

## Time to Reflect for October 2020

### Considering the Rosary and the Angels of God

The last day of September is the Feast of the Archangels: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. This is followed by the Memorial of the Guardian Angels on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. So it seems like this time is a Season of Angels.

Then again, Christmas is something of a Season of Angels.

But perhaps the message that should really come through to us is that the angels of God are not only with us on occasional Feasts.

We hear of the angels at every Mass when, leading to the Holy, holy, we are reminded that this is the song of the angels and saints. The Gloria when Sung or Said at Mass is the song of the Angels of Bethlehem at the birth of the Lord.

It is the Angel Gabriel's message which changes Mary's life for ever and gives us the promise of salvation through the birth of her Son – seemingly a seasonal message but the Incarnation changed the world for ever, too.

But with that simple and reassuring idea of the Guardian Angel, let us not be afraid to return to our most child-like memories of our Guardian Angel and, especially during this time which has been such a worrying time for so many people, a time of helplessness or the need to feel God's protection in a special way, let us seek out our Guardian Angel often and with trust.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. For some reason, the Rosary means a lot to some and not very much to others. Even considering praying the Rosary can feel like a task not so easily accomplished.

In St Chad's Primary School, our RE Co-ordinator has chosen to ask the whole school to stop at 11.30am each day of October to pray the Rosary. I was just about to say 'every school day of October' but the hope is that children and staff will pray at school; parents and families will pray at home (at weekends, so that the rhythm of prayer is kept) and that the grace of God will be manifest in a special way during this time.

If the Rosary has not always been one of your favourite prayers, or if your associations with the Rosary have not always been positive, then why not choose one set of Mysteries to pray this year. It might be that Joyful or Sorrowful or Glorious choose themselves for you depending on where your life is just now.

Or maybe the Mysteries of Light, the Luminous Mysteries introduced to the prayer of the Rosary by St John Paul II: The Baptism of the Lord, the Wedding Feast at Cana, The Proclamation of the Kingdom and the Call to Repentance, the Transfiguration of the Lord, the Institution of the Eucharist. These Mysteries are very much Christ-centred and draw us into the life and ministry of Christ at some key moments for him which can become key moments for us, too.