

**Prayer on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes**  
**and World Day of the Sick.**

Every year on February 11, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Church observes World Day of the Sick. Started by Pope St. John Paul II in 1992, all of 30 years ago, this day is an opportunity "for growth, with an attitude of listening, reflection, and effective commitment in the face of the great mystery of pain and illness".

Sickness more than anything can bring with it great fear, upset and a feeling of loss of control in our lives. Into this picture Jesus comes, assuring us of his love for us, his will for us, his ability to see a bigger picture.

It takes great faith to place ourselves in his hands, in his control, in his will, in his love for us; help us Lord to place our faith in you, in your love and devotion for us.

As we celebrate the healing power of God, we acknowledge our need of Your divine help:

Lord Jesus, you healed the sick ... Lord, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners ... Lord, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you gave us yourself to heal us and bring us strength: Lord, have mercy.

**Opening Prayer —**

Lord God,

Your love is the fire that gives me energy and hope to go on when I am tired;

Your love is the flame that warms my heart when I feel alone;

Your love is the hearth that gathers my family together for comfort and support;

Your love enkindles the compassion, wisdom and skill of my caregivers.

Your healing light never goes out;

Your love never ends;

For this I am grateful as I make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord.

AMEN

**The Word of God**

### **A Reading from the Letter of St James**

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.

Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up.

If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

### **A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

When evening came, many who were possessed by demons were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"He took up our infirmities  
and bore our diseases."

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

## Homily for the Sick

Friday is the feast of "Our Lady of Lourdes" and is also the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

Living with sickness in mind, body or spirit is a difficult and vulnerable journey that visits so many in all our families, friendships and community.

Sickness makes us vulnerable. When you have to live with serious illness you begin to realise that you are no longer in control.

We have to learn to hand it over to the Lord, that God's will be done in our lives.

That's not easy because our will doesn't always tally with God's will and sometimes we just cannot understand why?

So we have to have faith, we have to believe even when we cannot see.

We know God loves us and we have to learn to trust that He loves us and that He can see a bigger picture for us.

Sickness is a cross that is not just carried by the individual who has to suffer but is also felt greatly by their loved ones who often helplessly have to look on.

They too need to hand it over and again rely on faith in our loving God.

Jesus spent much time with the sick.

It was a fundamental priority for him to associate with those who were sick and wounded in life and his empathy meant a lot to the sick.

One of big statements that Jesus makes, regarding his mission, was that

*"I HAVE COME NOT FOR THE HEALTHY BUT FOR THE SICK".*

His carrying the cross to Calvary is the ultimate solidarity with those who suffer serious illness.

He invites us to place our burdens on his cross also.

I know that the Lord greatly loves and is very close to the sick.

He wants us to hand over our sickness, our troubles, our frailties; so that he can carry them for us

May all who are burdened by sickness be comforted and strengthened by God's rich blessing this day.

## Prayers for the Sick

My brothers and sisters, in our prayer of faith let us appeal to God for our brothers and sisters

- Come and strengthen our faith through this holy anointing: Lord have mercy.
- Help us to let go and to trust in your love: Lord have mercy.
- Relieve the sufferings of all who are sick, troubled or infirm: Lord have mercy.
- Assist all those dedicated to the care of the sick: Lord have mercy.
- Give life and health to our brothers and sisters, on whom we ask your blessing today: Lord have mercy.

### *Our Lady of Lourdes Prayers for the Sick*

Our Lady of Lourdes, we come to you like little Bernadette at the grotto. We pray with childlike trust in you.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, when you appeared in Lourdes, you made it a holy sanctuary where many have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. We pray with confidence for your holy intercession.

*(Let us pause now and remember our intentions here)*

Holy Mother of the Rosary, we feel confident that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard by God.

#### **Litany**

**Response for the following:** Pray for us.

Holy Mary	Pray for us.
Mother of God	Pray for us.
Mother of a lost child	Pray for us.
Mother who endures our sorrows	Pray for us.
Mother whose heart was pierced by a sword	Pray for us.
Mother who shares our joys	Pray for us.
Mother of our redemption	Pray for us.
Mother of comfort and understanding	Pray for us.

Mother most merciful

Pray for us.

Woman responsive to God's word

Pray for us.

Woman willing to believe the impossible

Pray for us.

Woman who rejoices in her lowliness

Pray for us.

Woman of perfect freedom

Pray for us.

Woman wrapped in mystery

Pray for us.

Woman moved by the Spirit

Pray for us.

Woman champion of the poor and lowly

Pray for us.

We place our petitions in the arms of Our Mother Mary as we pray

**Hail Mary.....**

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, our mother; to you do we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes,

Pray for us!

Saint Bernadette,

Pray for us!

**Let us pray.....**

Christ Jesus, Saviour of every life,

You take our burdens upon yourself.

You suffer with all who bear the cross of suffering  
in whatever form it takes.

Wrap your arms around our broken lives  
and restore us to the harmony  
that exists in you,

so that our own darkness can be made bright  
by the inner light of your Holy Spirit.

We ask through Christ, Our Lord.

## **Blessing of the Caregivers**

Lord bless those who provide help for the ill and troubled among us.

May they be filled with courage and endowed with compassion as they give strength to those under their care.

May they continue to find within themselves the desire to reach out to those in need and in their love for others, may they know the blessing and support of our community. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

AMEN

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Lord, give all who are sick the inner strength to cope with the pressures that their illness brings. Help them to accept the love and care which God and their families have for them during this difficult time.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

May the Lord be with you to protect you. R

Amen

May he guide you and give you strength. R

Amen

May he watch over you, keep you in his care, and bless you with his peace. R

Amen

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. R

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, especially in the sick and suffering.

R. Thanks be to God.

## World Day of the Sick 2022

### Message from Pope Francis

Pope Francis entitles his message this year "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36). Standing beside those who suffer on a path of charity.

"Jesus' invitation to be 'merciful like the Father' - writes the Pope - has particular significance for healthcare workers. I think of all those physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, the support staff and the caretakers of the sick, as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer". People who have made their service a mission. Because Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father".

The Pontiff recalls "the progress that medical science has made, especially in recent times; new technologies have made it possible to prepare therapies that are of great benefit to the sick; research continues to make a valuable contribution to eliminating old and new pathologies; rehabilitation medicine has greatly expanded its expertise and skills. None of this, however, must make us forget the uniqueness of each patient, his or her dignity and frailties".

However, He issues a warning and calls for the patient to always be treated as a person with his or her own dignity. "None of this, however, must make us forget the uniqueness of each patient, his or her dignity and frailties. Patients are always more important than their diseases, and for this reason, no therapeutic approach can prescind from listening to the patient, his or her history, anxieties and fears. Even when healing is not possible, care can always be given. It is always possible to console, it is always possible to make people sense a closeness that is more interested in the person than in his or her pathology".

The Holy Father reaffirms the importance of Catholic healthcare institutions and their commitment to caring for and treating people. "At a time in which the culture of waste is widespread and life is not always acknowledged as worthy of being welcomed and lived, these structures, like "houses of mercy", can be exemplary in protecting and caring for all life, even the most fragile, from its beginning until its natural end".

Finally, He concludes by recalling the indispensable service of the health care ministry, especially in spiritual assistance to the sick, and the commitment that each of us should have in making ourselves close to those who suffer. Because "the ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus: "I was sick and you visited me" ( Mt 25:36).

Dear brothers and sisters, to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Infirm, I entrust all the sick and their families. United with Christ, who bears the pain of the world, may they find meaning, consolation and trust. I pray for healthcare workers everywhere, that, rich in mercy, they may offer patients, together with suitable care, their fraternal closeness.

To all I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

Francis

*Visit a person who is sick or suffering today  
and meet Jesus there.*