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Rejoice
always, pray
constantly, give
thanks in all
circumstances; for
this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus
for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

STAY IN TOUCH

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AN PAIDRÍN BEAG

*A Lutheran Approach to
the Irish Penal Rosary*



GROUNDING SPIRIT
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Meditating on the Six Parts of Luther's Catechism

The An Paidrín Beag (or Irish penal rosary) is a rosary created by Irish Catholics during the 17th and 18th century, when Irish Catholics and dissenting Protestants were being coerced into joining the Church of Ireland. The Irish penal rosary is a small, single decade (10-bead) version of the traditional Catholic 5-decade rosary. Small enough to be held in the hand, the penal rosary features a ring on one end so that it may be slipped over a finger to hold the rosary in place while hidden in a pocket or up a sleeve. The petitioner could then say the rosary without being detected, moving the ring from one finger to the next in order to complete the traditional 5 decades.

The Lutheran version of the penal rosary uses only 6 beads, rather than 10. Grounding Spirit's version retains the use of the traditional style of crucifix. The arms of the cross are shortened so that the crucifix may be easily kept up the sleeve. The front and back of the crucifix bear many symbols relating to the life of Jesus up to the crucifixion (see photo to the right).

A Lutheran practice for the penal rosary is outlined in this pamphlet. More details are available on the web site www.lutheranprayerbeads.com. Lutheran rosaries and guides are available for sale at groundingspirit.etsy.com. ☪

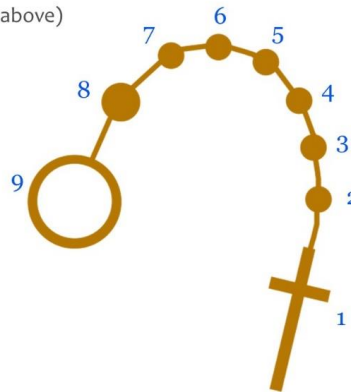


MEANING OF THE SYMBOLS ON THE PENAL CRUCIFIX

1. The inscription: IESVS NAZARENVS REX IVDÆORVM (Jesus, the Nazarene, King of the Jews)
2. The halo, a crown of thorns
3. The chalice, reminder of the Last Supper
4. The cords, reminder of the flagellation of Jesus
5. The spear used to pierce Jesus' side as he hung on the cross
6. Unknown (perhaps a bowl of water, as Pontius Pilate may have used to wash his hands)
7. The hammer used to drive the nails through Jesus' flesh
8. Possibly for the four soldiers attendant at the crucifixion or the cords used to bind Jesus' wrists to the cross
9. The ladder, used to remove Jesus' body from the cross
10. The three nails used to secure Jesus' flesh to the cross
11. Unknown, perhaps tongs used to remove the nails

COMPONENTS OF THE ROSARY

1. Penal crucifix (see above)
2. First bead
3. Second bead
4. Third bead
5. Fourth bead
6. Fifth bead
7. Sixth bead
8. Large bead
9. Ring



RECOLLECTING THE 6 CHIEF PARTS OF THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE (SMALL CATECHISM)

1. Invocation ("In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," making sign of the cross)
2. Ten Commandments
3. Apostle's Creed
4. Lord's Prayer
5. Sacrament of Holy Baptism ("the water included in God's command and combined with God's word")
6. Confession ("First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution.")
7. Sacrament of the Altar ("the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine")
8. Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer
9. Move the ring to another finger to begin another round of practice or to pray in a different way, until the ring has moved through all five fingers