

Diocese of Northampton  
Liturgy Commission and NORES



COVID19 – 6 – 24 March 2020

## **CORONA VIRUS PRAYER and POPE FRANCIS**

### **The “Our Father” on the Annunciation**

On Wednesday, 25 March, the feast of the Annunciation, he has invited “the Heads of the Churches and the leaders of every Christian community, together with all Christians of the various confessions, to invoke the Almighty, the omnipotent God, to recite at the same time the prayer that Jesus, our Lord, taught us” – the Our Father. “On that day on which many Christians recall the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation of the Word”, Pope Francis prayed, “may the Lord listen to the united prayer of all of His disciples who are preparing themselves to celebrate the victory of the Risen Christ”.

### **A special Urbi et Orbi blessing**

The Pope also announced that on the following Friday, 27 March, he will preside over a moment of prayer on the *sagrato* of St Peter’s Basilica, the platform at the top of the steps immediately in front of the façade of the Church. “I invite everyone to participate spiritually through the means of communication”, he said.

### **Church grants special indulgence to coronavirus patients and caregivers**

The ceremony will consist in readings from the Scriptures, prayers of supplication, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; and will conclude with Pope Francis giving the *Urbi et orbi* Blessing, with the possibility of gaining a plenary indulgence for all those who listen to it live through the various forms of communication. The blessing “to the City [of Rome] and to the World” is normally only given on Christmas and Easter.

The Director of the Holy See Press Office confirmed that the moment of prayer on Friday will be broadcast live from the Vatican, beginning at 6 pm Rome time. [UK 5pm] He noted that the plenary indulgence attached to the *Urbi et orbi* blessing is subject to the conditions foreseen by the recent Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary.

## **REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY.**

This will take place in all our cathedral with our bishop on Sunday 29 March, Fifth Sunday of Lent, at 11am, as in all the Cathedral of England. See live streaming at [northamptoncathedral.org](http://northamptoncathedral.org) or from Walsingham : <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

Wednesday 25 March – Solemnity of the ANNUNCIATION begins a Triduum of prayer in preparation for this. The rededication follows in the footsteps of King Richard II, who in the face of great political turmoil in 1381 went to the shrine of Our Lady of Puy in Westminster Abbey to seek her guidance and protection. The purpose today is so that the Catholics of England, faced with the personal and national challenges of our times, can turn to Her once again and offer our faith as She leads us to Christ Her Son. It would be very good if we can all commit ourselves to the Angelus at 12noon and 6pm on these days getting ready of Sunday. The *Act of Entrustment of England to the Virgin Mary for 29 March* is printed overleaf

## **Sunday 29 March, *The Act of Entrustment of England to the Virgin Mary:***

### **Prayer**

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy "Dowry" and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.

### **Response**

We your faithful people assembled here offer you this country in which we live. Once it was yours, all its children were your children and you were honoured throughout England as its Protectress and its Queen. Again do we consecrate it as your Dowry, and entrust it to your maternal care.

### **Prayer**

By thee it was that Jesus our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more.

### **Response**

To you we entrust the Church, which invokes you as Mother. On earth you preceded her in the pilgrimage of faith. Comfort her in her difficulties and trials. Make her always the sign and instrument of intimate union with God and of the unity of the whole human race. To you, Mother of the human family, and of the nations, we confidently entrust the whole of humanity with its hopes and fears. Let it not lack the light of true wisdom. Guide it to seek freedom and justice for all. Direct its steps in the ways of peace. Enable all to meet Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

### **Prayer**

Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the Cross, O sorrowful Mother.

### **Response**

Pray, O Holy Mother of God, for the conversion of heart of the people of England, restoration of the sick, consolation for the troubled, repentance of sinners, peace to the departed. Queen of Peace, pray for us and give to the world the peace for which all peoples are longing, peace in the truth, justice and charity of Christ. Give peace to the nations and to the souls of all, that in peace, the Kingdom of God may prevail.

### **Prayer**

Intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the supreme Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son.

### **Response**

May your prayers bring back this country to the fullness of its ancient faith. May your intercession lead us to a closer union with your divine Son. We offer you all the people of this land, especially those who know you so little or not at all. May all in our country know Christ, the light of the world and its only Saviour

### **Prayer**

Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee, in our heavenly home.

### **Response**

May we who follow your Son, be fruitful in the good work of building a culture of life in our world, where all human life is treasured and the gift of God's creation is respected and cared for, so that all may share the fruits of God's generous love

V: Pray for us O Holy Mother of God R: That we may be made worthy of the Promises of Christ.

O alone of all women, Mother and Virgin, Mother most happy, Virgin most pure, sinful as we are, we come to see you who are all pure, we salute you, we honour you as how we may with our humble offerings. May thy Son grant us, that imitating thy most holy manners, we also, by the grace of the Holy Spirit may deserve spiritually to conceive the Lord Jesus in our inmost soul, and once conceived never to lose Him. Amen.