

POPE FRANCIS CALL TO PRAYER:

Pope Francis has called for all Christians throughout the world to join in praying the Our Father on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at noon.

“In these days of trial, while humanity trembles because of the pandemic’s menace, I would like to propose to all Christians to unite their voices to Heaven,” the Pope said after Sunday’s Angelus. “I invite all the Heads of Churches and the leaders of all the Christian Communities, together with all the Christians of the various Confessions, to invoke the Most High, Almighty God, reciting contemporaneously the prayer that Jesus Our Lord taught us. I invite all, therefore, to do so several times a day, but, all together, to recite the **Our Father** next **Wednesday, March 25, at midday** – all together.” .

The Pope also announced that on the following **Friday, March 27**, he will preside over a moment of prayer on the platform of St Peter’s Basilica. 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. The blessing “to the City of Rome and to the World” is normally only given on Christmas and Easter. The moment of prayer on Friday will be broadcast live from the Vatican, beginning at **6 pm** Rome time.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, has also issued this call from the National Council of Churches, who have invited all of us to **pray this prayer at 7pm each day**, but especially on **Sunday 29 March** which we will mark as a National Day of Prayer in this time of crisis:

Gracious God,

We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.

We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.

We pray for those in need of healing.

We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.

We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain
all those who are serving in response.

We pray for your Holy Spirit’s discernment
amidst the many choices and decisions
facing our national, community and medical leaders.

We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do
to help those who are vulnerable.

This prayer for our nation in the family of nations,
with all that is on our hearts,

we gather now and pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.