



Jesus I Trust in You

PARISH OF ST. AGATHA

25TH/26TH APRIL 2020

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[Summary] *Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Faithful to pray the Rosary for the Month of May 2020*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us *come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.*

For this reason, *I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May.* This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity,

I am providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. The prayers can be accessed on <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/letter-on-the-month-of-may-full-text.html>

Dear brothers and sisters, *contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial.* I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020

Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD REVEALS THE RISEN JESUS AT MASS

Two disciples were walking on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35), when Jesus joined their company, but something prevented them from recognising Him, Many Catholics walk the road of Salvation with Jesus, when they attend Sunday and weekly Masses, but do not recognise His Presence among them. They cannot hear Him when He speaks to them in the Gospels or see Him in the Eucharist. Why is this? Sin and unbelief prevents them from hearing or seeing Jesus. The two disciples in their sinful state of unbelief and doubt in the identity of the Messiah and His Resurrection from the Dead, were spiritually blind to His Presence.

JESUS SPEAKS BUT WE DON'T ALWAYS LISTEN

When Mary Magdalene first encountered Jesus at the Tomb (Jn 20:15), she too, because of doubt and disbelief of the Resurrection, did not recognise Him. She thought He was the Gardner, until He spoke her name and she believed. Mary only saw Him then, realising in a moment, that all He had taught them had come true. Our hardened and stubbornness of hearts, our self-imposed reluctance to forgive in the Spirit of love, prevents some from seeing the Risen Jesus at the breaking of the Eucharist in Mass.

WRONG ROAD V THE RIGHT ROAD

Emmaus was outside Jerusalem and the two disciples were heading there. They were on the Road, meaning they were pilgrims on the Way to eternal life, but going the wrong direction! They never expected to see Jesus again. To them His death was a failure. They did not understand at this stage, how Jesus had to die, in order to set Israel free, but not from the Romans, but from the Devil. He came down from Heaven to bring Redemption which means to Redeem, to Rescue, to set Humanity Free, from the Death Grip of Satan, allowing souls to be free to enter Heaven. If they choose to Believe.

FULFILMENT OF SCRIPTURE

Their hearts were on fire with the Holy Spirit hearing the history of salvation, from Salvation Himself. He taught them that Christ is the fulfilment of the Old Testament. Their hearts were opened to this Love and in turn, they opened their home to Him. This **act of charity** opened their spiritually blind eyes and minds to His Presence. As they sat down to the meal, Jesus, the Visitor unexpectedly began acting as the Host, He took the bread, said the Blessing over it, broke it and gave it to them. And in that very Act they recognised Him, in the very First Mass after the Resurrection. Jesus disappeared from their sight in His Human Form, but most importantly, He remained in their Presence, visible in His new guise of Blessed Living Bread: Communion. Our hearts should be set on Fire with the Holy Spirit in Mass, seeing the Risen Christ, in His New Sacramental Body, clothed in Eucharistic Flesh, at the breaking of the Bread, just before Holy Communion is *served* to the faithful. God bless, Fr. Brendan.