

AR 4-5a Marian Procession

Note to teacher

At the Torchlight Procession, 5 decades of the Rosary are usually prayed. Around the world and in Lourdes, different mysteries are prayed on different days as follows: Sunday and Wednesday, the Glorious Mysteries; Monday and Saturday, the Joyful Mysteries; Tuesday and Friday, the Sorrowful Mysteries; and Thursday, the Luminous Mysteries. This prayer service uses the first two Joyful Mysteries.

Opening hymn

As I kneel before you.

Introduction

When Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette, she asked that people should come to Lourdes in procession. Millions of people do this every year, and they also process at Lourdes shrines all over the world. In Scotland, there is a Lourdes shrine at Carfin. In Lourdes, people usually process in the evening, holding candles in their hands. This is called the Torchlight Procession. We are going to process and pray the prayers, which people say in the Torchlight Procession. These prayers are said in many different languages because people from all over the world come together at Lourdes: we will sing one phrase in Latin because everyone understands that: Ave Maria, which means Hail Mary.

Teacher / Class

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Creed

The class may be learning the Creed in preparation for First Holy Communion: if so, the class should pray the Creed here.

The First Joyful Mystery

The Annunciation.

Scripture

Luke 1: 26-38 (short version 1: 26-28)

In this mystery, we think about the Angel Gabriel, God's messenger, announcing to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus, who is the Son of God. Mary accepted this and did what God wanted. In Lourdes, St Bernadette also did what God wanted, although it wasn't easy, because people didn't believe her story. As we pray this mystery, we can ask God's help to do what he asks us. We also notice that the first part of the Hail Mary comes from the words spoken to Mary by the Angel Gabriel: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you."

Process

As the procession begins, we start to pray the first Joyful Mystery:

One Our Father

Ten Hail Marys

One Glory be to the Father

Hymn

We then sing one or two verses of Immaculate Mary, and when we sing the chorus Ave, Ave, Ave Maria, we lift up our candle/light.

Second Joyful Mystery

The Visitation

Scripture

Luke 1: 39-45

In this mystery, we think about Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth, who was also going to have a baby, John the Baptist. They were able to share their happy news. We can thank God for our own families, for how they look after us and share our happy moments. We also notice that the second part of the Hail Mary comes from the words spoken by Elizabeth to Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Process

As the procession continues, we start to pray the first Joyful Mystery:

One Our Father
Ten Hail Marys
One Glory be to the Father

We sing another verse(s) of *Immaculate Mary* and raise our candles/lights at the chorus.

Any objects, which have been carried in procession, can be placed on a prayer table/focus.

As a sign of our unity in faith and friendship, we offer each other a sign of peace.

Final Blessing

If there is a priest or deacon present, he can give a final blessing, or *else the class can make the sign of the cross.*

Exit Hymn

The class could sing another hymn to Our Lady to conclude.