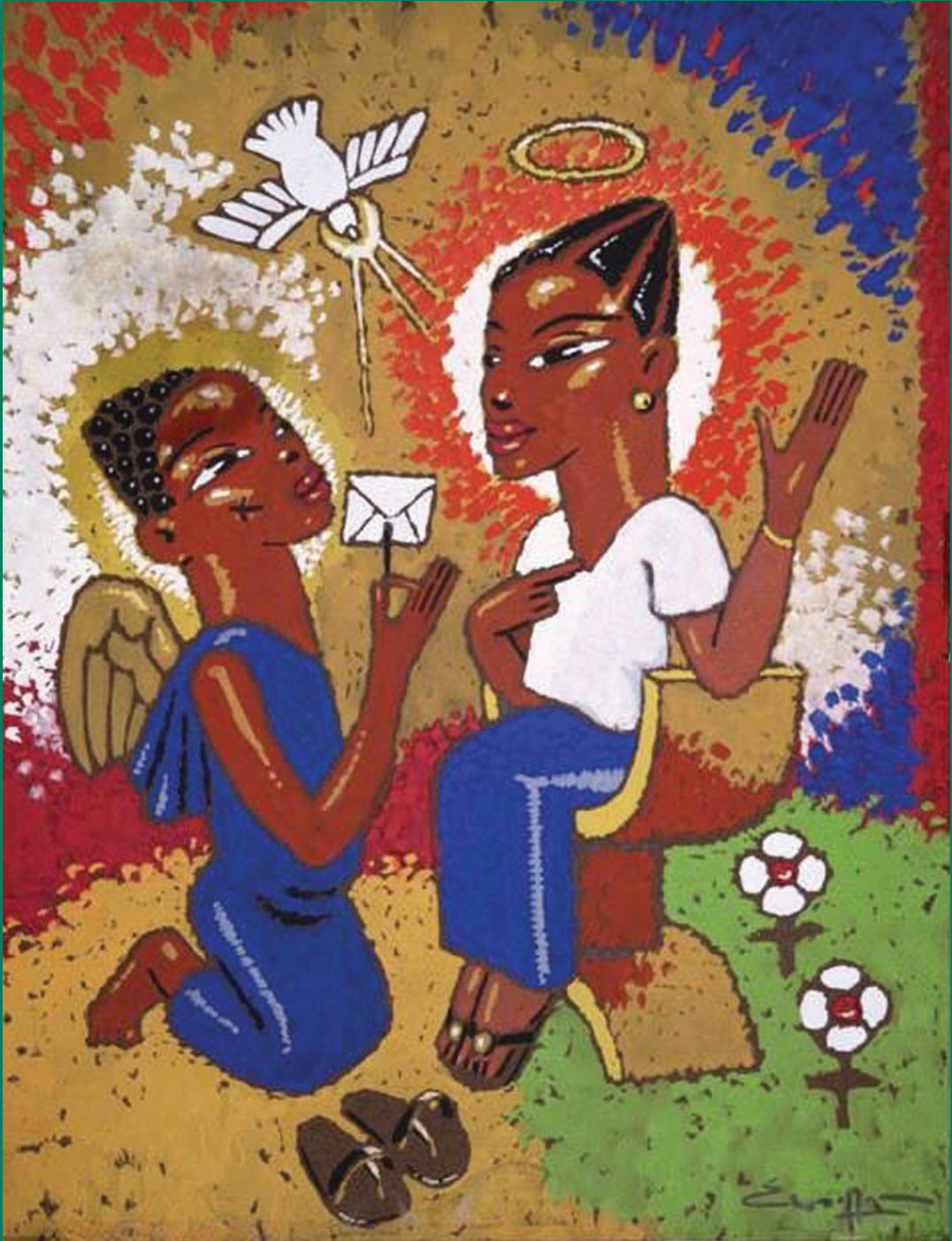


# *The Missionary Rosary*



### ***A closer look at the Annunciation Scene by Paul Woelfel (1950)***

Nigerian artist Paul Woelfel's watercolour painting of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) reflects his African ancestry: Mary and Gabriel are of African descent, and Mary sits on an African-style chair.

Notice that the Angel Gabriel has removed his shoes. This is reminiscent of Moses who removed his shoes in the presence of the burning bush as a sign of respect and honour to God. By taking off his shoes, Gabriel shows us that Mary is holy, worthy of honour and praise.

Look at the way God's message is represented. First of all, it comes in the form of a letter, a letter so holy that Gabriel does not even touch it. Secondly, the message is accompanied by the Holy Spirit, depicted in the form of a dove. Clearly the message is not of human origin, but comes from God.

Note, too, the differences in the ground around Gabriel and Mary. Underneath Gabriel is barren, burned earth. Underneath Mary are grass and flowers, signs of new life. The child Mary will bear will bring new life to the world.

Finally, look at Mary's hands. Her right hand points to herself in such a way that we can almost hear her saying, "Who me? God's chosen me?". At the same time Mary lifts up her left hand signifying her willingness to answer God's call, "Let it be done according to your word".

**Father Philip Chircop SJ**



# THE MISSIONARY ROSARY

Comboni Missionary Publications  
United Kingdom and Ireland





# Pray the Missionary Rosary



# **Preface to the Missionary Rosary**

***We pray with the Holy Father for the  
whole Church and for the whole world***

*All of us are invited to 'go out' as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the message of God's tenderness and compassion to the entire human family. By virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord's love ... The mandate of the Gospel to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20) has not ceased; rather this command commits all of us, in the current landscape with all its challenges, to hear the call to a renewed missionary 'impulse'.  
(Pope Francis)*

As we pray each mystery for a particular continent, we are embracing in faith and solidarity all its peoples. Through the Rosary, we unite ourselves with all God's children throughout the world: the millions who daily suffer the ravages of poverty, violence and injustice, the countless people to whom the Church reaches out through her missionaries. Together with Mary we ask that the Good News of Jesus Christ may be proclaimed and become alive everywhere and to all. We also pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest. Finally, we pray for ourselves and those dear to us and we commend to the Father our dear ones who have died, and all the Holy Souls.

## **MISSIONARY DECADES**

### **GREEN DECADE**

We pray for the whole world, but especially for the continent of **AFRICA**.  
**Intention:** that there may be true integral development worthy of God's children, an end to war and violence, and the peaceful growth of the young African Church.

### **RED DECADE**

We pray for the whole world, but especially for the **AMERICAS, North, Central and South**.  
**Intention:** that the Church may continue to promote God's Kingdom of justice, love and peace.

### **WHITE DECADE**

We pray for the whole world, but especially for **EUROPE**.  
**Intention:** that the entire continent, East and West, may preserve, develop and share its rich Christian traditions.

### **BLUE DECADE**

We pray for the whole world, but especially for **OCEANIA**, including **Australia, New Zealand** and the numerous **Pacific Islands**.  
**Intention:** that all the many scattered Christian Communities may play their part in the universal missionary Church.

### **YELLOW DECADE**

We pray for the whole world, but especially for **ASIA**.  
**Intention:** that Asia, the home of billions who follow the great world religions, may be open to the message of Christ.





# THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

(Mondays and Saturdays)



O Mary, who carried the Lord of Glory in your womb,  
we honour you as we say:

*"Rejoice, O full of grace; the Lord is with you.  
Glory to the Father who chose you;  
Glory to the Son, who was born of you,  
through the work of the Holy Spirit  
who sanctified and purified you,  
for ever and ever. Amen"*

(Ethiopian Prayer)



## FIRST JOYFUL MYSTERY

### THE ANNUNCIATION

**T**he angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Rejoice, full of grace. The Lord is with you. You are to conceive and bear a son. The Holy Spirit will come upon you and so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God". Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord". (From Luke 1:26-38)

Mary, God called you to be the Mother of Jesus and you welcomed his call and said, "YES".

We too are all called to follow Christ and serve Him in our brothers and sisters. Help us to say our 'YES' every day.

Help those who are called to be missionary Priests, Brothers, Sisters or Lay Missionaries, to answer His call.

**"SPEAK, LORD, YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING"**



## SECOND JOYFUL MYSTERY

### THE VISITATION



**M**ary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah to help her cousin Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting she gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled".  
(From Luke 1:39-45)

Mary, you willingly helped your cousin in her time of need. Help us to be grateful for the times we have received special help from God through the kindness of others.

Pray with us that we may be always ready to help those in need, near or far.

We pray for all whose work involves helping the poor, the lonely and the unloved.

We pray especially for missionaries who feel tired or over-burdened.

**'GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER'**





## THIRD JOYFUL MYSTERY

### THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

*Joseph travelled from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. (From Luke 2:1-7)*

Mary, you are the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God. Your Son chose to be born poor that we might learn to set our hearts on His Kingdom, and not on position, prestige or possessions.

As we share with the poor the treasure of the faith, help us to build a world of justice, love and peace.

**"I WAS HUNGRY ... THIRSTY ... WITHOUT A HOME OR CLOTHES  
AND YOU TOOK CARE OF ME"**



## FOURTH JOYFUL MYSTERY

### THE PRESENTATION

**M**ary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed God and said, "Now my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel".  
(From Luke 2:22-32)



Mary, you offered the child Jesus back to God who had entrusted Him to you.  
Pray with us for all parents: help them to lead their children to serve God and His people.  
Pray that we, like Christ, may be a 'light' to those we meet and bring them closer to your Son.

**'TAKE, LORD, AND RECEIVE ALL I HAVE AND POSSESS,  
MY ENERGY, MY UNDERSTANDING, MY ENTIRE WILL'**



## FIFTH JOYFUL MYSTERY

### JESUS IN THE TEMPLE



**W**hen Jesus was twelve years old, they went to Jerusalem for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them and asking them questions ... .  
(From Luke 2:41-47)

Mary, with Joseph, you searched for Jesus until you found Him. Many people are still searching for Him, anxious to know Him and to experience His love in their lives.

Pray with us that all people may have the Good News preached to them that they may know and believe in Christ your Son.

**"ASK AND YOU WILL RECEIVE, SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND,  
KNOCK AND THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO YOU"**





# **THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES**

*(Tuesdays and Fridays)*



*"The works of God begin and end  
in the shadow of the Cross"*

Saint Daniel Comboni



## FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY

### THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN



**W**hen the Passover meal was over, Jesus left to make his way as usual to the Mount of Olives with his disciples. Then he withdrew from them, knelt down and prayed. "Father", he said, "if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine". Then an angel appeared to him, coming from heaven to give him strength.  
(From Luke 22:3.9-42)

Lord, we contemplate your agony in the garden of Gethsemane: you found yourself alone, abandoned by your disciples and friends.  
We pray for all God's children who feel alone, abandoned by all; those who are discouraged and depressed by their troubles; the sick and the dying; and those in prison.

**"THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH  
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN"**



## SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY

### THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

**P**ilate said to the chief priests and the elders, "What am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified". Pilate ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed him over to be crucified.

(From Matthew 27:21-26)



Lord, in this mystery we remember how you were cruelly mocked and whipped by the soldiers, though innocent of any crime.

We pray for all who suffer unjustly all over the world, especially the poor, the starving, refugees and the victims of discrimination and prejudice. Help us to see you present in them all and reach out to them in love.

**'ALWAYS TREAT OTHERS  
AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO TREAT YOU'**





## THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY

### THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

*The soldiers stripped Jesus and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him, they knelt before him saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!". And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it.*  
(From Matthew 27:27-30)



Lord, the soldiers crowned you with thorns and made fun of you. Sometimes those who follow you suffer the same fate. Help us to be courageous witnesses and not to hide our faith.

We pray for those who suffer the humiliation of immigration, unemployment, old age and disability, and those who defend the rights of the poor and the afflicted.

**"HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED  
IN THE CAUSE OF RIGHT"**



## FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

### JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

**P**ilate handed Jesus over to the Jews to be crucified. They then took charge of him and carrying his cross he went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha. As they were leading him away they seized a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus.

(From John 19:17 and  
Luke 23:26)



We pray for all whose crosses seem too heavy to bear, especially for families in difficulty and for those who are terminally ill.

Help us to lend a hand like Simon of Cyrene, to accept our crosses, to take them up day after day and to follow you.

**"COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO LABOUR AND  
ARE OVER-BURDENED AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST"**



## FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

### THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF OUR BLESSED LORD

**W**hen they reached the place they call the Skull, they crucified him there. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing". When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit".  
(From Luke 23:33-45)

We remember all the victims of violence and those who gave their lives in the mission fields.

We pray for all missionaries who live in dangerous situations and for ourselves that we may be ready to do all we can to spread your Gospel of peace.

**'WE CAN SHOW NO GREATER LOVE  
THAN TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR OUR FRIENDS'**





# ***THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES***

*(Wednesdays and Sundays)*



*"My Divine Mother, you know how many beautiful souls and generous hearts I have found, thanks to you, in Africa".*

Saint Daniel Comboni



## FIRST GLORIOUS MYSTERY

### THE RESURRECTION



**O**n the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women went to the tomb. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering they could not find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled about this, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side and said to them, "Why look among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here, he has risen".  
(From Luke 24:1-6)

Lord, in this mystery, we contemplate your resurrection, your victory over death, sin, selfishness and all that enslaves us. Help us to learn the path of obedience, humility and sacrifice.

May we live the new life you have brought us so that more and more people will follow you, the source of true life.

**"MY SOUL IS THIRSTING FOR GOD, THE GOD OF MY LIFE"**



## SECOND GLORIOUS MYSTERY

### THE ASCENSION

**J**esus said to the apostles, "You will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come upon you and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth".  
(From Acts 1:7-9)



Lord, you asked the apostles to continue the work you had started and assured them of your presence among them. Keep all missionaries in your special care and call many men and women of all nations to be your witnesses. Help all the members of your Church to live their Christian lives to the full and so proclaim that you are Lord of all.

**"I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS,  
YES, UNTIL THE END OF TIME"**





## THIRD GLORIOUS MYSTERY

### THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



**W**hen Pentecost day came round, the Apostles and Mary had all met together in one room when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them what seemed like tongues of fire. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages.

(From Acts 2:1-4)

Lord, in this mystery we contemplate the beginning of the Church, when you filled the disciples with your Holy Spirit. Pour out your Spirit again in our day upon all who preach the Good News.

**'COME, HOLY SPIRIT,  
FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL AND  
ENKINDLE IN THEM THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE'**



## FOURTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY

### THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

**G**od, being rich in faithful love, through the great love with which he loved us, brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus for the good works which God has already designated to make up our way of life.  
(From Ephesians 2:4-6.10)



You, Mary, are God's supreme work of art. You were filled with his grace and took his word into your heart. Inspire us to set our hearts on all that is good, beautiful and holy so that we may see what marvels God has worked for us. Help us to see all the good around us as so many people strive to be instruments of God's love in the world.

*"MY SOUL GLORIFIES THE LORD"*



## FIFTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY

### OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN

*Now a great sign appeared  
in heaven: a woman  
clothed with the sun, standing  
on the moon and on her head  
a crown of twelve stars.  
(From Revelation 12:1)*

Mary, faithful to God's call,  
you show from heaven your  
loving care and intercession  
for all God's children. You are  
Mother of God and Mother of  
the Church and all people.

We place all peoples of the world, especially the millions of children who suffer  
from hunger and neglect, in your motherly care.  
Move the hearts of those in authority to be compassionate towards the weak and  
help us all to be children worthy of you, our Mother.



*"THE LORD HAS DONE MARVELS FOR ME,  
HOLY IS HIS NAME"*





# ***THE MYSTERIES OF LIGHT***

*(Thursdays)*



*"No passion ever took root in my heart except  
my passion for Africa".*

Saint Daniel Comboni



# FIRST LUMINOUS MYSTERY

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



***I**t was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn open and the Spirit descending on him.  
(From Mark 1:9-10)*

Mary, Mother of all believers, your Son chose the time of his baptism to commence his public life of preaching, healing and forming his apostles. May we and all who have been baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity be ever aware of the mission in which we share and daily recall our baptismal promises.

***"YOU ARE MY SON, THE BELOVED, MY FAVOUR RESTS ON YOU"***



## SECOND LUMINOUS MYSTERY

### THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA

**T**here was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Mary, the mother of Jesus was there and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine".  
(From John 2:1-3)

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, we commend to your loving care all the families of the world. In their time of need may they see in Jesus your Son the answer to their prayers and deepest needs. Bless especially those families in which the Rosary is prayed and comfort those parents whose children fall away from the practice of the faith.



**MARY SAID TO THE SERVANTS,  
"DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU"**



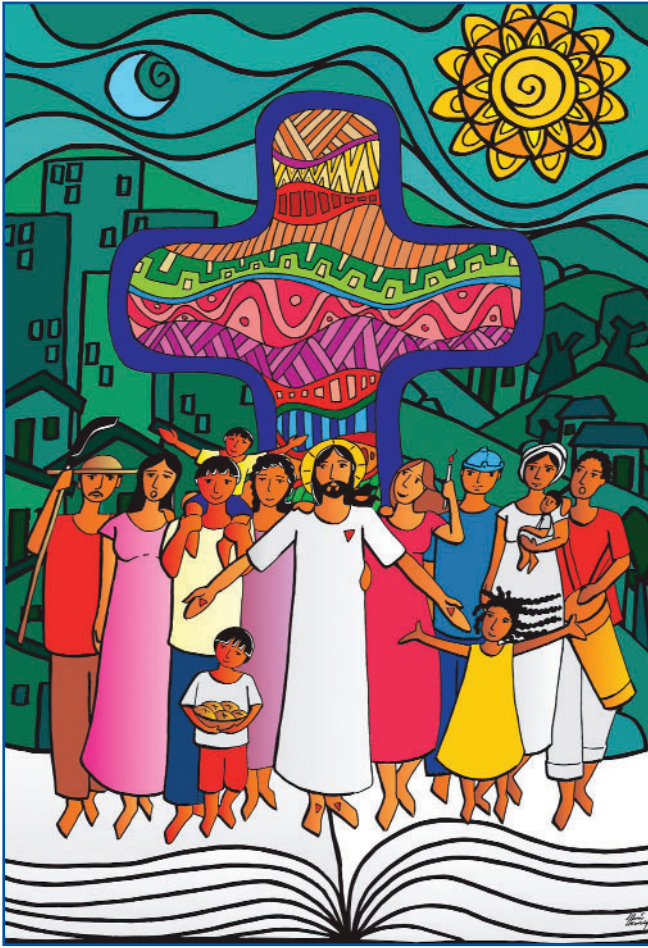


## THIRD LUMINOUS MYSTERY

### JESUS PROCLAIMS THE KINGDOM

*Jesus proclaimed the Good News from God, "The time has come", he said, "and the Kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News".  
(From Mark 1:14-15)*

Mary, Mother of our Redeemer, you accompanied your Son as he proclaimed the Good News. Help us, too, to share in the work of redemption



by lives of active faith.

Guide the young along the path of fidelity to the Gospel that they may grow daily in faith, hope and love.

Be close to all missionaries who witness daily the great needs of the poor and obtain for them the grace of trusting in your intercession, and make us all joyful to serve your Son.

**"MAN DOES NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE BUT ON EVERY  
WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD"**



# FOURTH LUMINOUS MYSTERY

## THE TRANSFIGURATION



*Jesus took Peter, John and James up the mountain to pray. Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here". A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, the chosen One. Listen to Him".*

*(From Luke 9:28.33-35)*

Mary, Mother of our Lord, teach us how to contemplate the face of your Son and to discover in him the way to the Father.

Obtain for us a true spirit of prayer and help us to experience the joy of living in the presence of God.

We pray for all who live in doubt that they may see Jesus through the eyes of faith and believe in Him.

We pray for all missionaries that they may bring to the world the joy of knowing their heavenly Father who cares for them as his children.

**'PRAY AT ALL TIMES'**



## FIFTH LUMINOUS MYSTERY

### THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST



***I**t was before the Festival of the Passover, and Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father. He had always loved those who were his own in the world, and now he showed how perfect his love was.*

*(From John 13:1)*

Mary, Mother of the Church, your Son calls us to imitate his great love for all. Help us to be instruments of his love towards the poorest and most abandoned of the earth.

Through the missionary work of the Church gather all peoples into one body, one spirit in Christ.

**"NO-ONE CAN COME TO THE FATHER  
EXCEPT THROUGH ME"**



## HAIL HOLY QUEEN

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope!  
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;  
to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this  
our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

**V.** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

**R.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Let us pray:**

O God, whose only begotten Son, by his life, death and resurrection has purchased  
for us the rewards of eternal life, grant we beseech thee, that by meditating on these  
mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may both imitate  
what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ Our  
Lord. **Amen.**

## REGINA COELI

Queen of heaven, rejoice! Alleluia! For he whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia!  
Has risen as he said. Alleluia! Pray for us to God. Alleluia!

**V.** Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!

**R.** For the Lord has truly risen. Alleluia!

**Let us pray:**

God our Father, you gave joy to the world by the resurrection of your Son,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the prayers of his Mother, the Virgin Mary,  
bring us to the happiness of eternal life. We ask this through the same Christ our  
Lord. **Amen.**

## MEMORARE

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who  
had recourse to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession,  
was left unaided. Filled, therefore with confidence in your goodness I fly to you, O  
Virgin of Virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner.  
Despise not my poor words, O Mother of the Word of God, but graciously hear  
and answer me. **Amen.**

# LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Lord have mercy  
*Lord have mercy*  
Christ have mercy  
*Christ have mercy*  
Lord have mercy  
*Lord have mercy*  
Christ hear us,  
*Christ graciously hear us*  
God the Father of heaven  
*Have mercy on us*  
God the Son  
Redeemer of the world  
*Have mercy on us*  
God the Holy Spirit  
*Have mercy on us*  
Holy Trinity, One God  
*Have mercy on us*  
Holy Mary ... *Pray for us*  
Holy Mother of God  
Holy Virgin of virgins  
Mother of Christ  
Mother of divine grace  
Mother most pure  
Mother most chaste  
Mother inviolate  
Mother undefiled  
Mother most amiable  
Mother most admirable  
Mother of good counsel  
Mother of our Creator  
Mother of our Saviour  
Virgin most prudent  
Virgin most venerable  
Virgin most renowned

Virgin most powerful  
Virgin most merciful  
Virgin most faithful  
Mirror of justice  
Seat of wisdom  
Cause of our joy  
Spiritual vessel  
Vessel of honour  
Singular vessel of devotion  
Mystical rose  
Tower of David  
Tower of ivory  
House of gold  
Ark of the Covenant  
Gate of heaven  
Morning star  
Health of the sick  
Refuge of sinners  
Comfort of the afflicted  
Help of Christians  
Queen of Angels  
Queen of Patriarchs  
Queen of Prophets  
Queen of Apostles  
Queen of Martyrs  
Queen of Confessors  
Queen of Virgins  
Queen of all Saints  
Queen conceived without original  
sin  
Queen assumed into heaven  
Queen of the most holy Rosary  
Queen of peace  
Queen of the missions

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: *Spare us, O Lord.*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: *Have mercy on us.*

V. Pray for us O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Let us pray:**

Lord God, give to your people the joy of continual health of mind and body. With the prayers of the Virgin Mary to help us, guide us through the sorrows of this life to the eternal happiness of the life to come. Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE ANGELUS

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary, ... .

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary, ... .

V. And the Word was made flesh:

R. And dwelt amongst us. Hail Mary, ... .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Let us pray.**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may, by his passion and cross, be brought to the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the divine assistance remain always with us and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**



## SAINT DANIEL COMBONI (1831-1881)

Bishop Daniel Comboni, Founder of the Comboni Missionaries (Verona Fathers) and the Comboni Missionary Sisters, was canonised at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on October 5th 2003 by the late Pope Saint John Paul II in recognition of his decisive role in bringing the Gospel to sub-Saharan Africa in the second half of the Nineteenth Century.

Born in Limone on the shores of Lake Garda in Northern Italy on March 15th 1831, Comboni consecrated his life to the Missions in Africa when he was only eighteen years old and was ordained a priest in 1854.

Comboni urged the Pope and bishops of the Church, assembled for the First Vatican Council in 1870, to proclaim that every Local Church should be involved in the preaching of the Gospel in Africa.

He encouraged people from all walks of life, including royalty and statesmen, to take up their rightful responsibilities towards the "poorest and most abandoned of the earth". He challenged the whole Church to be missionary and invited men and women, both priests and laity, to join him. He founded the Comboni Missionaries for priests and laymen in 1867 and the Comboni Missionary Sisters in 1871.

Consecrated bishop in 1877, Comboni expended all his energies for the peoples of Africa. He fervently believed that the future of Africa lay in the hands of Africans themselves and set about founding a truly African Church.

Worn out by toils, sickness and sheer exhaustion, Comboni died in Khartoum (Sudan) on October 10th 1881 at just fifty years of age.

Saint Daniel Comboni leaves a legacy of unbounded trust in God's goodness and the willingness to undertake even the most arduous tasks for the spread of the Gospel amongst the more unfortunate and disadvantaged of the world.



## COMBONI MISSIONARIES

Almost 4,000 Comboni Missionary priests, brothers, sisters and lay-people of forty-four nationalities continue the mandate of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations. Following the example of our Founder, Saint Daniel Comboni (1831-1881), we work among the 'poorest and most abandoned' in forty-five countries of Africa, the Americas and Asia.

In the United Kingdom and Ireland, we promote the ideals of the Missionary Church through the witness of the written and spoken word - our missionary magazine and booklets, our websites, and speaking to Congregations in Parishes about our work and the missionary vocation.

We endeavour to bring the light of the Gospel to bear on the great world issues of justice and peace, human and religious rights, and the plight of the developing nations, their needs, values and cultures.

In the Missions we co-operate with the Local Church in running parishes, schools, and hospitals, social and training centres.

Our work is financed by the generosity of our friends and assisted by their prayers and support.

We are blessed with many vocations in the South of the world, young men and women who require education and training to become missionaries to the world.

We invite you to share with us in our missionary work and life as partners. May you, too, experience the joy of making Christ and his Gospel known to the whole world.



## PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES

*H*eavenly Father, since the harvest is great and the labourers are few, you have called us, too, to work in your vineyard alongside your missionaries.

*Y*ou have chosen us to be the hidden support and strength of those who preach the Gospel and day by day we assail the throne of your grace, asking you to bless and protect them. We accept with confidence in your love the task you have given us and beg your grace to carry it out with diligence.

*G*rant missionaries a zeal for your Kingdom which will enable them to remain faithful to their noble calling. Be their shield in time of danger and reassure them in the loneliness and difficulties they must endure for your sake. Enrich them in their poverty, love them in their chastity and lighten their hearts in obedience to you.

*W*e pray especially for elderly, sick and retired missionaries. Be the strength of their frailty and the joy of their old age. Provide all missionaries with numerous and faithful friends who will never abandon them and bless, too, the peoples among whom they live and work.

*G*uide us all with your Spirit during the heat of the day, so that, in the evening of our lives, united with you and with the missionaries we have taken to our hearts, we may at last receive the reward of our labours and rejoice forever in your presence among the blessed in Heaven. **Amen.**



## FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM

*Missionary Rosaries and Booklets are available from:*

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*Front Cover*

Watercolour painting of the 'Annunciation' by Nigerian Artist, Paul Woelfel

