

# *The Mysteries of the Holy Rosary*

**An Exhibition of 20 Paintings by Pierre Joncret  
at Saint Andrew's Church, Deal  
from 4<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 10.00am to 4.00pm**

## **A SHORT ARTICLE**

The Parish Church of St. Andrew in Deal, East Kent, is hosting an Exhibition of twenty paintings depicting the themes of the Holy Rosary this Summer, as part of the Deal Festival of Music and the Arts. The Exhibition runs from Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of July and is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm every day. Admission is free.

These paintings in gouache are a contemporary interpretation of overtly and uncompromisingly religious themes, as they are meditated upon by people reciting the Rosary; they are also a very dramatic and powerful ensemble piece of modern art.

The artist, Pierre Joncret, grew up in St. Omer (twinned with Deal). As a child and young adult, he was a frequent pilgrim to Lourdes. He qualified as a medical doctor and practiced in St. Omer, where he became Administrator of the local *Confrerie de Notre Dame des Miracles*. A gifted amateur, he frequently painted on themes of the Rosary. When Pope John Paul II instituted five new Mysteries of Light to add to the 15 traditional Mysteries, Dr. Joncret - by now retired - committed himself to a definitive series of paintings, the fruit of a lifetime of profound prayer and meditation on the Holy Rosary. Pierre Joncret died in 2007.

The parish of St. Andrew makes an annual visit to St. Omer. In 2008, parish priest Father Christopher Lindlar saw the Exhibition in the fine gothic cathedral and determined to bring the work to England. He says, "We are immensely grateful to Mme. Joncret for permitting the travelling edition of this great work to come to England and to Deal. This is a beautiful fruit of our growing friendship with St. Omer and also with the nuns of the Abbey of Notre Dame of Wisque. Perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, this Exhibition is a must-see for the Faithful and for art-lovers alike".