

TRANSLATION

PASTORAL CIRCULAR. DIOCESE OF BELTHANGADY. Circular No.: 10/2026

Subject: Month of the Holy Rosary

Promulgated by: Mar James Patteril C.M.F. Issue Date: 30 August 2026

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

We observe the month of October as a period of special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary. The 7th of October marks the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. During this holy month, let us earnestly endeavour to participate in the recitation of the Holy Rosary with deepened sincerity and faith, seeking the heavenly intercession of our Blessed Mother.

The Rosary serves as a profound contemplative pathway, enabling us to meditate alongside our Holy Mother upon the redemptive events of the life of Jesus. Through the principal narratives of the Gospel, we contemplate the Birth, Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ, thereby deepening our intimate communion with Him. The Rosary is indeed an exquisite bouquet of prayer wherein, while contemplating the entire life of Jesus, offering praises to the Most Holy Trinity, and reciting the prayers taught by Our Lord, we implore the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I urge all the faithful to recite the Rosary with utmost devotion. May this observance of the Month of the Rosary assist us in holding the Rosary in our hands, expressing our love and devotion to the Blessed Mother, and meditating upon the Mysteries of Christ with heightened faith.

When we pray the Rosary, we hold the hand of our Holy Mother and draw closer to Jesus. Hence, the Rosary is fundamentally a prayer that leads us towards a Christ-centric life and into the depths of faith. Pope St John Paul II taught us that when we devoutly meditate upon the Mysteries of Christ in the Rosary, we are enabled to contemplate Christ through the eyes of Mary. According to pious tradition, in the year 1214, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St Dominic and bestowed the Holy Rosary upon him. Subsequently, in 1571, when Europe faced Ottoman invasion, the Rosary served as the spiritual weapon of the Christian faithful. The Feast of the Queen of the Holy Rosary was instituted to be celebrated in October to commemorate the miraculous victory achieved over enemy forces in the Battle of Lepanto through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As St Ambrose observed: *"Mary is the ladder by which God descended to earth; Mary is the ladder by which humanity ascends to Heaven."* As we recite the Rosary, our steps are placed upon the rungs of the ladder leading unto eternal life.

The Holy Rosary holds a place of paramount importance in family life. A family that recites the Rosary together is a family that prays together; and in a family that prays together, love, unity, and peace flourish. The Blessed Mother extends her maternal protection over families that pray the Rosary daily. The various crises confronting contemporary families can be effectively met through the devout recitation of the Hail Mary. Through the prayer of the Holy Rosary, we are empowered to overcome the spiritual and moral evils that threaten to penetrate our domestic churches, our individual lives, and the lives of our children in the modern world.

In accordance with our established tradition, the Holy Rosary shall be recited continuously for ten days prior to the celebration of the Holy Mass in all our parish churches during the month of October. I lovingly remind and exhort all pastors and faithful to conduct this devotion with heightened solemnity this year, ensuring full participation. Wherever necessary, these recitations may be conducted in both the morning and evening. Special attention must be given to ensure the active engagement of children and youth in this spiritual exercise.

At present, our society, the Church, and the wider world are severely afflicted by numerous crises, conflicts, anxieties, and sufferings. In these circumstances, let us solemnly offer our Rosary prayers for world peace, the unity of families, the preservation of faith among young people, the consolation of the sick and suffering, and the sanctification of the Holy Church.

Recall the words of St Bernard: *"When you address Mary as 'Full of Grace', she responds by pouring forth abundant blessings upon you."* Entrusting all of you to the maternal protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our loving Mother and Protector, and to the intercession of St Thomas the Apostle, the patron saint of our Diocese, I impart my Episcopal Blessing upon you all: in the Name of the Father, + and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. +

Given at Belthangady

Dated: 30 August 2026

+ Mar James Patteril C.M.F.

Bishop of the Diocese of Belthangady

N.B. This Circular shall be read aloud in all churches during all Holy Mass services on Sunday, 27 September 2026.