

# Let there be *Light!*

*Sep – Oct 2011* | A Eucharistic Spirituality Series for Young Adults

## Upcoming Adoration Dates

- **30 Sep** (Young Adults)
- **6 Oct** (Children's Day Special - main church)
- **14 Oct** (Jubilee Parish Vigil Night - main church)
- **28 Oct** (Candlelight Rosary Walk - Young Adults)
- **25 Nov** (Young Adults)

## *Faith, Reverence & the Eucharist:*

### **Mary & the Eucharist**

Much has been written about the World Youth Day in Madrid. Many articles described the celebratory mood of the pilgrims in the streets of Madrid. The secular press dedicated columns to the riots and protests against the Pope's visit. Here, we would like to share a firsthand perspective gained from attending the daily catechism sessions held throughout the week.

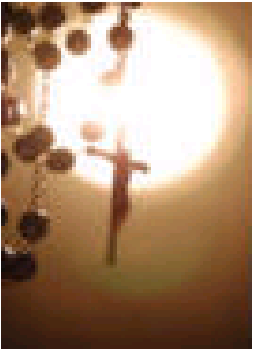
It was at one such session where the words of Cardinal George Pell struck a chord in my heart. This gifted Australian preacher held me spellbound on that hot morning in Madrid, where I was seated among thousands in a packed indoor stadium.

Cardinal Pell shared that he was often asked for advice on practical ways in which one can hold on to the faith in challenging and materialistic times as these. His answer would always be 'the Rosary and the Eucharist'.

## Mary, Mother of the Church

As Pope John Paul II reminds us in his Encyclical Letter *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, pondering the mystery of the Eucharist requires examining Mary, the Mother of our Church. The Blessed Pope observed that "Mary can guide us towards this most holy sacrament, because she herself has a profound relationship with it."

Being His mother, she carried Him in her womb for nine months and brought her Son to us. Just as Mary played her part in bringing her Son to us, she too will lead us to the true Body and Blood of Christ. Thus we are called to imitate her in her relationship with this most holy mystery.



### The Holy Rosary

This imitation of her relationship with the Eucharistic Christ is best expressed through the contemplation of the Rosary mysteries, which is also a compendium of the Gospel. In Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter on the Rosary, he explains the Christ-centric nature of the meditation, from design of the beads to the topics of the reflections.

Glancing at a Rosary, one will notice that all beads converge on the crucified Christ, which is both the start and end of the prayer. It signifies that 'everything begins from Him, everything leads towards Him, everything, through Him, in the Holy Spirit, attains to the Father. (Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae, Pope John Paul II)'

Through meditating the mysteries of the Rosary, we assume the role of His closest earthly relative and reflect the life of Christ through her eyes. With each Hail Mary and with the words 'blest is the fruit of thy womb Jesus', it becomes an unceasing praise of Christ 'who is the object of the angel's announcement and of the greeting of the Mother of St John the Baptist (Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae, Pope John Paul II).'

### Mary leads us to the Eucharist

It is through exercising her ecclesiastical maternity that she leads us to the Holy Eucharist. In the words of Archbishop Burke's introduction to *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, she 'participated in the Holy Mass from the very beginning of the Church's life, even as she was present with the Apostles in the Cenacle after the Resurrection, praying with them for the Descent of the Holy Spirit'.

### To Jesus through Mary

It is appropriate to recall the frequently repeated phrase, '**To Jesus through Mary and to God through Jesus.**'

It is indeed through a greater Marian devotion that we will be led to a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist and ultimately a more profound relationship with God our beloved Father.

(References: Archbishop Burke's Introduction to *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* & Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae, Pope John Paul II)



Mother of All Peoples  
Mother of the Eucharist



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