

## The Holy Rosary

Marvellous in its simplicity and its depth, the Rosary brings to mind, against the background of the words Ave Maria, the principal events of the life of Jesus. At the same time, our hearts can embrace in the Rosary all the events that make up the lives of individuals, families, nations, the Church and all mankind. Thus, the simple prayer of the Rosary marks the rhythm of human life (St. John Paul II).



**St. Dominic receives the Holy Rosary**

In 1208, St. Dominic was praying near Toulouse, France, asking God to help him overcome the Albigensian heresy. It is believed that, following much prayer and fasting, Our Blessed Virgin Mary revealed her Rosary to him and that he attributed it to the defeat of the heresy. The Dominican Order has subsequently taken the lead in popularising and spreading devotion to the Rosary. As we continue to fight against heretics of one sort or another today, the Rosary, a gift given by Our Lady all those years ago, remains a vital tool in winning the battle of good versus evil, and truth versus falsehood.

## Come and join us

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, as Christ opens the scriptures to us through contemplation, we ourselves, in turn, become invigorated to announce, explain and promote this good news.



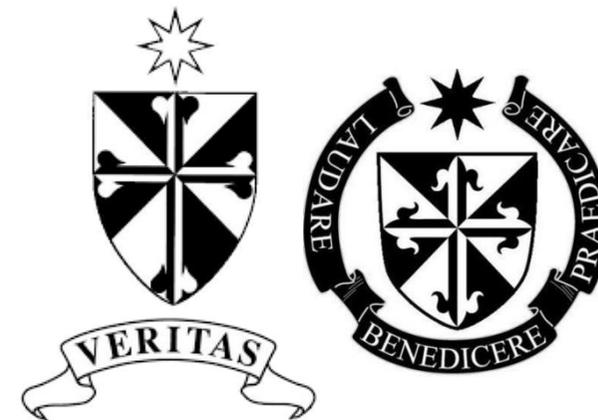
**Fr. Patrick Desmond and newly-professed**

As Dominicans, we always remember our brothers and sisters in our prayers, including those deceased, as they share in thousands of Holy Masses offered for their intentions. We hope you will become a member of our family. Our Fraternity meets on the third Monday of the month from 7.45pm to 9.00pm in St. Bride's Hall. We don't meet during July and August. To find out more about us, please contact our President, Patrick O'Neill at:

[patrickoneill1950@gmail.com](mailto:patrickoneill1950@gmail.com)

Alternatively, if I can help, please contact me...

## LAY DOMINICANS



**We are ordinary parishioners, from every background and walk of life, who have made a commitment to try to live our Christian lives according to the ideals and spirit of the Dominican Order.**

**Lay Dominicans are part of the worldwide spiritual family of the Order of Preachers, commonly known as Dominicans after our founder, St. Dominic de Guzmán.**

**We endeavour to follow the path laid out by St. Dominic which is to promote and explain the truth of the Gospel.**

**Our VERITAS crest epitomises this aim.**

**Our motto; to praise, to bless and to preach, emphasises our spiritual tradition and how we try to achieve our aims.**

**We have over 200,000 active members worldwide and can boast of many famous Saints who were Lay Dominicans.**

## Dominican Saints

St. Catherine of Siena (1347 – 1380), one of the great Doctors of the Church, was herself a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic. She was a mystic, activist, and author who had a great influence on the Catholic Church and remains a highly respected figure for her political boldness to "speak truth to power."



St. Louis de Montfort (1673-1716) is known for his devotion to the Virgin Mary and praying the rosary. His most famous works are *The Secret of the Rosary* and *True Devotion to Mary*.



St. Martin de Porres (1579 – 1639) was a Dominican Brother at the same time as St. Rose of Lima. He dedicated himself to serving the poor. His miracles include levitation, bilocation, and healings.

There are 28 canonised Saints of the Dominican and Lay Dominican Order. These comprise just a small, snapshot sample.

## Our Four Pillars

What distinguishes the Dominicans from other Roman Catholic Religious and Lay Orders? Among other things, we seek to balance certain aspects of our lives, which we call the Four Pillars, in order to follow more closely the way of St. Dominic.

### Community

Much as the early Christians who came together to support one another in the faith, fraternity members try to meet regularly. Each chapter typically gathers once a month for spiritual and intellectual formation.

### Study

We undertake to strive to know God and ourselves better. This involves a commitment and willingness to study and explore the church's teachings, the scriptures and the tradition and spirit of St Dominic.

### Prayer

We are encouraged to say the Divine Office and attend Mass daily, or as often as we can, to say the Rosary, attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently and unite in prayer for our own deceased and for those of the Dominican Family.

### Preaching

Lay Dominicans, living and working in the secular world, have a special call in their apostolic life to share the Word of God, according to our gifts, but, above all, by the way that we live.

We have the ability to penetrate with the Gospel, areas of the world that the Religious might not easily reach. Often this can be best achieved by example.

## Current Projects

Today, just as in St. Dominic's time, we are called to defend the Faith, to revitalise those of dormant faith, and encourage fidelity to the Church's moral teachings.

The Second Vatican Council was very emphatic that the evangelisation of the temporal or secular order is pre-eminently the work of lay Catholics in collaboration with their pastors.



Fr. O'Donnell with some of our Fraternity

The Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Malachy's Fraternity, based in St. Brigid's Parish, is endeavouring to realise this goal by studying the Church's teachings on topical issues and how they impact on our everyday lives with a view to producing discussion papers on these matters.

We also hope to foster a deeper awareness of our Faith by exploring the witness of Saints.

The conviction that God is our beginning and our end, that we come from Him and that we are going to Him, that He himself is Truth and that Truth will set us free, is the ground of all Dominican action.