

Let us ask for the grace to help bring about Christ's peace on earth by our lives.

Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden

'In his anguish...his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.' Luke 22:44

Let us ask God to relieve the anguish of those who suffer because they have spoken out against injustice.

2. The Scourging

'So Pilate...having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.' Mark 15:15

Let us ask God to strengthen and comfort those who are being tortured for their faith or reasons of conscience. Let us pray for those who inflict such torture.

3. The Crowning with Thorns

'And after this the soldiers twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe.' John 19:2

Remembering the humiliation of Jesus, let us pray for the rulers who wage war to boost their pride or increase their power.

4. The Carrying of the Cross

'And carrying his own cross he went out of the city to the place...where they crucified him.' John 19:17-18

Let us remember before God the suffering of those who are weighed down by the injustice of their political leaders.

5. The Crucifixion

'And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice...'"My God, My God, why have you deserted me?"' Matthew 27:46

Let us pray for all those who die a violent death through terrorism and war.



Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection

'In the evening of that same day...Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you".' John 20:19

Let us thank God for the times when good news has given us new life. Let us do all we can ourselves to be bearers of peace rather than discord.

2. The Ascension

'Jesus came up and spoke to them..."know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time".' Matthew 28:18,20

Let us respect God's presence in ourselves and in those with whom we live.

3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

'They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak...as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.' Acts 2:4

Let us thank God for the gift of the Spirit and ask for guidance to speak up on behalf of justice, human rights and peace.

4. The Assumption of Our Lady

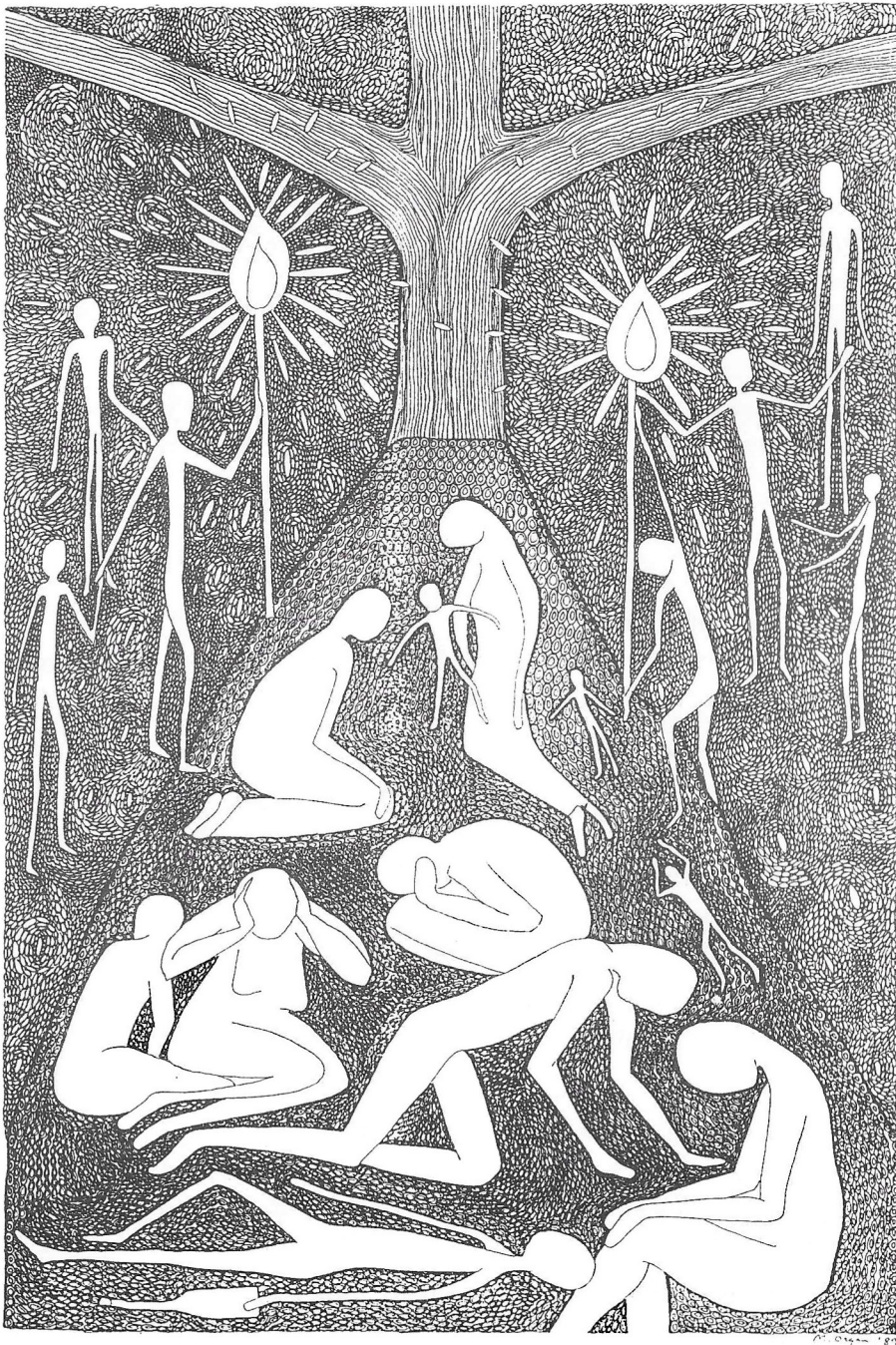
'He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.' Colossians 1:13

Let us remember that Jesus has said: 'Father, I will that those you have given me should be with me, where I am'.

5. The Crowning of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven

'And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord...from now on all generations will call me blessed...He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly."' Luke 1:46,48,52

Let us thank God for all those who work for the poor and powerless.



Saying the Rosary for Peace II

Justice Mysteries

1. For Justice in our hearts

'God...sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sin away. My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another.'

1 John 4:10-11

2. For Justice between us and other people

'How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.'

1 John 3:17-18

3. For Justice within our society

'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?...Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:37-40

4. For Justice between nations

'Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?'

Isaiah 58:6-7

5. For the coming of God's kingdom of Justice

'The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to the blind new sight; to set the downtrodden free, and proclaim the Lord's year of favour.'

Luke 4:18-19



M. Ogan '87

Reconciliation Mysteries

1. For Reconciliation in our hearts

'Father, how wonderful your care for us - how boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.' Liturgy of Easter

2. For Reconciliation between us and other people

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves. Grant pardon and you will be pardoned.'

Luke 6:36-37

3. For Reconciliation within our society

'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.'

John 8:7

4. For Reconciliation between nations

'All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.'

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

5. For the coming of God's kingdom of Reconciliation

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and was moved with pity.'

Luke 15:20

Peace Mysteries

1. For Peace in our hearts

'Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give - this is my gift to you.'
John 14:27

2. For Peace between us and other people

'I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another.'
John 13:34

3. For Peace in our society

'You are God's chosen race...He loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same...And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body.'

Colossians 3:12-15

4. For Peace between nations

'But now in Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us.'

Ephesians 2:13-14

5. For the coming of God's kingdom of Peace

'I will hear what the Lord God has to say: a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him, and his glory will dwell in our land. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.'

Psalms 85:8-10



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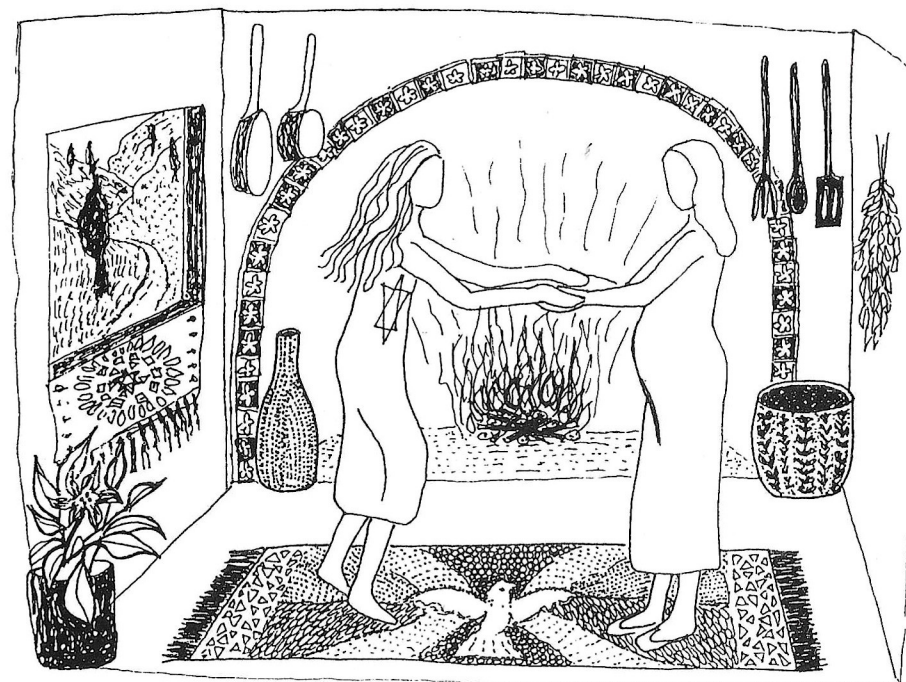
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