

Lesson Plan: The Rosary for Peace in October

Class Level: Middle/Senior Primary (3rd–6th Class)

Duration: 1 hour

Teacher Note

Pope Leo XIV, General Audience, September 24, 2025:

“I invite everyone, every day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace ... in particular, on the evening of Saturday, October 11, we will pray it together in St. Peter’s Square.”

(Source: Vatican News)

WALT (We Are Learning To...)

- Learn that Pope Leo XIV has asked Catholics to pray the Rosary for peace during October.
- Understand why the Rosary is important in Catholic tradition.
- Reflect on what peace means in our own lives and in the wider world.
- Pray one decade of the Rosary together, offering intentions for peace.
- Express our understanding of peace through art, writing, and music.

WILF (What I'm Looking For...)

- You can explain that October is the month of the Rosary.
- You can say what Pope Leo XIV has asked us to do.
- You can suggest places and situations where peace is needed.
- You join respectfully in praying one decade of the Rosary.
- You create a piece of art, prayer, or song that shows your hope for peace.

Resources

- Rosary beads or a large classroom rosary
- Globe or world map
- Candle (symbol of peace)
- Short extract/child-friendly paraphrase of Pope Leo's appeal
- Bible: Luke 1:26–38 (The Annunciation)
- Grow in Love pupil book extracts on Mary and prayer
- Art materials (paper, colours, scissors)

- Music resource: *Hail Mary: Gentle Woman, As I Kneel Before You, or The Peace of Christ*

Lesson Steps

1. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Begin with the teacher's question: *"What does peace mean to you?"*
- Share WALT and WILF on the board.
- Explain Pope Leo XIV's invitation to Catholics everywhere to pray the Rosary for peace during October, including the special Rosary in St. Peter's Square on October 11.
- Emphasise that when we pray the Rosary, we join Catholics around the world in one great prayer for peace.

2. Cross-Curricular Exploration (25 minutes)

History / Current Affairs

- Introduce Pope Leo XIV as the current leader of the Church.
- Explain his call to prayer for peace.

Geography

- Use the globe/map to identify countries where peace is needed (e.g. Ukraine, Holy Land, Sudan).
- Discuss how prayer unites us with people everywhere.

SPHE

- Brainstorm: “*Where do we need peace?*” (families, classrooms, community, world).
- Record children’s suggestions as prayer intentions.

English

- Read Luke 1:26–38 (The Annunciation).
- Pupils write their own “Prayer for Peace” or a diary entry imagining they are at St. Peter’s Square during the Rosary with Pope Leo XIV.

Visual Arts & Music

- Pupils create peace doves, Rosary posters, or decorate a classroom “Peace Corner.”
- Teach/sing a Marian hymn (*Hail Mary: Gentle Woman* or *As I Kneel Before You*) to conclude the art activity.

3. Prayer Activity (15 minutes)

- Light a candle and place the globe at the centre.
- Pray one decade of the Rosary (Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation).
- Each pupil offers their own prayer intention for peace aloud or silently.
- Conclude with song: *The Peace of Christ* or a Marian hymn.

4. Conclusion (10 minutes)

- Revisit WALT: *“What did we learn today?”*
- Revisit WILF: *“How do we know we met our goals?”*
- Display children’s art and written prayers in the “Peace Corner.”
- End with a blessing or short reflection.

Assessment (linked to WILF)

- Can the child explain why October is the month of the Rosary and Pope Leo XIV’s request?
- Can the child identify places and situations in need of peace?
- Did the child participate respectfully in the Rosary prayer and/or song?

- Did the child create an expressive piece of art or prayer for peace?