

Art of the Month: October



In this very stylised painting of the Blessed Virgin, it's hard not to think about a triangle or a pyramid. This apparently is typical of the Cusco school of painting....that is from Peru. In fact, the artist is unknown but it was probably painted around 1750. The robes seem very stiff and formal and give the impression of Mary and Jesus standing and raised on a pedestal as if to increase their stature. The figures are accompanied by Saint Dominic and Saint Rose of Lima both holding Rosary beads in their hands.

When I was a primary school boy, the parish organised a trip to Carfin. In those pre-motorway days, the double-decker bus took a long time to get to the famous shrine.

Towards the end of the day, Canon Taylor who did so much to promote devotion to St Therese led the Holy Rosary. I remember by that stage being very tired, walking in the procession which I thought it would never end. Canon Taylor, perhaps, was not thinking of young people and prayed the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries. Too much, perhaps for this small boy! At any rate, it rather put me off the Rosary and it took some years for me to learn the beauty and power of the Rosary. Why would it not be? After all, it is a meditation on the life of Jesus. If I want to learn more about the Rosary, I might start with Rosarium Virginis Mariae - the Apostolic Letter on the Most Holy Rosary by Pope Saint John Paul II. It is available from CTS and from Amazon. The Rosary is a scriptural meditation in which we look at the life of Jesus and at the same time we hold before us our own lives. When the two come together, we discover something amazing. During this Month of the Rosary will I try to pray even once, the various mysteries? Will I encourage my pupils to pick a favourite decade and to think about the event? Will I have Rosary Beads in my pocket or purse?

Lovely Lady dressed in blue -----
Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little boy,
Tell me what to say!
Did you lift Him up, sometimes,
Gently on your knee?
Did you sing to Him the way
Mother does to me?
Did you hold His hand at night?
Did you ever try
Telling stories of the world?
O! And did He cry?
Do you really think He cares
If I tell Him things -----
Little things that happen? And
Do the Angels' wings
Make a noise? And can He hear
Me if I speak low?
Does He understand me now?
Tell me -----for you know.
Lovely Lady dressed in blue -----
Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little boy,
And you know the way.

Monsignor Monaghan