

Circular: 5/2026

The Month of the Rosary

(Circular issued by Archbishop Mar Joseph Pamplany, Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly, in connection with the observance of the Month of the Rosary)

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are now entering the month of the Rosary, which exudes the fragrance of sanctity. The month of October, in which we take up the Rosary in our hands, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the prayer, "Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us," is an opportunity for spiritual renewal in parishes and homes.

Regarding the observance of the month of the Rosary, Pope Benedict XVI states: "The month of October is dedicated to the Rosary. This is a contemplative prayer that, under the guidance of the Blessed Virgin Mary, directs our gaze to the holy face of our Lord. Through this, we are conformed to the mysteries of the Messiah: the joyful, the luminous, the sorrowful, and the glorious."

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary has existed since the very beginning of the Church. To understand the depths of the great mystery of the Incarnation, we must understand the irreplaceable role played by the Blessed Virgin Mary in the history of salvation. The Rosary has played a very significant role in the establishment of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary within the Church. According to traditional belief, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Dominic in 1214 and gave him the Rosary. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary began to be observed in the month of October in memory of the defeat of enemy forces through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary when the Turks attacked Europe. "The prayer of the Rosary is a weapon that crushes the head of the infernal serpent." Families and individuals who continually pray the Rosary experience extraordinary divine protection.

The prayer of the Rosary is Christ-centered and Scripture-centered. In his book *True Devotion to Mary*, St. Louis de Montfort states: "The culmination of Marian devotion is Christ. Marian devotion helps us to know Christ fully, to love Him tenderly, and to serve Him faithfully." There is no prayer in the Rosary that does not involve contemplation of Jesus. Therefore, a person who recites the Rosary with spiritual preparation is elevated to the experience of sitting on Mary's lap and beholding the holy face of Jesus. The events of the Messiah described in the Gospels constitute the content of the Rosary prayer. The salvific events of our Lord take shape as prayer within the Rosary. The heart of a person who recites the Rosary with devotion will be filled with Holy Scripture. St. John of the Cross says: "There is no life of Mary that has not imitated the life of Christ." When we recite the Rosary prayer, our hearts reach out to Jesus and to Holy Scripture.

The stronghold of Catholic families is family prayer shared among family members. We must pay special attention during the observance of the month of the Rosary to make the evening prayers in our homes more active and to perform them diligently. Pope John Paul II states:

"There is nothing better than the devotion of the Rosary to bring down God's blessings upon families." We have the tradition that when the church bell rings at the Angelus/evening, family members kneel before the image of the Sacred Heart and conduct family prayer in their homes. The prayer of the Rosary is the heart of family prayer. Families that do not fail in family prayer remain secure within the defensive fortress of the Queen of the Rosary. Amidst urbanization and the developmental possibilities of this era, for anyone navigating life forward, the Rosary must become a great strength to overcome crises. It must be a platform for experiencing the presence of our Holy Mother. When taking up the Rosary, one must gain the experience of holding tightly to the hands of our Holy Mother. Let us take up the Rosary in our hands with faith so that the evils of this era may not conquer our families and our children. You will surely take special care to ensure that all family members participate in daily Holy Mass and evening prayers in homes, and that the communion and sanctity of the family are always preserved.

It is particularly commendable that parishes and other institutions in the Archdiocese are paying close attention to reciting the Rosary in churches throughout the month of October and arranging solemn Rosary prayers on at least 10 days of the month. You will endeavor to make the observance of the Rosary in October more devotional with the assistance of pious associations and family units. It is also appropriate to conduct a perpetual (continuous) Rosary on one day in the month of October, and to organize a Rosary procession on any one Sunday involving Sunday school children. Let us remember the words of St. Basil: "There is nothing impossible for our Holy Mother to do for us. St. Mary is able to obtain for us from God a hundredfold whatever we desire." Let our lips be filled with the aspiration: "O my Mother, my trust."

Commending you all to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the protection of Our Lady of the Rosary, I bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit. †

Affectionately in Christ,

Archbishop Joseph Pamplany

Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly

(Issued to be read during Holy Mass in all parish churches and institutions of the Archdiocese on Sunday, 27 September 2026).