



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 4. It is October, the month of the Rosary. The rosary is a devotion in honour of Mary. It is also a time when we can thank God for our mums who have looked after us during the holidays and will continue to care for us during Term 4. At Monday morning assembly Mrs Kath Noble (Acting Religious Education Coordinator) prepared the following prayer which was shared by our student leaders.

One of the significant prayers of the Rosary is the Hail Mary. The "Hail Mary" is one of the most beautiful prayers in the world. The people of God's family (the Church) have used these words of praise for more than 1500 years to pray to Mary and praise God for the things God has done through her. The Hail Mary is drawn from the Gospel of Luke. It combines the words of the Archangel Gabriel (who is a messenger from God), the words of St. Elizabeth (the mother of John the Baptist, who was filled with the Holy Spirit while still in her womb), and ends with a very powerful petition for our mother Mary to pray for us always.

But what does the Hail Mary really mean?

"Hail Mary"

In Luke 1, the angel Gabriel appears to Mary. This is the first part of his greeting to her.

"Full of grace"

We believe this means Mary was without sin. We believe that she was preserved from sin (by the power of Jesus) so that she could carry the son of God inside her

"The Lord is with thee"

Mary was constantly listening to God and his voice in her heart. He was with her as an active presence.

"Blessed art thou among women"

This is the first part of Elizabeth's greeting to Mary when she arrives for a visit. Luke tells us that Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and then exclaims these beautiful words, encouraging Mary in what God has given her to do.

"and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus"

This is another blessing uttered by Elizabeth, who spoke these words after her child, John the Baptist, leaped in her womb at the moment she hears the greeting of Mary. Elizabeth is inspired by the Holy Spirit to bless Mary for believing the message of Gabriel. Elizabeth acknowledges the presence of God in Mary's womb:

"Holy Mary Mother of God"

Mary is with Jesus in heaven. She is a saint; she is holy. Because she has given the world Jesus, Mary is the Mother of God. She is also our Mother as Jesus spoke from the cross to his beloved disciple John: "Behold your mother,"

"Pray for us sinners"

We pray to Mary asking her to pray for us.

"Now and at the hour of our death"

We pray in the confidence that Mary will lead us to her Son, Jesus, in paradise.

Let us pray and ask Mary to help us have a successful Term 4, to thank her for the gift of our mums and mother figures in our lives and guide the children who are making their First Communion during the upcoming two weekends.

*Steven
Principal*

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

