

7th October

Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

Luke 1:26-38

REFLECTION

Today we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. From this celebration which has its own historical significance, October has become the month of the Rosary. The Rosary has been a very important prayer in the prayer life of the church for many centuries. It is a prayer which invites us to reflect on the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus and on the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, as well as on Mary in glory. The Catechism of the Church refers to the rosary as *'the epitome of the whole gospel.'* Luke in his gospel presents Mary as a reflective person. In the second chapter of his gospel, in response to the words of the shepherds, Luke says of her that she *'treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart'*. Again, in response to the words her twelve year old child spoke in the temple, Luke says of Mary that she *'treasured all these things in her heart'*. Luke presents Mary as a contemplative person, reflecting deeply on all that was happening in her life. To that extent, she embodies the attitude of mind and heart that we are invited to bring when praying the Rosary. In praying that prayer, we too treasure and ponder upon the key moments in the journey of Jesus in this world and from this world to the Father. Mary not only pondered on what God was doing in the words and deeds of her Son, but she gave herself over to what God was doing in her own life, as shown by her response to the visit of Gabriel in today's gospel reading, *'Let it be to me according to your word'*. As we ponder on the great mysteries of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we too will hear the call to give ourselves over more fully to God's purpose for our lives as Mary did. Mary teaches us that as we contemplate on the word of the gospel we should that word to shape us.