

Glorious Mysteries with meditations from Pope Francis (edited from his speeches and homilies)

1st Glorious Mystery – The Resurrection

At dawn the women went to the tomb. There the angel says to them: “Do not be afraid. He is not here; for He has risen. They hear the words of life even as they stand before a tomb... And then they meet Jesus, the giver of all hope, who confirms the message and says: “Do not be afraid”. Do not be afraid, do not yield to fear: This is the message of hope. These are the words that God repeats to us today.

In the resurrection of Jesus we acquire a fundamental right that can never be taken away from us: the right to hope. It is a new and living hope that comes from God. It is not mere optimism; it is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement, with a passing smile. No. It is a gift from heaven, which we could not have earned on our own. The hope Jesus gives is different. He plants in our hearts the conviction that God is able to make everything work unto good, because even from the grave He brings life.

(and/or)

The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; He rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He, who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, can also remove the stones in our hearts. So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope. We can and must hope, because God is faithful. He did not abandon us; He visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today He wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives. Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater. Darkness and death do not have the last word. Be strong, for with God nothing is lost!

Pope Francis Homily 11 Apr 2020 Easter Vigil, St Peter's Basilica

2nd Glorious Mystery – The Ascension

The Ascension exhorts us to lift our gaze toward heaven, in order to return it immediately to the earth, to implement the tasks that the Risen Lord entrusts to us.

It is a boundless mission — which surpasses human strength. Jesus says: “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation”. The task which Jesus entrusts to a small group of common men lacking great intellectual capacity seems truly too bold! Yet this small company, insignificant compared to the great powers of the world, is sent to bring the message of Jesus’ love and mercy to every corner of the earth.

But this plan of God can be accomplished only with the strength that God Himself grants to the Apostles. Jesus assures them that their mission will be supported by the Holy Spirit.

As at the beginning the Risen Christ sent His Apostles with the power of the Holy Spirit, so too does He send all of us today, with the same power, so as to establish concrete and visible signs of hope. Because Jesus gives us hope. He went to heaven and opened the gates of heaven and the hope that we will reach it.

Pope Francis 13 May 2018 Regina Caeli, St Peter's Square, Solemnity of the Ascension

3rd Glorious Mystery – The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Let us go back to the origin of the Church, to the day of Pentecost. Let us look at the Apostles: some of them were fishermen, simple people accustomed to living by the work of their hands, but there were others, like Matthew, who was an educated tax collector. They were from different backgrounds and social contexts. Some were meek and others were excitable; they all had different ideas and sensibilities. They were all different. Jesus did not change them; He did not make them into a set of pre-packaged models. No. He left their differences and now He unites them by anointing them with the Holy Spirit. With the anointing comes their union – union in diversity. At Pentecost, the Apostles understand the unifying power of the Spirit. They see it with their own eyes when everyone, though speaking in different languages, comes together as one people: the people of God, shaped by the Spirit, who weaves unity from diversity and bestows harmony because in the Spirit there is harmony. He Himself is harmony.

In the Church of today, we can ask ourselves: “What is it that unites us, what is the basis of our unity?” We too have our differences. We might think that what unite us are our beliefs and our morality. But there is

much more: our principle of unity is the Holy Spirit. He reminds us that first of all we are God's beloved children; all equal, in this respect, and all different. The Spirit comes to us, in our differences and difficulties, to tell us that we have one Lord – Jesus – and one Father, and that for this reason we are brothers and sisters! Let us begin anew from here; let us look at the Church with the eyes of the Spirit and not as the world does. The world sees us only as on the right or left, with one ideology or the other; the Spirit sees us as sons and daughters of the Father and brothers and sisters of Jesus. The Spirit loves us and knows everyone's place in the grand scheme of things: for Him, we are not bits of confetti blown about by the wind, rather we are irreplaceable fragments in His mosaic.

Pope Francis homily 31 May 2020, St Peter's Basilica, Solemnity of Pentecost

4th Glorious Mystery – The Assumption

When man set foot on the moon, he said a phrase that became famous: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind". In essence, humanity had reached a historical goal. But in Mary's Assumption into Heaven, we celebrate an infinitely greater conquest. The Madonna has set foot in paradise: she went there not only in spirit, but with her body as well, with all of herself. This step of the lowly Virgin of Nazareth was the huge leap forward for humanity. Going to the moon serves us little if we do not live as brothers and sisters on Earth. But that one of us dwells in the flesh in Heaven gives us hope: we understand that we are precious, destined to rise again. God does not allow our bodies to vanish into nothing. With God, nothing is lost! In Mary, the goal has been reached and we have before our eyes the reasons why we journey: not to gain the things here below, which vanish, but to achieve the homeland above, which is forever. And Our Lady is the star that guides us. She went there first. She, as the Council teaches, shines "as a sign of sure hope and solace to the People of God during its sojourn on earth".

Pope Francis Angelus 15 Aug 2020, St Peter's Square, Solemnity of the Assumption of the B.V.M

5th Glorious Mystery – The Coronation of Mary, Queen of heaven and earth

Mary shows us that, if we want our life to be happy, we must place God first, because He alone is great. Mary invites us to look upwards at the "great things" that the Lord has accomplished in her. Even in us, in all of us, the Lord accomplishes so many great things. He wants us to recognize that and to rejoice and magnify Him, for the things that He does in and with us. Mary is assumed into heaven: small and humble, she is the first to receive the highest glory. She, who is a human being, one of us, reaches eternity in body and soul. And there she waits for us, just like a mother waits for her children to come home. We look to Mary and see the finish line. We see that a creature has been assumed to the glory of the risen Christ, and that creature could only be her, the mother of the Redeemer. We see that in heaven, together with Christ, the new Adam, there's also her, Mary, the new Eve, and this gives us comfort and hope in our pilgrimage here on Earth. Let us look upwards, because on the threshold of heaven there is a mother who awaits us and is our mother. She loves us, smiles at us and helps us with care. Like every mother she wants the best for her children and says to us: "You are precious in the eyes of God; you're not made for little satisfactions of the world, but for the great joys of heaven." Yes, because God is joy, not boredom. God is joy. Let us allow ourselves to be taken by Mary's hand. Every time we take the Rosary in our hands and pray to her we take a step forward toward the great goal of our life.

Pope Francis Angelus 15 Aug 2018, St Peter's Square, Rome, Assumption of the B.V.M

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