



Parish of the Nativity of the Lord

Book+Circle - May 2021

Praying the rosary like never before – Edward Sri

About the book

Do you have two and a half minutes in your day that you can give to God? This is the beauty of the rosary. You don't have to pray the rosary all at once and you can pray it anywhere!

Do you struggle with praying the rosary: finding time, fighting distractions, worrying about your mind wandering? In *Praying the Rosary Like Never Before*, Edward Sri offers practical suggestions that come from the rosary's tradition and, most especially, St. John Paul II. Dr. Edward Sri is a theologian, professor of theology at the Augustine Institute and has written this book to reconnect Catholics to the rosary.

How did the book make us feel?

We all felt really positive about this book, it was a great read. The first two chapters grab attention and reflected how a lot of us felt about saying the rosary – easy for our mind to wander, to get distracted. Reading the book made us all feel better about saying the rosary, indeed it inspired some of us to find our rosaries and start saying the prayers again. We all agreed it was a timely reminder about the power of the rosary. We felt a sense of relief about the idea that you don't have to say a whole rosary or even a whole decade in one go, but can spread the prayer out over whatever time you have: while walking, or travelling to work, or waiting for an appointment, or (in a perhaps more traditional way) at a set time each day.

What did the group think were the book's main strengths?

The book is really well structured, we felt it takes the reader through the 'theory' and then into the practical element helping us say the rosary. The way it is written takes the reader through the different mysteries and uses scripture to add understanding. Edward Sri addresses the reasons why many people find the rosary difficult to use as part of their prayer life. There were lots of different ideas on how to pray the rosary. It was very refreshing. We all found something helpful. We agreed that the longer reflections were very effective and his meditation suggestions on the mysteries were very helpful and so was the chapter on the scriptural rosary. One reader has already started to incorporate this into prayer life.

The title of the book really did reflect the content and purpose of the book. And there were study questions at the end of each chapter, that were interesting to reflect on and see what we had learnt before moving to the next chapter.

Chapter 3 discusses in detail why it is good that Catholics pray to Mary. He puts across the concept of why Catholics honour Mary well, he explains how God as a father would be delighted that we love Mary the mother of Jesus.

Dr Sri is great at explaining some of the more complex ideas put forward by John Paul II – a small example on page 30 where he summarizes the Pope's reflection that by repeating the name of Jesus throughout when saying the rosary, Jesus becomes the heartbeat of the rosary.

And what were the book's main weaknesses?

There was so much in each chapter we had to allow time to reflect on what each chapter was saying. We wondered if perhaps the book could have had a bit more signposting so we knew what was going to be covered. And perhaps the book could have been a bit more visual, there is a picture of the rosary at the end of the book with notes but this could have been used to describe some of the ideas. The little phrases 'scattered' at the side of the page throughout the book were thought to be a bit pointless. One reader noted that this book is an update of Dr Sri's earlier book called the new rosary in scripture. Chapter 12 repeats in his earlier work.

Would we read another book written by the same author?

Definitely, we have already made a note of another book – Love Unveiled – that we will include on our Book List

Would we recommend this book to someone else?

We all felt this was an excellent book to pass on to someone who was already familiar with the rosary. The title does assume that the reader has some concept of saying the rosary and takes it to another level. It was thought to be a good read for anyone wanting to grow in their prayer life in a more meditative way who may have found the rosary too repetitive.

Next book & next meeting

Book for Friday 9 July 2021 - The mystery of the incarnation – Cardinal Basil Hume

The book for August will be The Abbey by Fr James Martin