

## Achievement Objective Nos 2 and 3

See page 2.

### Learning Outcomes:

The children will:

- 1 identify the different mysteries of the *Rosary*
- 2 recognise that people meditate on the mysteries or stories associated with each decade of the *Rosary*

### Preparation for the Lesson:

- Teacher Resource - The Mysteries of the *Rosary*, photocopy, cut up and place in envelopes for sorting, one set for each group, page 26
- Pictures from Children's Illustrated Bibles or from the school library showing the different events portrayed in the mysteries of the *Rosary*
- Children's Home Activity, page 27 - copy for each child

**Teacher's Note:** The appropriate pictures from the Picture Resource could be used to illustrate the mysteries of the *Rosary* in this lesson.

### Teacher's Notes:

When people pray the *Rosary* they think about or reflect on a mystery or story of the life of Jesus or Mary as they pray the Hail Marys. There are fifteen mysteries of the *Rosary* altogether. There are 5 Joyful Mysteries, 5 Sorrowful Mysteries and 5 Glorious Mysteries of the *Rosary*. All of the mysteries or stories come from the Scriptures with the exception of two. These two, *The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven* and *the Crowning of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven* are Catholic beliefs about Mary - Maria. When people pray the 5 Joyful Mysteries they reflect on the belief that God sent Jesus into the world. These mysteries focus on the early stories of Jesus' life, how the angel asked Mary to be the Mother of God - *Te Whaea o Te Atua*, how she then visited her cousin Elizabeth, how Jesus was born in *Bethlehem*, was presented in the Temple and then when he was 12 was found in the Temple.

Next come the Sorrowful Mysteries. These are about Jesus' suffering at the time of his death. They begin with Jesus praying in the Garden of *Gethsemane*. Then people reflect on the cruel way Jesus was treated. In John's Gospel it says "Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head and they dressed him in a purple robe" John 19:1-2. In the final two decades of the Sorrowful Mysteries people meditate on how Jesus carried his cross to *Calvary* where he was put to death.

The Glorious Mysteries are just that. They reflect on the terrific things that happened after Jesus' death which give people joy and hope. First is the Resurrection - *Te Aranga* of Jesus from the dead and then his *Ascension* into Heaven. After Jesus returned to Heaven he sent the Holy Spirit - *Te Wairua Tapu* down into the hearts of the first community of the Church. The final two decades of the Glorious Mysteries allow people to reflect how God took Mary - Maria to Heaven in the *Assumption* and crowned her as the Queen of Heaven.

By meditating on these mysteries people can come to know Jesus better and learn to follow him more closely.

### Consolidation and Extension Activities:

- Children's Home Activity
- During class prayer when the children pray a decade of the *rosary* a picture of that mystery could be placed before them to help them meditate on it

### Suggested Assessment Examples:

- **LO 1** Children classify the Mysteries of the *Rosary* cards under the correct headings.
- **LO 2** Answer the question: What do people think about as they say each decade of the *rosary*? They think about one of the mysteries or stories of Jesus or Mary's life.

Christian prayer - *karakia* tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, as in *lectio divina* or the *rosary*. This form of prayerful reflection is of great value, but Christian prayer should go further to knowledge of the love of the Lord Jesus, to union with him.

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### Teaching and Learning Experiences:

- Children work in groups and take a set of cards from the Teacher Resource - The Mysteries of the *Rosary*. Children find the three major headings and place them aside.
- Children take the remaining 15 cards and read them. They place the cards in two groups - I understand what they are about and I do not understand what they are about. Class talks about the story behind each title.
- The children then try to place them in a chronological order of events according to the life of Jesus and Mary. First children look for the 5 cards they think would be about the early life of Jesus. Then find 5 cards about Jesus' death, and 5 cards about what happened after his death. Place the cards in three groups of five in the right order. The teacher writes each group on the board and the children compare their placements with those on the whiteboard. Children place the Mystery headings above the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries.
- Children - *tamariki* make a concertina folder with pictures and captions about the Joyful, Sorrowful or Glorious mysteries. These could be shared when completed and sent home to be used when the family-whanau prays part of the *Rosary* together. **or**
- Children could work in groups and make posters illustrating the different mysteries. One poster could show the Joyful Mysteries, another the Sorrowful Mysteries, a third the Glorious Mysteries. Captions could be added to each illustration. **or**
- Children could make small pictures of each mystery to be placed in the envelope with the sorting cards. These could be sorted with the caption cards to help the children consolidate their understanding of each mystery. Some classes may prefer to place the Joyful Mysteries in one envelope, the Sorrowful in another envelope and the Glorious Mysteries in a third to enable the children to consolidate their understanding of the order of the mysteries as prayed during the *Rosary*.

