

THREE ROSARIES OF OUR LADY

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Three rosaries of our Lady by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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LONDON
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1880

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A ROSARY IN HONOUR OF OUR
LADY AS CO-REDEMPTRIX



A ROSARY IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY AS CO-REDEMPTRIX.

A ROSARY in honour of OUR LADY as Co-Redemptrix—dwelling on the self-sacrifice, the union of the heart with God, the sharing of her Son's humiliation, the conquest of self-love and maternal love, out of conformity with the will of God, Godlike desire for the salvation of souls, and zeal for God's glory, in Mary as the perfect creature.

FIRST JOYFUL MYSTERY.

The Annunciation of our Lady.

MARY was alone ; pure, simple, happy, in God, when the Archangel came to offer her the desire of every maiden of her race.

In that supreme hour she might have been

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perturbed by a delight too ecstatic for a mortal heart ; but she was stilled by the high necessity of embracing with it a like lot to her Son's, a suffering as transcendent as her joy. She knew why God would put on flesh ; she knew that He, our Life (who as God hath life in Himself) came to take from His mother a mortal life, the power to die. Could her heart endure to crucify itself by giving up her child to insult, suffering, and death ? Mary alone of all creatures could have done it, because she alone had been created and fitted for this end. She said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord ; be it done to me according to Thy word ;" and in lowly love and perfect stillness she received the coming of God.

Son of Mary, conceived by the Holy Ghost, have mercy and hear our prayer. . . .

Mary, overshadowed by the power of the Most High, pray for us.

SECOND JOYFUL MYSTERY.

The Visitation of our Lady.

MARY arose with haste. She hurried to her cousin's house. She yearned to carry the miracle within her, where the divine power was already miraculously at work. Did she know that the

forerunner would adore his Lord? Did she only guess that where God was so present in blessing and in chastisement, her Babe and she would be acknowledged? or did she crave a refuge for a little in the hills to ponder on what now she knew, before she should begin her martyrdom by facing silently the alarm of tender, holy Joseph? Her heart, even *her* heart, was full to bursting. No word of hers was to tell her husband of her high calling and his own. As yet she was even to go through the piteous agony of his suspicion. And yet her heart was full of ecstasy.

In the house of the speechless Zachary, the unborn, speechless infant leapt for joy at the sound of her voice, and his aged mother proclaimed the dignity of Mary, and abased herself before the mother of her Lord.

Well had our Lady come here by Holy Ghost, for here she freely may break forth, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." Once only in all her life (for us), this once, the Alleluia of her heart must ring out. The first Christian hymn is this of Mary; the expression of the divinest joy mortal can ever know; good for every Christian when, in Holy Communion, God comes to enter into him. *We* are not only unworthy (that was Mary), we are degraded and defiled; yet that divine indwelling is vouchsafed also to us, and

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though no other mortal love, or sacrifice, can ever equal hers, each heart can try to make his own our Lady's song of joy.

Holy God, Holy and Strong, Holy and Immortal, inhabiting the Immaculate, of Thy mercy grant our prayer. . . .

Virgin Mary, Mother of God, pray to Jesus for us.

THIRD JOYFUL MYSTERY.

The Birth of our Saviour Christ in Bethlehem.

FROM the coming of the Holy Ghost, Mary had been rapturously conscious that she was God's living temple; that hidden in her body, taking form from her substance, was He whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, whom she had adored and served; but whom now she worshipped with a passionate love of union and possession. In her, the Infinite was small. In her, God had assumed not only the features of humanity but her own, the likeness of His mother. As her expectation neared its term, Mary longed for the hour when He should manifest Himself. Surrounded by the heavenly court (unseen, unheard, adoring), she waited God's mysterious pleasure. Yet she would fain have never let Him go. It was the beginning of their parting. And when