

## A Basic Anglican Rosary

By Kimberly Winston

To make an Anglican rosary, gather beads in four different sizes. The largest bead will be the invitational bead, the next largest will be the cruciform beads and the next largest will be the weeks beads. Smallest of all should be the spacer beads. I have included size suggestions below, but they are just that – suggestions. The point is that there should be some *tactile* and *visible* clue to the fingers and eyes about what part of the rosary you are praying on. You will join all these to a cross or some other terminal charm that has meaning to you.

A rosary means a garden of roses. Think of the rosary as having a stem – the dangling part that ends in a cross or charm – and a path – the circle of beads.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 cross or charm
- 1 invitational bead – size 10 -12 mm or larger
- 4 cruciform beads – size 8 – 10 mm
- 28 weeks beads- size 6 – 8 mm
- Seed beads - size 8 or 11
- Beading thread
- Size 10 beading needle
- Hypo cement or non-water soluble glue
- Small scissors
- Clothespin or small clamp, such as an alligator clip or an office binder clip

1. Cut a four-foot length of thread. Thread needle and bring both ends of thread together to form a double strand. Place clothespin or small clamp at the end, leaving about a 4-inch tail.

2. String the cross or charm and move it down to the clothespin or clamp. String the stem of the rosary in the following order: 5 seed beads, 1 invitational bead, 5 seed beads, 1 cruciform bead.

3. String the path of the rosary in the following order: \*3 seed beads, 1 weeks bead.\* Repeat between \* and \* until there are 7 weeks beads on the thread. Then string 3 seed beads and one cruciform bead. Repeat between \* and \* again until another 7 weeks beads have been added. Then add 3 seed beads and 1 cruciform bead. Repeat until all weeks and cruciform beads are strung, ending with 3 seed beads.

4. To close the circle of the rosary path, bring the needle back down through the **first** cruciform bead strung and through **all the remaining beads** on the rosary's stem down to the cross or charm. The needle and thread should be exiting the first seed bead strung in

step 1. Pass the needle back through the cross or charm so that both thread tails are exiting the same side of the cross and lying side by side.

5. Remove the clothespin or clamp. Pull threads to draw the beads snug. With both thread tails, make a surgeon's knot (right over left twice, left over right once) around the top of the cross or charm.

6. Rethread the tails – one strand at a time if need be - and draw the needle and tails back through the first 5 seeds beads strung in step 1 and back through the invitational bead. Clip thread close to the invitational bead. Thread remaining tail and repeat.

7. Place a small drop of hypo cement on the knot. Let dry.

### **HOW TO USE YOUR ANGLICAN ROSARY**

The Anglican rosary has 33 beads - one for each year of Jesus' life – and a cross or other terminal charm.

Beginning at the cross, say a prayer that sets the tone for your prayer session. You may use the Lord's prayer, the Nicene or Apostles Creed or any other prayer. Here is another suggestion:

*I am that which is highest,  
I am that which is lowest,  
I am that which is All.*  
(St. Julian of Norwich)

Move to the invitational bead and say a prayer that invites the presence of God. Again, you may use the Lord's Prayer, the Nicene or Apostles Creed or any other prayer. Here is one I frequently use:

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen*  
(Book of Common Prayer)

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.*  
(Psalm 19)

Move to the first cruciform bead. There are four of these beads, which can represent the arms of the cross, the four seasons of the year, the four stages of life – and many other things. The prayers for these beads should be a kind of refrain. Here are some suitable prayers:

*I bind unto myself the Name,  
Of whom all nature hath creation,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word.*  
(St. Patrick)

*O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;  
Hear my voice when I cry to you.*  
(St. Augustine)

Move to the first set of weeks on either side of the first cruciform bead. There are 7 of these beads, and as prayer should be a daily practice and as there are 7 days in a week, these are called the weeks beads. This is the meat of your prayers. You can repeat one prayer on each weeks bead, four prayers seven times each (one for each set of weeks) or one different prayer per weeks bead for a total of 28 different prayers. Here are some of my favorites:

*All shall be well and all shall be well,  
And all manner of thing shall be well.*  
(St. Julian of Norwich)

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within me.  
Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.*  
(Taizé Community prayer)

Feel free to experiment with the prayers you use, turning to the Psalms, the Gospels, a hymnbook, poems or other prayers. You may also change the gender-specific language, if that suits you. THERE IS NO WRONG WAY TO PRAY THE ANGLICAN ROSARY. If it feels like a prayer to you, it feels like a prayer to God.