

# The ACN 'One Million Children Praying the Rosary for Peace'



# SESSION PLAN

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



### AIM:

- 1 To prepare a short presentation for a group of children about the rosary and ACN's One Million Children Praying the Rosary for Peace campaign.
- 2 To lead a group of children in praying the rosary for ACN's One Million Children Praying the Rosary for Peace campaign.

Use these sessions as a guide as each session has more material than you will need. **Please use only the activities and sessions you wish to meet the aims above.** Participants may wish to develop their understanding by working through some of the material independently between sessions. You can tick off the boxes below after each session.

### SESSION 1: ACN

#### Understand:

The mission and work of ACN.  
Examples of ACN projects.

#### Discern:

The importance of 'Prayer, Information and Action'.

#### Respond:

Journal  
Prayer

### SESSION 2: THE ROSARY

#### Understand:

The place of the rosary in Christian belief.  
Why the rosary is important.  
How to pray the rosary.

#### Discern:

Explore different people's views about the rosary.

#### Respond:

Reflect on the meaning of what you have learned.  
Prepare a two-minute speech/presentation about the rosary.

### SESSION 3: THE CAMPAIGN

#### Understand:

ACN's 'One Million Children Praying the Rosary for Peace.'

#### Discern:

With reference to the apparitions at Fatima, play with possibilities, by asking 'what if?'

#### Respond:

Consider how the lives of the primary-aged children involved with ACN's rosary campaign could be transformed.  
Create an accessible and relevant presentation for children.

### SESSION 4: BLESSING & PRAYER

#### Formation in Prayer:

The Sorrowful Mysteries.  
Understanding how the rosary is used for personal and community prayer.

Blessing of rosary beads if a priest is available.

### SESSION 5: ORGANISATION

#### By the end of this session:

Your presentation to the children should be planned and rehearsed.

You can grow in your skills as a public speaker by following the exercises.



### SESSION 6: DISCUSSION

This session should take place after your prayer/presentation with the children:

Please share your experience having completed this course:

1. What have you learned?
2. Did you enjoy praying with the children?
3. Were you comfortable leading prayer?
4. What next?
5. Comments about your prayer journal.



# COURSE OUTLINE

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



Aid to the  
Church in Need  
ACN UNITED KINGDOM



### 1 KNOWLEDGE

In order to lead a group of children in praying the rosary, you will need a working knowledge of the following:

ACN	THE ROSARY	THE CAMPAIGN	SAFEGUARDING
<input type="checkbox"/> Mission <input type="checkbox"/> Work of <input type="checkbox"/> The projects <input type="checkbox"/> P.I.A.	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching about <input type="checkbox"/> Why important <input type="checkbox"/> How to pray it <input type="checkbox"/> 'Deeper Truths'	<input type="checkbox"/> What it's about <input type="checkbox"/> Importance <input type="checkbox"/> Who is involved <input type="checkbox"/> Our Lady of Fatima	<input type="checkbox"/> Overview <input type="checkbox"/> Responsibilities <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness

### 2 PLANNING & ORGANISATION FOR 18-10-24

Keep a track of the tasks which need to be completed. The date for praying the rosary with the children is October 18th 2024. If you cannot do that date, any time in October is fine.

START	SESSION 5	SESSION 6	ON THE DAY
<input type="checkbox"/> Finding group <input type="checkbox"/> Planning date(s) <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer aids <input type="checkbox"/> Group roles <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehearse <input type="checkbox"/> Check tech <input type="checkbox"/> Timings <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check tech <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer aids <input type="checkbox"/> Setting up <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up

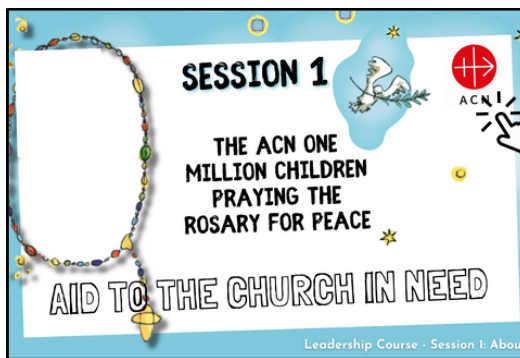
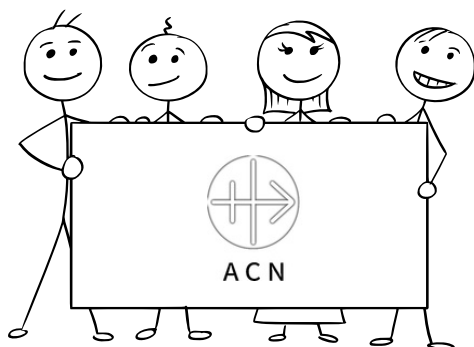
### 3 YOUR RESPONSE AND JOURNEY OF FAITH

In the spiritual life, it is impossible to give what you don't have, so this is a great time to consider your own relationship with God and to pray the rosary yourself. Suggestions are below - these are between you and God, but you may wish to share in the group.

JOURNAL	RESEARCH	PRAYER	OPENNESS
Recording your thoughts, prayers and any promptings from the Holy Spirit	Willingness to watch YouTube videos, read articles and find out more about the rosary	Making personal prayer a priority; attending Mass and or/receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Asking the Holy Spirit to guide you: allowing God into areas of your life that you have previously hidden from him

# SESSION 1

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



**SESSION 1: ACN**

**Understand:**  
The mission and work of ACN.  
Examples of ACN projects.

**Discern:**  
The importance of 'Prayer, Information and Action'.

**Respond:**  
Journal  
Prayer

Groups can use as little or as much of the information provided as they like.

We know time is limited, so groups can decide how best to use what is provided.

The aim for your students and parish groups is that through this course, they become confident prayer leaders and grow in their own journey of faith.

### SESSION STRUCTURE

1. Explain that they will be leading children in praying the rosary for peace on or sometime near 18th October.

PLAY SLIDE 2 ON PRESENTATION

2. Explain that in order to do this effectively, they will need to have some knowledge of:

- Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)
- The rosary
- What happened in Fatima in 1917
- The campaign One Million Children Praying the Rosary

This is what this course offers.

3. Invite participants to keep a prayer journal. Ask them to write their thoughts, prayers and feelings down, when they can, for the duration of the course.

SLIDE 3

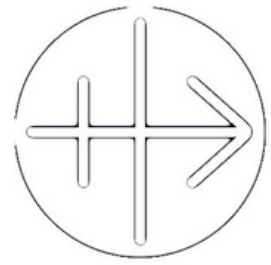
4. Ask students to look at the questions about ACN on the sheet and fill in any they already know (member groups who are very familiar with ACN may not need to do this stage).

5. Watch the animation on SLIDE 4.  
Discuss examples of ACN projects.

6. Go back to page 5 and fill in answers in pairs.

Independent Research:  
Complete the tasks on page 6.



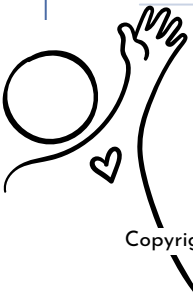


# SESSION 1

THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN  
PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE

## Aid to the Church in Need

- 1 What does ACN stand for? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What makes ACN distinctive? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What is a Pontifical Charity? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 In approximately how many countries does ACN have projects? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Why do you think the Church refuses to abandon people?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Name two ways in which ACN provide spiritual support.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Name one way priests/sisters help others that you may not have previously considered.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Why is religious freedom so integral to human rights? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 State ways in which ACN provide long- and short-term aid.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Why is trauma healing needed? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 What does P.I.A. stand for? \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 How is ACN UK supporting the people of Liberia? \_\_\_\_\_



# SESSION 1

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



There are numerous charities that look after those in need. What distinguishes Aid to the Church in Need from these organisations is that we are the only international Catholic organisation focusing on the pastoral and spiritual support of persecuted and suffering Christians.

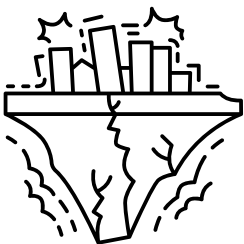
Aid to the Church in Need was initially established in 1947 as a Catholic aid organisation for war refugees, and it has been recognised as a Pontifical Foundation since 2011. Under our guiding principle of "information, prayer and action", today we are committed to helping Christians across the globe, wherever they are persecuted or oppressed or suffer material hardships. In addition, we are committed to religious freedom and reconciliation across all faiths. Our foundation does not accept any support from government agencies. However, thanks to hundreds of thousands of benefactors who donate to Aid to the Church in Need, we are now active worldwide.

### TASK

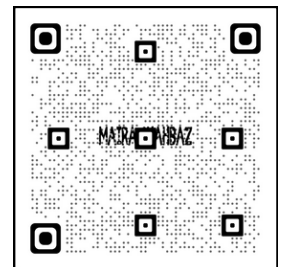
Click on the underlined words or on the QR code in each image below to find out more about those being helped by ACN.

**WARNING** Maira Shahbaz's story is traumatic.  
Please watch with care - not suitable for under 16s.\*

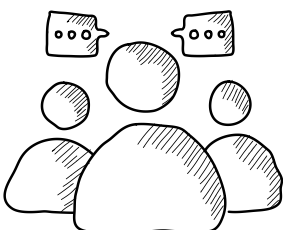
### NATURAL DISASTERS



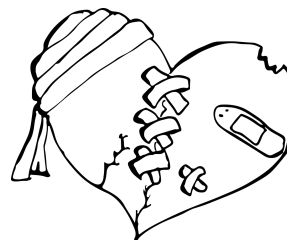
### MAIRA SHAHBAZ



### CARE FOR THE ABANDONED



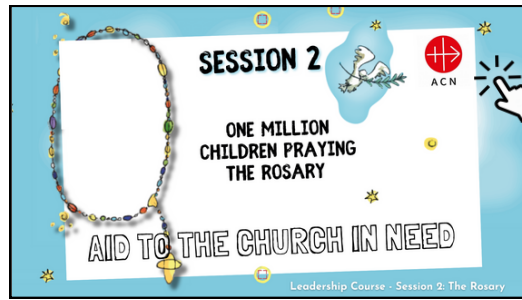
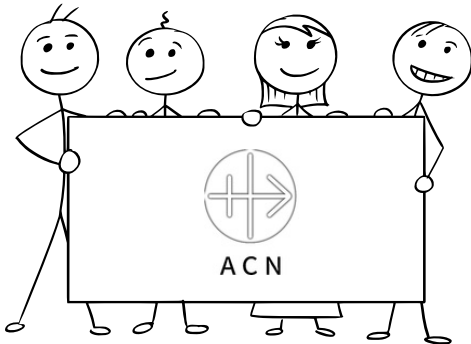
### HEALING TRAUMA



**NOTE** YOU WILL NOT BE DISCUSSING THIS WITH ANY OF THE GROUPS YOU WILL BE LEADING 'ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY' WITH. THIS IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AS AN ACN AMBASSADOR.

# SESSION 2

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



CLICK TO LINK TO PRESENTATION

### SESSION 1: THE ROSARY

#### Understand:

The place of the rosary in Christian belief.  
Why the rosary is important.  
How to pray the rosary.

#### Discern:

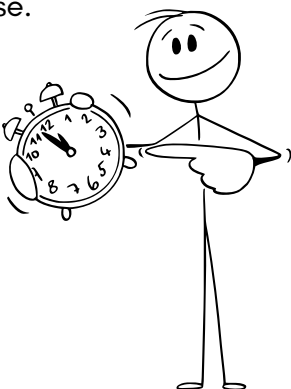
Explore different people's views about the rosary.

#### Respond:

Reflect on the meaning of what you have learned.  
Prepare a two-minute speech/presentation about the rosary.

This session is the longest.

Sessions 5-6 are much shorter, so there is scope within the course structure to do the activities presented here later in the course.



### SESSION STRUCTURE

1. Read page 8
2. Complete True/False Quiz
3. Watch the 'Rosary Reflections' videos on SLIDES 2-4
4. Discuss and record your reactions - PLAY SLIDE 5 ON THE PRESENTATION
5. In pairs explain to each other how to pray the rosary, with one pair explaining to the group.

#### Respond:

Start thinking about how you will present this information to the age group you will be working with.

#### For personal prayer time and journal:

Reflect on the information in 'Deep Truths about the Rosary'. If any of the themes catch your interest, reflect and pray about them. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead your prayer.



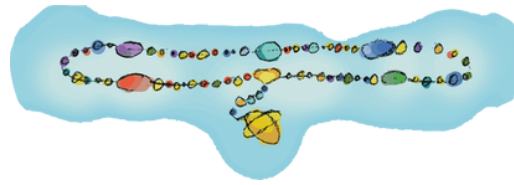
ACN  
ambassadors



ACN ambassadors

# SESSION 2

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



The rosary transforms those who pray it. It can be prayed by everyone - and its depths can't be explained fully.

Each of us has an individual relationship with God and also with Our Lady, so the way in which the rosary impacts each person is also individual.

The sheet 'Deep Truths about the Rosary' is for you to look at and ponder in your own time. Don't worry if you can't grasp everything contained within it - you certainly are not expected to (!) - but it should provide you with some theological truths which you may not have previously considered. You might want to use this as a start for prayer, come back to it, or research some of the statements independently.

**DEEP TRUTHS ABOUT THE ROSARY**

**WHY THE ROSARY?**  
Is the rosary a nice prayer we say to make ourselves feel better? Is it something that brings us peace in our hearts a bit like mindfulness? No.

**BELIEF ITSELF**  
Now it might make us feel better and bring us peace, but these aren't the foremost reasons we pray it. In order to understand the rosary, we need to look up a bit and understand what really...

**COMMUNICATION WITH GOD**  
When we pray, we communicate with God. God is the one who created the universe and holds our existence in his hands. The one who made the love of always that brought forth everything from a mistake to crazy-looking fish (just Google a Frog Fish & look fascinated), to the colour of your hair. The one who knows your name calls you into a relationship with him for ever.

**SPIRITUAL REALITY**  
God gives us ways in which we can meet him, even if our logic might not comprehend him. One of these ways is prayer. When we pray something changes because we are in God's presence. We may not feel it - it is danger that when we feel it's about spiritual reality.

**EPHESIANS 6:12**  
There isn't a person on the planet who could cope that doesn't require... and if there were, two seconds watching the news would change their mind in Ephesians 6:12. Of Paul says: 'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.'

**FREE WILL**  
Basically, God wants us on his evil-conquering team now and eternally and one fundamental way we do this is through prayer. So his prayer is nice and may make us feel better, but to say it's just this is missing the most point. Though prayer can bring the love Kingdom and will into our reality. Of course God could do this without prayer, but because of free will, he gives us a choice.

**BECAUSE OF MARY'S COOPERATION WITH THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE CHILD LIVED TO FIRST BE CONCEPTED WITH THE VERBEN MARY CATHEDRAL OF THE CANALS, CHURCH OF...**

**THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE**

**THE ROSARY IS A PRAYER THAT ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGES HE IS ALSO THE PRAYER OF THE ORDINARY PEOPLE AND THE SAINTS... IT IS A PRAYER FROM MY HEART. (JOSE FRANCIS)**  
Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church and a registered charity in England and Wales (1097984) and in Scotland (SC040748)

**BIBLICAL**  
The rosary is a special prayer because it's biblical, it's simultaneously a meditation and a vocal prayer, it was given by God, and it has spiritual power.

**MEDITATION**  
When we pray using the beads, we are actually using ourselves with God's word. God's word is so powerful it creates. In the rosary we meditate on real events in the life Jesus and the Early Church. Meditation opens our deepest self (often below the level of consciousness) to God and on God's Word is living, it enters our entire self.

**SPIRITUAL POWER**  
It is not a prayer to Mary as she is not God. We are asking her to give our prayers to her son Jesus because he alone can do us. As he requested he intervened at the Wedding Feast at Cana. This is a model of prayer - Mary is our mother too.

**FIGHTING EVIL**  
Rosary is often referred to as a spiritual sword. This is a metaphorical description which emphasizes its power in fighting evil. The term 'spiritual sword' suggests that the rosary is a weapon against evil and a tool for spiritual defence.

**PRAYER CAN BE HARD**  
It can be hard to pray the rosary for your spiritual lives, when something is good requires something good to accept it and get on with it. But when it comes to spiritual things we need to forget that the health of our souls, which will live on long past everything else.

**RELATIONSHIP**  
Prayer is a decision - I am going to spend this time with God because when I might feel his peace and a sense of God's love or I might feel absolutely nothing, in fact I might be bored or distracted. This is the key to a good relationship with God (conscience) I may need to carry on even if I don't feel like it. This is worth staying when discussing the rosary, as it is a reasonably long prayer - 33 minutes minimum.

## ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY

### DECADE

Originates from the mid-15th century, initially meaning "ten parts" of anything. According to [www.etymonline.com](http://www.etymonline.com), "[t]he term comes from the Old French "décade" (14th century), which in turn derives from the Late Latin "decadem"...and...from the Greek "dekas", meaning "group of ten." When referring to the rosary, it means the ten Hail Marys prayed for each of the mysteries. HOW MANY OTHER WORDS DO YOU KNOW BEGINNING WITH 'DEC'? WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

### MYSTERIES (OF THE ROSARY)

The Mysteries of the Rosary are not like mysteries in terms of whodunits or things that have no explanation. There are twenty mysteries of the rosary, divided into four categories of five. The first three sets of five (the Sorrowful Mysteries, the Joyful Mysteries, The Glorious Mysteries) are like a chronological walk through the lives of Mary and Jesus. These episodes provide the focus of the meditation whilst the Our Fathers and Hail Marys are being recited. The final set of five (the Luminous Mysteries or, Mysteries of Light) were a later addition and focus on what Jesus did when he started ministering in public; his miracles and teachings.

## TASK

True or False Quiz

Watch 'Praying the Rosary' and discuss.

Do you know anyone who has a devotion to the rosary? If so, chat to them and ask them to share their thoughts on this prayer.



# ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE

## TRUE or FALSE



Read the sentences and circle true (T) or false (F). Correct the wrong information.



- |           |  |              |
|-----------|--|--------------|
| <b>1</b>  | The practice of praying the rosary began around 500 years ago.                                     | <b>T / F</b> |
| <b>2</b>  | Mary is the 'New Eve'.   | <b>T / F</b> |
| <b>3</b>  | The rosary is a blend of mental (meditative) and vocal prayer.                                     | <b>T / F</b> |
| <b>4</b>  | Catholics worship Mary/Our Lady - the Mother of Jesus.   | <b>T / F</b> |
| <b>5</b>  | When Our Lady appeared in Fatima she told the children that the rosary has the power to stop wars. | <b>T / F</b> |
| <b>6</b>  | You have to pray the rosary in church.   | <b>T / F</b> |
| <b>7</b>  | The rosary is known as 'the bible on a string'.  | <b>T / F</b> |
| <b>8</b>  | The rosary is a prayer for peace.  | <b>T / F</b> |
| <b>9</b>  | Only Catholics can say the rosary.   | <b>T / F</b> |
| <b>10</b> | The rosary is a powerful way to pray for others.   | <b>T / F</b> |



# TRUE or FALSE



## ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE

- 1 Catholics have been praying the rosary as we know it today since the 13th Century, but monks and hermits as early as the 3rd century used rocks and prayer beads in a similar way. T / F
- 2 Jesus is the 'New Adam' and he undid the sin of Adam, so Mary is the 'New Eve' because her obedience to God reversed Eve's disobedience. T / F
- 3 Yes, St Louis de Monfort said, "I know of no better way of establishing the kingdom of God than to unite vocal and mental prayer by saying the rosary." T / F
- 4 Many people misunderstand the honour Catholics give to Mary. She is honoured as the Mother of God, but not worshipped - only God can be worshipped. T / F
- 5 Yes, because the origin of the rosary is divine. It is a spiritual sword which defeats evil. Prayer is not wishful thinking; through prayer God intervenes and changes reality. T / F
- 6 The rosary can be prayed anywhere. It is referred to as a portable chapel. We can pull out our beads and pray anywhere (or use our fingers if we don't have rosary beads available). T / F
- 7 To pray the rosary you have to repeat the Our Father (Matthew 6 & Luke 11), and Hail Mary is how the Angel Gabriel greets Mary in Luke 1. The 'Mysteries' are based on biblical events. T / F
- 8 Pope St John Paul II said, "The Rosary is by its nature a prayer for peace, since it consists in the contemplation of Christ, the Prince of Peace, the one who is 'our peace' (Eph 2:14)." T / F
- 9 Non-Catholics can certainly pray the rosary – and in fact, many credit it with their conversion. Many Protestants recognise the rosary as a valid form of prayer. T / F
- 10 The rosary is a powerful way to pray for others because it takes time, dedication and the willingness to give your heart to God on behalf of another. It's therefore both a spiritual and selfless act of love. T / F



# HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY



This bead ends the first decade. Here you pray the 'Glory Be to the Father' and the Fatima Prayer. This bead also is the start of the next decade. So after the Fatima Prayer, you announce the Second Mystery and pray the Our Father again before moving on and saying the next ten Hail Marys.

Here we pray ten Hail Marys. You can think about the words of the Hail Mary, the mystery and the people you are praying for.

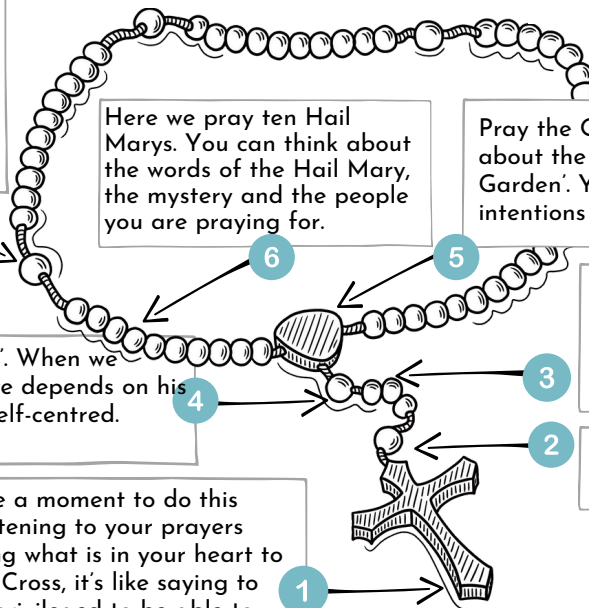
Pray the Our Father as you think about the mystery of 'The Agony in the Garden'. You can add any prayer intentions you have.

Pray three Hail Marys whilst asking God to give you faith, hope and charity (one for each of the three beads).

This bead is for praying the 'Glory Be'. When we praise God, we realise that all we have depends on his goodness. It's a way to make us less self-centred.

Pray the Apostles' Creed and one Our Father.

Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Take a moment to do this prayerfully. Remember that God is listening to your prayers and that the Mother of God is offering what is in your heart to Jesus. When we make the Sign of the Cross, it's like saying to God, 'this time is yours'. We are very privileged to be able to speak to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit whenever we want, so it's good to remind ourselves to whom we are speaking. Remember that Our Lady and the whole of heaven are praying with us too and cheering us on. Picture giving your 'intention' (the thing you are praying for) to God. You can pray for more than one thing.



# THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

## THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

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

## THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

- 1 The Agony in the Garden
- 2 The Scourging of Jesus at the Pillar
- 3 The Crowning with Thorns
- 4 The Carrying of the Cross
- 5 The Crucifixion

## THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

- 1 The Resurrection
- 2 The Ascension
- 3 The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)
- 4 The Assumption
- 5 The Coronation of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven and Earth

## THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

- 1 The Baptism of Jesus
- 2 The Wedding Feast at Cana
- 3 The Proclamation of the Gospel
- 4 The Transfiguration
- 5 The Last Supper

## WHY THE ROSARY?

Is the rosary a nice prayer we say to make ourselves feel better? Is it something that brings us peace in our hearts, a bit like mindfulness?

## BELIEF ITSELF

Now, it might make us feel better and bring us peace, but these aren't the foremost reasons we pray it. In order to understand the rosary, we need to back up a bit and understand belief itself.

## COMMUNICATION WITH GOD



When we pray, we communicate with God. God - yep, the one who created the universe and holds our existence in his hands. The one who made the laws of physics that brought forth everything from a snowflake to crazy-looking fish (just Google Frog Fish & a Leafy Seadragon!), to the colour of your hair. The one who knows your name and calls you into a relationship with him for ever.

## SPIRITUAL REALITY

God gives us ways in which we can meet him, even if our logical minds can't comprehend him. One of these ways is prayer. When we pray, something changes, because we are in God's presence. We may not feel it - it is deeper than what we feel; it's about spiritual reality.



## EPHESIANS 6:12

There isn't a person on the planet who could argue that evil doesn't exist - and if there were, two seconds' watching the news would change their mind. In Ephesians 6:12, St Paul says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

## FREE WILL

Basically, God wants us on his evil-conquering team now and in eternity and one fundamental way we do this is through prayer. So yes, prayer is nice and may make us feel better, but to say it's just this is missing the main point. Though prayer God can bring his love, kingdom and will into our reality. Of course God could do this without prayer, but because of free will, he gives us a choice.

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



"THE ROSARY IS A PRAYER THAT ALWAYS ACCOMPANIES ME; IT IS ALSO THE PRAYER OF THE ORDINARY PEOPLE AND THE SAINTS...IT IS A PRAYER FROM MY HEART." (POPE FRANCIS)

## BIBLICAL

The rosary is a special prayer because it's biblical, it's simultaneously a meditation and a vocal prayer, it was given by God and it has spiritual power.

## MEDITATION

When we pray using the bible, we are actually uniting ourselves with God's Word. God's Word is so powerful it creates. In the rosary we meditate on real events in the life of Jesus and the Early Church. Meditation opens up our deepest self (often below the level of consciousness) to God; and as God's Word is living, it enters our entire self.



## SPIRITUAL POWER

It is not a prayer 'to' Mary as she is not God. We are asking her to give our prayers to her son. Jesus honoured his mum and so do we. At her request he intervened at the Wedding Feast at Cana. This is a model of prayer - Mary is our mother too.

## FIGHTING EVIL

The rosary is often referred to as a spiritual sword. This is a metaphorical description which emphasises its power in fighting evil. The term "spiritual sword" suggests that the rosary is a weapon against evil and a tool for spiritual defence.

## PRAYER CAN BE HARD

In our physical lives, when something good requires discipline we tend to accept it and get on with it. But when it comes to spiritual things we often forget that the health of our souls, which will live on long past everything else, needs careful attention too.

## RELATIONSHIP

Prayer is a decision - I am going to spend this time with God no matter what. I might feel joy, peace and a sense of God's love or I might feel absolutely nothing - in fact I might be bored or distracted. This is the key to a good relationship with God; accepting that I may need to carry on even if I don't feel like it. This is worth saying when discussing the rosary, as it is a reasonably long prayer - 20 minutes minimum.

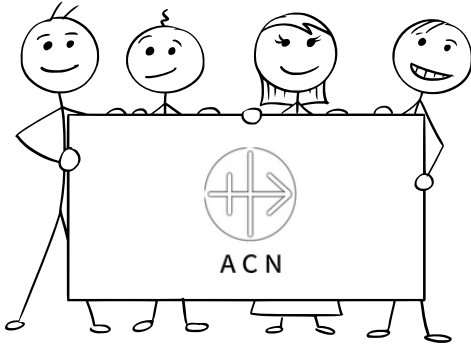
EPHESIANS

6:12



# SESSION 3

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



### SESSION 3: THE CAMPAIGN

#### Understand:

ACN's 'One Million Children Praying the Rosary for Peace.' The apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima

#### Discern:

With reference to the apparitions at Fatima, play with possibilities, by asking 'what if?'

#### Respond:

Consider how the lives of the primary-aged children involved with ACN's rosary campaign could be transformed. Create an accessible and relevant presentation for children.



#### Discern:

What would you like to ask the children of Fatima?

For information and eye-witness accounts see: [The Magis Centre](#)



CLICK TO LINK TO PRESENTATION

### SESSION STRUCTURE

1. Read the letter from ACN International on page 14.
2. Watch the videos on SLIDE 2 and SLIDE 3 of the presentation.
3. Look at the posters on page 15 and decide how you might use them with the group of children you will be praying with.
4. Listen to Fr Antonio's video explaining what happened at Fatima and discuss your reactions.
  - Is this new to you?
  - What does it mean for you?
  - Why is the message still relevant today?
  - Why do you think we don't speak about heaven and hell, even though Jesus frequently did?
  - Why do you think God wants us to be part of his plan?
5. Read the cartoon strip about Fatima.
  - How might you use this in your presentation to the children?
  - How could you explain what happened in an age-appropriate way (remembering the age of the children)?

**Respond:** How will you incorporate some of the information in today's session into your presentation with the children?

2. Explain that in order to do this effectively, they will need to have some knowledge of:
  - Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)
  - The rosary
  - What happened in Fatima in 1917
  - The campaign One Million Children Praying the Rosary



ACN ambassadors

## SESSION 3: THE CAMPAIGN

### *Letter from Aid to the Church in Need*

One million children pray the Rosary 2024 - Rome, 21 June 2024

Dear friends of ACN,

For a number of years now, each year on October 18, ACN has been organising the prayer campaign "A Million Children Praying the Rosary". In 2023 for the first time, more than one million children actually registered on our homepage. In doing so they confirmed what Pope Benedict had already written, back in 2008: "The prayer of the Rosary is no mere pious exercise that belongs to the past, as though it were some prayer from other times that we look back on nostalgically. On the contrary, the Rosary is experiencing a new springtime, as it were. This is undoubtedly one of the most eloquent signs of the love that the younger generation are showing for Jesus and his Mother Mary. In today's world, where there is so much distraction, this prayer helps to place Christ in the centre, just as the Virgin Mary did when she treasured everything that was said about her Son, and everything that He did and said, in the depths of her heart."

It has so often been the experience of the Church, even in our modern times, that God grants special help and graces - especially graces of peace - through the intercession of Mary via the prayer of the Rosary. Consequently, ACN is very much committed to reviving and encouraging the devotion to the Rosary. We would love to recruit you too in regularly cultivating this prayer and working together with us to encourage the children to love and pray the Rosary.

Great blessings will undoubtedly flow from this - for yourselves, for your children and for our so sorely troubled world as well. "In order to be an apostle of the Rosary", Pope Benedict XVI said in Pompeii, "we need to personally experience the beauty and depth of this prayer - so simple and accessible to everyone. Above all we must allow the Virgin Mary to lead us by the hand in contemplating the face of Christ, a joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious face. Whoever, like Mary and together with her, embraces the Mysteries of Jesus and tirelessly contemplates them identifies more and more with what He thought and felt and becomes more and more like Him."

Sister Lucy of Fatima wrote: "In these last times in which we now live the most Blessed Virgin has given a new power and effectiveness to the Rosary. And so there is no single problem, however serious [...] that we cannot solve through the prayer of the Rosary. By means of the Rosary we will save and sanctify ourselves, console our Lord and gain the salvation of many souls."

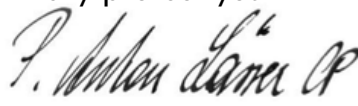
And so we would like to encourage you to join us in two things:

- 1.) Please pray the Rosary yourself, together with us on 18 October, for peace in the world.
- 2.) Please get involved by using your energy and imagination to encourage Rosary prayer groups to come together wherever possible.

We are close to you in prayer, confident of your generous response. May God bless you and all who are dear to you, and may the Blessed Virgin Mary protect you!



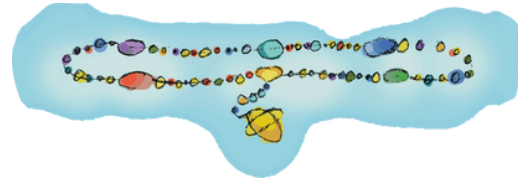
Mauro Kard. Piacenza  
President



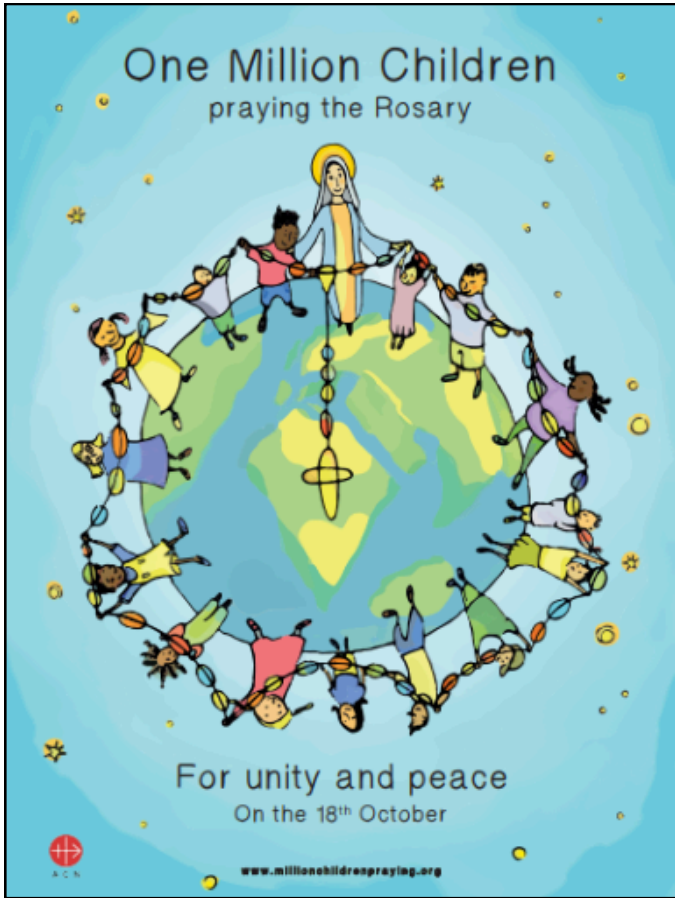
P. Anton Laesser CP  
Ecclesiastical Assistant

# SESSION 3

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE

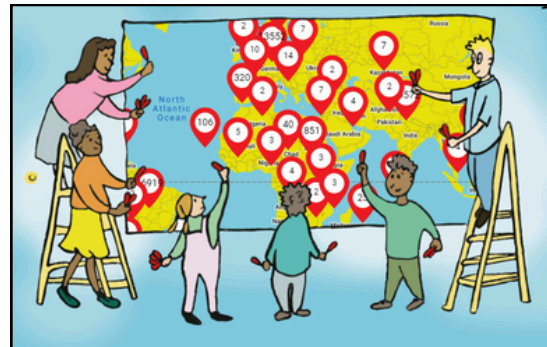


ACN



These posters are available for you to use with the group you will be presenting to.

Please go to: [acninternational.org](http://acninternational.org) to download these posters free.



You can also register your school or parish here so your prayers will be visible on the International map. The school or parish you are praying with should also register here.

### Children's Consecration to Our Lady

Mary, my Mother,  
today I come to you with joy,  
to give you my whole heart.  
I give you everything I have  
and everything I do,  
my whole life.


To you I bring every single person,  
that I hold in love in my heart:  
my parents, my brothers and my sisters,  
all my friends,  
but also those who have hurt me.

Be a Mother to us all,  
bless and protect us.  
I wish to be your child,  
to love you as my Mother  
and pray faithfully to you.

Help me to remember, each day,  
that I belong to you.

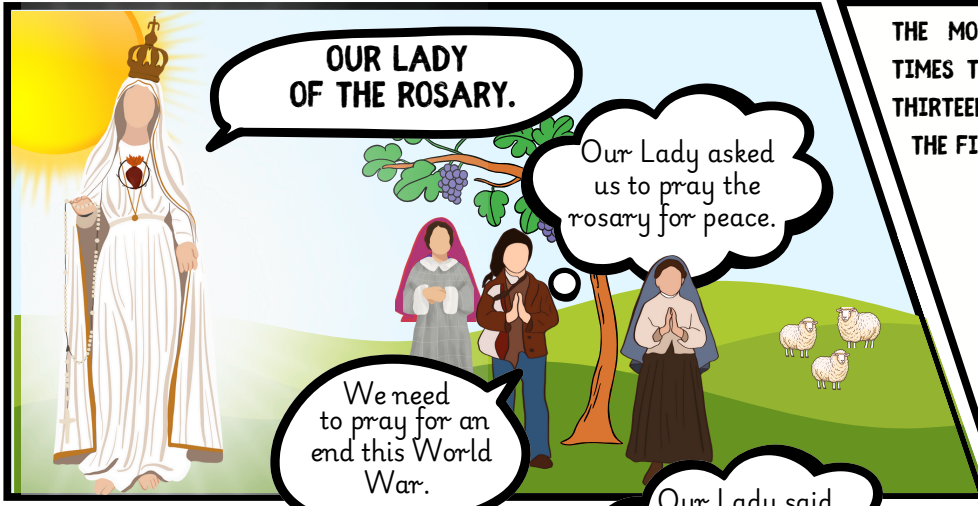
Mother, I am yours, now and for all eternity.  
With you and through you  
I want to belong completely to Jesus.

Amen.

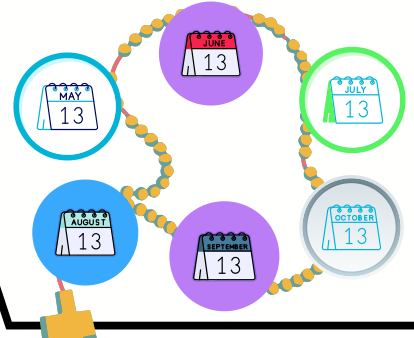



**MAY 1917**

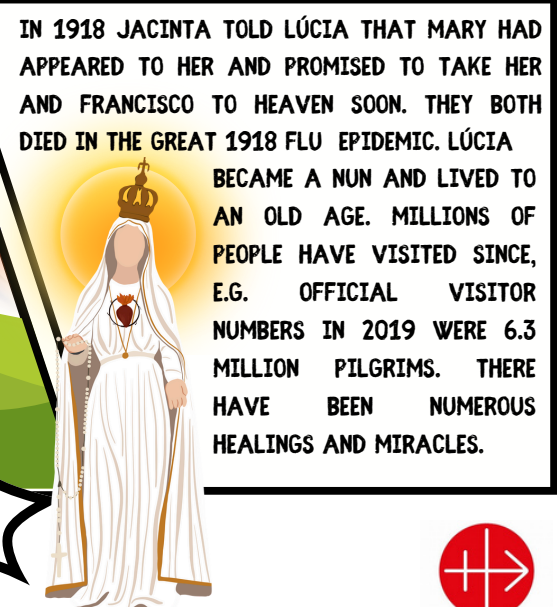
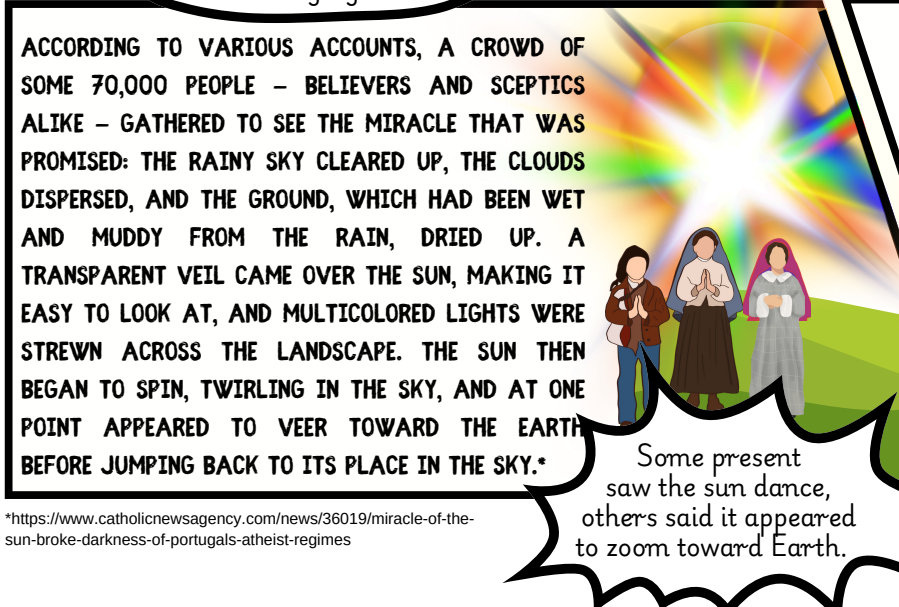
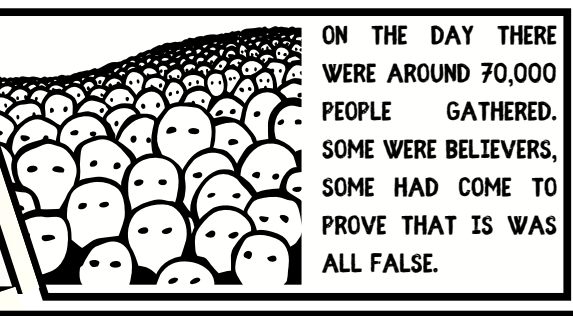
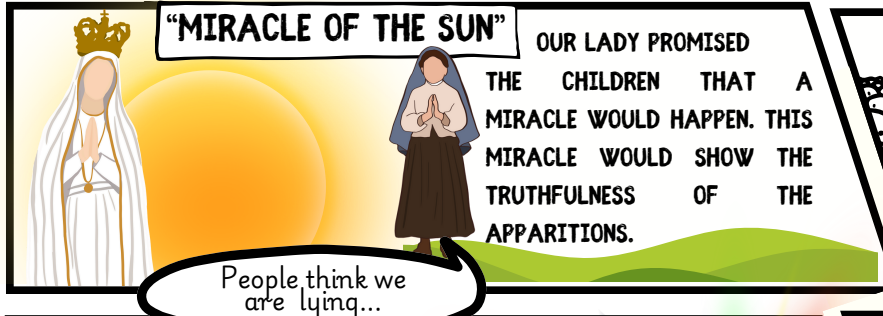
FRANCISCO MARTO (9) AND HIS SISTER JACINTA (7) AND THEIR COUSIN LÚCIA DOS SANTOS (10) WERE THREE LITTLE SHEPHERDS FROM FATIMA IN PORTUGAL. THEY CAME FROM HUMBLE FAMILIES AND LIVED A SIMPLE LIFE. WHAT OCCURRED ON MAY 13TH, WOULD CHANGE NOT ONLY THEIR LIVES, BUT THE CHURCH AND THE GEOPOLITICS OF THE WORLD.



THE MOTHER OF GOD APPEARED ANOTHER FIVE TIMES TO THE CHILDREN. EACH TIME WAS ON THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF THE MONTH. THE SIXTH AND THE FINAL TIME WAS ON OCTOBER 13TH 1917.



OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA GAVE THE CHILDREN THREE SECRETS – CONCERNING WORLD EVENTS IN THE FUTURE THAT THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING – AND URGED THEM TO PRAY THE ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE AND FOR SOULS FAR FROM GOD TO GO TO HEAVEN.



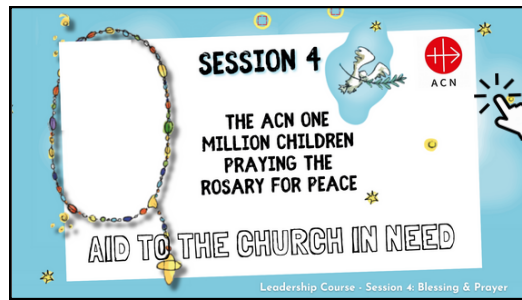
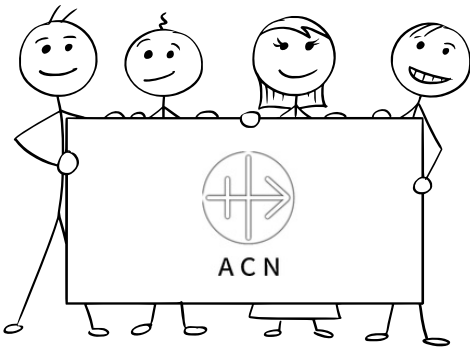
\*<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/36019/miracle-of-the-sun-broke-darkness-of-portugals-atheist-regimes>





# SESSION 4

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



CLICK TO LINK TO PRESENTATION

### SESSION 4: BLESSING & PRAYER

#### Formation in Prayer:

The Sorrowful Mysteries.  
Understanding how the rosary is used for personal and community prayer.

Blessing of rosary beads if a priest is available.

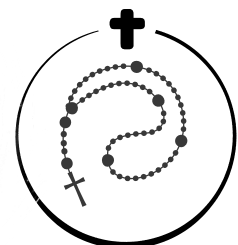
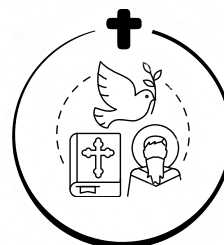
### SESSION STRUCTURE

This session provides the opportunity for you to pray the rosary together as a group.

Watch Fr Frankie discuss the rosary and why having your rosary beads blessed is important SLIDE 3

Pray some or all of the rosary together.

After the session write your thoughts and prayers into your journal.



### THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

These mysteries are about Jesus' suffering and death. We walk with him and those he loved through the events which led to his crucifixion. When we pray these mysteries, we can offer to God our own suffering, the pain of those we love and of the world. We can also consider the fact that he is with us in our darkest times and that he went to the cross because he wanted to 'take on' the consequences of sin - which is separation from God.

### PLACING OURSELVES IN GOD'S PRESENCE

When we make the Sign of the Cross, it's good to remind ourselves that we are now entering a different space. We are using our will, our minds and our actions to place ourselves in the presence of God. Think about the meaning of the words, the message being presented and the fact that you are now actively communicating with God.



### THE ROSARY

#### FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY



#### THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

#### BIBLE QUOTE: (MATTHEW 26:39 NRSVCE)

"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will."

#### SOME THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION:

Jesus knows he has been betrayed and that he has to die. His suffering is so intense that his sweat turns to blood. He is carrying the psychological and spiritual weight of all the sins, injustices, hatred and evil that have ever existed and ever will exist. He asks the disciples to stay awake with him but they keep falling asleep. He prays to the Father in desperation asking if there's another way (the 'cup' represents the way he will die), but he accepts the Father's will (unlike Adam - therefore redeeming the sin in the *other* garden; Eden).

#### PRAYER SUGGESTIONS TO GET STARTED:

Here we can pray for those who feel alone and abandoned by their friends and by God. We can imagine ourselves speaking to Jesus and staying with him (we can use our imagination to pray). We can offer our sadnesses, disappointments and fears to him and unite our pain to his.



ACN ambassadors

# SESSION 4

**"Because of the evils and injustices that accompany war, the Church persistently urges everyone to prayer and to action so that the goodness may free us from the ancient bondage of war."** Catechism of the Catholic Church 2306



## SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY



### THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

**BIBLE QUOTE: (JOHN 19:1 NRSVCE)**

"Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him."

**SOME THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION:**

Scourging or flogging was a legal prelude to every Roman execution and was a brutal form of torture. "Pilate knew that Jesus was Innocent and that he was delivered out of envy. He wanted to save Jesus but he didn't ave the courage to go against the wishes of the crowd."\* Do I ever lack the courage to do what is right? Jesus took away other people's wounds but now he is the one being wounded. Do I wound others or try to heal their wounds?

**PRAYER SUGGESTIONS TO GET STARTED:**

God, give me strength to be a blessing to others. Help those who are being hurt, abused and tortured in the world today. Bring peace to all hearts.

<https://catholicsstrivingforholiness.org/the-passion-of-our-lord-jesus-christ-3-the-scourging-at-the-pillar/>

## THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY



### THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

**BIBLE QUOTE: (JOHN 19:1-4)**

"The soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and struck him with their hands."

**SOME THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION:**

In this mystery we see Jesus suffering humiliation as the soldiers mock him. God who had created the universe was allowing himself to be tormented. He gave up everything to bridge the gap caused by sin and took on the consequences of all our failings. Am I willing to take this seriously, to think about eternal life and what is being offered to me by a God who's love knows no limits?

**PRAYER SUGGESTIONS TO GET STARTED:**

We can pray for those who suffer mentally, those who feel humiliated and alone. We can offer to God the times we feel shame.

## FORTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY



### THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

**BIBLE QUOTE: (MATTHEW 26:39 NRSVCE)**

"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will."

**SOME THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION**

"It was not lawful to condemn a Roman citizen to death by crucifixion: it was too humiliating. The moment that Jesus ...took up the Cross in order to carry it to Calvary marked a turning-point in the history of the cross. The symbol of a shameful death, reserved for the lowest classes, the cross becomes a key. From now on, with the help of this key, man will open the door of the deepest mystery of God." (St Pope John Paul II).

**PRAYER SUGGESTIONS TO GET STARTED:**

Here we can pray for people who are facing traumatic situations and have large problems in life to bear. People we know, situations in the news or things in our own families.

## FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY



### THE CRUCIFIXION

**BIBLE QUOTE: (MARK 15:34-35 NIV)**

"At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?')."

**SOME THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION:**

Think about Jesus on the cross. Imagine yourself there with Mary and the disciple John. Let the Holy Spirit guide you.

**PRAYER SUGGESTIONS TO GET STARTED:**

People who are fighting wars now - that there will be a change of heart from leaders and politicians. That the injustices which lead to war will cease.

We can also think about those we have lost and offer them to Our Lord and those who are sick and suffering.

# SESSION 4

## PRAYERS TO LEARN

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

(At the words that follow, up to and  
including Virgin Mary, please bow your head)

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell; on the third day  
He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven, and sits at  
the right hand of God the Father almighty,  
from thence He shall come  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and life everlasting.

Amen.

### THE HAIL HOLY QUEEN

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To you do we cry,

poor banished children of Eve.

To you do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
your eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this exile

show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb,  
Jesus.

O clement, O loving,

O sweet Virgin Mary

### THE FATIMA PRAYER

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins,  
save us from the fires of hell,  
and lead all souls to Heaven,  
especially those in most need of Your Mercy.

(Our Lady at Fatima, 13th July 1917)

### PRAYER GUIDANCE

These prayers are all part of the rosary. The Apostles' Creed is prayed on the first bead at the start of the rosary. This is a proclamation of what we believe.

The Fatima Prayer was given by Our Lady to the children when she appeared to them. This is a prayer for all of the human race to ask God to save everyone.

The Hail Holy Queen (or "Salve Regina" in Latin) is prayed every day by the whole Church. It is an anthem to Our Lady which has been in use since the 11th century. You can hear it being sung in Latin here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0YWKLNhTvE>

These prayers may well be too advanced for the children you will be leading the rosary with. Please discuss with the teacher in charge. The guidance in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory for schools (*To love You more dearly*) states that The Apostles' Creed is suitable for ages 7-9 upwards and the Hail Holy Queen for ages 11-14.

# SESSION 5

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE

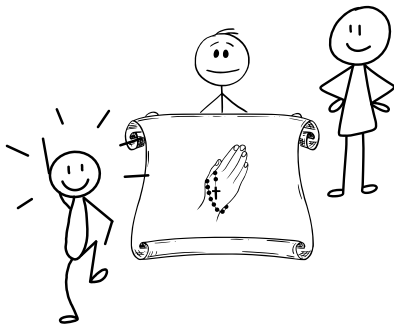


### SESSION 5: ORGANISATION

#### By the end of this session:

Your presentation to the children should be planned and rehearsed.

You can grow in your skills as a public speaker by following the exercises.



Use this session as you please in order to prepare for your presentation about the rosary, One Million Children Praying the Rosary for Peace and ACN.

You may want to use some of the clips from this course and/or adapt some of the worksheets. Please contact [marie.fahy@acnuk.org](mailto:marie.fahy@acnuk.org) if you would like the material in an alternative format.

You will know by now whether you are visiting the school or parish group once or twice. Either way, you should have a presentation prepared and have worked out how you will lead them in praying the rosary.

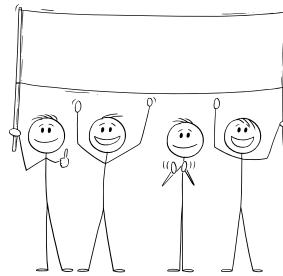
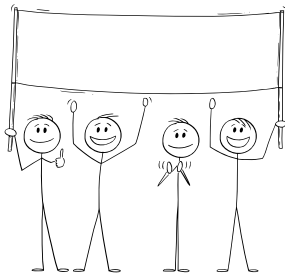
#### Points to consider:

Will you need any props?

Who in your group will do what.

Have you arranged everything with the group leader or teacher?

Use the 'Public Speaking Guides' on pages 22-23 to help you with your presentation skills.



### SAFEGUARDING

- Overview
- Responsibilities
- Protocol
- Awareness

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Your teacher or group leader will outline any safeguarding guidelines you need to be aware of.

You will be attending the school in a group, with a member of staff. Remember to stay with the group at all times and a staff member will accompany you if you need to leave the group for any reason.

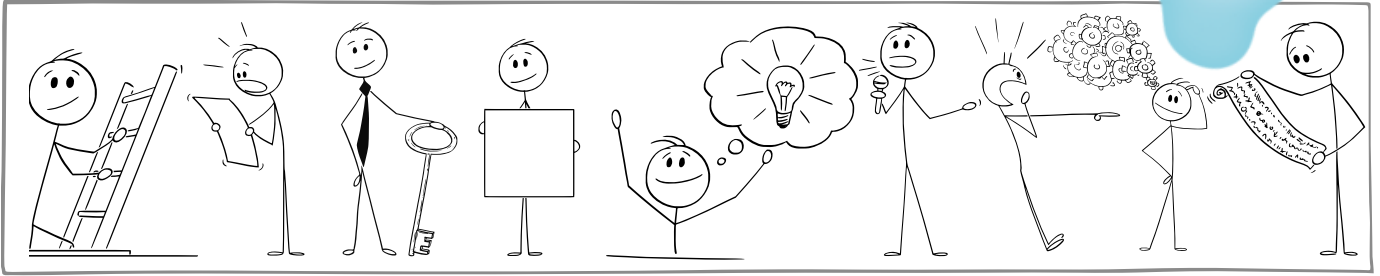
Tick off the boxes on the left when your teacher/leader has spoken to you about the general principles you need to be aware of.



ACN

# PUBLIC SPEAKING

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



When we imagine ourselves speaking in public, we often feel daunted. The distance between where we are and where we want to be as a speaker or presenter can seem vast and the ladder between, steep. Many of us look at others who seem to have natural confidence and compare ourselves negatively. The truth is that speaking in public is a skill which can be learned. You speak all the time in everyday life and therefore already have and use effectively the skills you need: arranging information, varying pitch, reading the reactions, telling stories, conveying emotion, showing empathy and getting your message across. Below you will find some tips and exercises to help you further develop your skills. When you are well prepared you can be more relaxed and able to let your personality shine through. This is the intention of these exercises and tips.

### TASK

Using the information below, prepare a two-minute speech/presentation about the rosary for the age-group you will be presenting to. When you have written it, look at the 'Helpful Tips' on page x and complete the exercises. Rehearse your speech in front of the group.

### WORK OUT TIMING

TIME



How long have you got? The average speaking rate is about 125-200 words a minute (presentations around 140 wpm). There are lots of apps available online which allow you to work out your own speaking pace. From there, ascertain how many words your presentation should contain and stick to it.

### PRACTISE

Practise in front of friends, the mirror, video yourself and practise again. This is hard to do, but it is by far the best way of becoming a proficient public speaker.

### ADD INTEREST

Use stories, statistics (sparingly), short quotes, humour, examples, news, cultural or age-related references to add interest and to keep engagement high.

### THREE POINTS

A good rule of thumb is to have three main points. This is easy for you and the listeners. Make sure each point directly references your one-sentence summary.

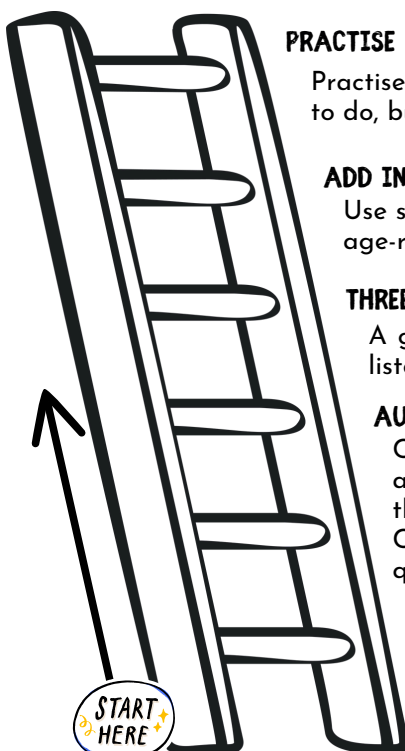
### AUDIENCE & CONTENT

Consider your audience: What are their expectations, interests and attention span and how can you adapt your content or the way you say it to reflect this? Are there issues you need to be aware of?

Consider your content: Have they heard this before or is it all new? What questions might they want to ask?

### SUMMARISE YOUR WHOLE PRESENTATION / TALK IN ONE SENTENCE

Work out the aim of your talk. What do you want the audience to go away with?









# PUBLIC SPEAKING



## HELPFUL TIPS

### THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE

Choose one or two of the tips below that you would like to work on. You are not expected to incorporate all of these! Are there any you didn't know? Which is the most useful?

<b>1</b> Be yourself. This sounds like a cliché, but it is the key. Do not think you have to be 'more' extrovert/comedic/interesting or any other label.	<b>2</b> Find an interesting fact. Something your audience doesn't know and will want to share.	<b>3</b> If the audience starts getting restless, ask them to stand up. Have a game that involves movement ready. This will encourage oxygen to the brain. 
<b>4</b> Consider your beginning and ending. It elevates your whole presentation if you get these right and they are memorable. 	<b>5</b> If you use slides, never read bullet points from them. This sends most people to sleep! Know your material rather than relying on the slides.	<b>6</b> If someone looks bored, anxious or hostile, try to ignore it. You have no idea what's happening in their heads and it's probably nothing to do with you.
<b>7</b> Imagine your voice is rising above the audience and hitting the back of the room in an arc. This helps you project your voice.	<b>8</b> Check technology before. Back-up presentations and check again - especially if you are in a new environment. 	<b>9</b> Chat with the group before you start and try to find out a name or two. Refer back to them in your talk. This shows interest and warmth.
<b>10</b> Own the space. Stand tall with your weight balanced equally. Try not to fiddle with your hair, lanyard, hands or notes.	<b>11</b> Remember that the audience are not judges who are about to jump on any mistake. They are likely to be on your side.	<b>12</b> Focus on the ideas you are communicating, not how you will be perceived. This helps with nerves. 
<b>13</b> Some nerves are good - they give you the adrenaline and therefore energy you need. Professional speakers try to turn their nerves into excitement. 	<b>14</b> Act: put acting skills to good use. Even if you feel out of your depth, act like a person who feels completely in control. It works!	<b>15</b> Smile - this goes a long way!
<b>16</b> If it goes wrong it is not the end of the world! Often people won't notice and even if they do, they will understand as they have probably been there themselves.	<b>17</b> Let your passion for your topic show. 	<b>18</b> Don't rush; use silence and vary the tone of your voice if you can. Use stories, as people always remember them.

# SESSION 6

## THE ACN ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE

Thank  
you

### SESSION 6: DISCUSSION

This session should take place after your prayer/presentation with the children:

Please share your experience having completed this course:

1. What have you learned?
2. Did you enjoy praying with the children?
3. Were you comfortable leading prayer?
4. What do you think about ACN, the rosary and Fatima?
5. What next?
6. Comments about your prayer journal.

Use this session to discuss the questions.

Thank you from all at ACN for participating in this project.

Your prayers are vital to our work and those we help are very grateful for your prayerful support.

If you are not a Member School/Parish Group yet and would like to join our free Membership Programme, please contact: [teresa.kehoe@acnuk.org](mailto:teresa.kehoe@acnuk.org)

Please join us for our #REDWEDNESDAY schools' livestream. This exciting and interactive broadcast will feature music, interviews and our famous hosts from our friends at The Mark 10 Mission.

For more information, please contact: [marie.fahy@acnuk.org](mailto:marie.fahy@acnuk.org)

God bless.



ACN ambassadors