

## A Short Marian Service

( This is suggested, ---or something similar---for the Day on which the Rosaries are given to the Children. If it is at a full assembly, it might be preceded by a little ceremony.

A statue of Our Lady is carried in by two pupils, all other pupils wave white hankies—paper napkins would suffice—which is what they do in Fatima.

A May altar could be set up and the statue is placed upon it.

Behind the statue- carriers comes a little procession of one child from each Class carrying the Rosaries for their own Class.

Everyone intones simply the 'Fatima Ave' (Or any Marian hymn) during the procession; or a recording of Fatima or Marian Music could be played.

Also in the procession could be 5 children dressed as, Our Lady, the Angel, and the 3 Fatima children.

Leader: Over 90 years ago, Our Lady appeared in Fatima, Portugal to three children called Lucia, who was ten years old, and her cousins, Francisco , who was eight and Jacinta who was just seven. These 3 children were just the same age as many of you are. Our Lady came 6 times in all and each time she came, she asked the children to PRAY the ROSARY every day.

To-day each one of you is going to receive a new Rosary, which has been specially blest.

Before you receive your Rosary, it is important to remember where the words we say in the Rosary actually came from.

The *Our Father* was taught to the Apostles by Jesus and so people have said it in every language for over two thousand years.

Let us say it now: "Our Father....."

The Hail Mary comes partly from the story of the Annunciation and partly from the words spoken by Mary's cousin Elizabeth when Our Lady went to visit her to tell her about Jesus coming.

Reader1: In the story of the Annunciation the angel Gabriel spoke to Our Lady and told her she was to be the Mother of Jesus. His words are remembered as:  
"Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you".

Reader 2: In the story of the Visitation we are told that Mary then went into the hill country to the house of her cousin Elizabeth who greeted her with the words :  
"Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb".

Reader 3: The Church then added the words:  
"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death."

Let us say the Hail Mary now: "Hail Mary....."

Leader: The *Glory Be to the Father* is a beautiful prayer given to us by the Church to honour the Blessed Trinity.

Let us say it now: "Glory be to the Father....."

Now that we know the prayers of the Rosary, we will give you your Rosaries, and we will pray on them.

(A short description may follow on how to hold the Rosary.)

WE are asked to pray the Rosary to ask Mary to bring Jesus into our hearts. Later on we will learn about the twenty Mysteries of the Rosary. With each Mystery we think, before we say the decade, of Jesus' life amongst us.

At the end of the decade we will say the short prayer that Our Lady taught the three children when she appeared to them in Fatima and asked them to pray the Rosary every day:

“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven especially those in most need of thy mercy.”

Now let us pray the first Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, the Annunciation. Think for a minute of the Angel coming to tell Mary she was to be the Mother of Jesus and of Mary saying "Yes".

(Short pause)

Now take the crucifix in your hand and together we will bless ourselves and begin..

“In the name of the Father.....

Finish with Hymn to Our Lady.

[Perhaps now Fr Willie Mone's letter to the children could be read....and/or children be directed to come and pray at the May altar sometime.....and/or be encouraged to come to the Rosary at lunchtime.]