



COVID19 – 7 – 25 March 2020

## **For the Solemnity of the Annunciation - POPE FRANCIS and the OUR FATHER**

*The Holy Father invited all Christian leaders to join with him in leading the Christians of the world in praying the Lord's Prayer together today. This is how he introduced this universal prayer*

"Today we have met, all Christians in the world, to pray together with the Our Father, the prayer that Jesus taught us. As confident children we turn to the Father. We do it every day, several times a day; but at this moment we want to beg mercy for humanity severely tried by the coronavirus pandemic. And we do it together, Christians of every Church and Community, of every tradition, of every age, language and nation. Let us pray for the sick and their families; for health workers and those who help them; for authorities, law enforcement and volunteers; for the ministers of our communities. Today many of us celebrate the Incarnation of the Word in the womb of the Virgin Mary, when in her 'Here I am', humble and total, the 'Here I am' of the Son of God was reflected. We too entrust ourselves with full trust to the hands of God and with one heart and one soul we pray."

*He went on to read the Lord's Prayer in Latin, inviting everyone to pray in their own language.*

*Reflect and use his words. Think about whether we have the prayer in different languages reflecting the diversity of our communities.*

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

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

The Pope also announced that on 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.

## **RESOURCES – just a few**

This daily prayer or information sheet is sent out by email and they are archived on our website.

There is a daily Tweet on the mass readings at @KMcGinnell

Also check our National Liturgy Office [liturgy.office.com] which offers various resources :

- making this a retreat time
- prayers in case of serious illness
- when mass is not celebrated publicly

Keep your eye for live-streaming from our Cathedral and also with the Holy Father on vatican.va

If you have any other resources or ideas please send them to admin@nores.org.uk so that we make the more readily available.

Tomorrow we will explore some of these, and think more about Spiritual Communion.

We need to begin thinking about how to make Holy Week holy at home.