

Prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you are already aware, Pope Francis is inviting the entire Catholic World to join him, through the Marian Sanctuaries across the globe, during the month of May, to pray for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The date of 10 May 2021 has been assigned to Ireland for the leading of prayers at the International Marian Shrine at Knock. On that date we are especially asked to remember in our intentions all people with disabilities.

I attach the press release from the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation which provides further details of the Holy Father's prayer initiative.

I invite you to join this prayer initiative at home and in your parish in the coming weeks.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

+ Eamon Martin

Most Rev Eamon Martin
Apostolic Administrator



Notes from the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization

*In response to the Holy Father's heartfelt wish, the month of May will be dedicated to a "marathon" of prayer, to ask for the end of the pandemic, which has afflicted the world for more than a year now, and to ask for the resumption of social and work activities. Pope Francis wishes to involve all the Shrines around the world in this initiative, so that they may become vehicles of the prayer of the entire Church. The initiative is being conducted in the light of the biblical expression: "**Prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God**" (Acts 12:5).*

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, entrusted by the Holy Father with the task of organizing the event, has extended this invitation to all the Shrines around the world, in order to promote the diffusion of the initiative in the relevant Regions, so as to reach priests, families, and all the faithful, inviting them to join in this prayer of intercession and hope to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Together with the prayer of the Holy Rosary, each day of the month is characterized by a prayer intention for the various categories of people most affected by the plight of the pandemic: for those who have not been able to say goodbye to their loved ones, for all health care personnel, for the poor, the homeless and those in economic difficulty and for all the deceased. These are some of the intentions that will punctuate our prayer to Our Lady.

Every Shrine around the world is invited to pray, in the language and manner used locally, asking for the resumption of social life, work and the many human activities that were suspended during the pandemic. This common appeal seeks to create an unceasing intercession, dispersed over the meridians of the world, which rises continuously from the entire Church to the Father through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For this reason, the Shrines are called to promote and solicit as much as possible the participation of the faithful, so that everyone can devote a moment to daily prayer, in the car, on the street, and thanks to communication technologies, with the smartphone, requesting the end of the pandemic and the resumption of social and work activities.



The Holy Father will open and close the prayer, along with the faithful around the world, from two significant locations within the Vatican City State. On May 1, Pope Francis will pray at Our Lady of Succour (or Our Lady of Help), an icon venerated as early as the seventh century depicted in a fresco above the altar of Saint Leo, near the southern transept of the primitive Vatican Basilica, afterwards placed, where it still stands today, inside the new Saint Peter's Basilica erected by Pope Gregory XIII in 1578, at the Gregorian Chapel, where, the relics of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus, Doctor and Father of the Church, are also kept. In 2013, during the Year of Faith, the icon underwent a new restoration.

On this occasion, the Holy Father will bless special Rosaries used particularly for this event, which will then be sent to the thirty Shrines directly involved. A number of families from parishes in Rome and Lazio will take part by reading and leading the recitation of the Holy Rosary, along with young people representing some of the New Evangelization Movements. Instead, on May 31, Pope Francis will conclude this prayer marathon from a place in the Vatican Gardens.

These thirty representative Shrines, scattered throughout the world, have been chosen to lead the Marian prayer each during one day of the month.

**SHRINE LIST
AND DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS**

Day	Sanctuary	Daily Prayer Intention
	<i>Vatican Basilica</i>	For the entire world wounded by this pandemic
1	<i>Our Lady of Walsingham (England)</i>	For all the deceased
2	<i>Jesus the Saviour and Mother Mary (Nigeria)</i>	For all those who have not been able to say goodbye to their deceased loved ones
3	<i>Our Lady of Częstochowa (Poland)</i>	For all those infected with the corona virus and all the sick
4	<i>Basilica of the Annunciation (Israel)</i>	For all expectant women and their unborn babies
5	<i>Blessed Virgen del Rosario (South Korea)</i>	For all children and adolescents
6	<i>Our Lady of Aparecida (Brazil)</i>	For all young people
7	<i>Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Philippines)</i>	For all families
8	<i>Our Lady of Luján (Argentina)</i>	For all communication workers
9	<i>Holy house of Loreto (Italia)</i>	For all seniors
10	<i>Our Lady of Knock (Ireland)</i>	For all people with disabilities
11	<i>Virgin of the Poor (Belgium)</i>	For all the poor, the homeless, and the economically distressed
12	<i>Our Lady of Africa (Algeria)</i>	For all people who live alone and those who have lost hope
13	<i>Blessed Virgen del Rosario (Portugal)</i>	For all prisoners
14	<i>Our Lady of Health (India)</i>	For all scientists and medical research institutions
15	<i>Our Lady Queen of Peace (Bosnia)</i>	For all migrants
16	<i>St. Mary's Cathedral (Australia)</i>	For all victims of violence and human trafficking
17	<i>Immaculate Conception (U.S.A.)</i>	For all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations
18	<i>Our Lady of Lourdes (France)</i>	For all doctors and nurses
19	<i>Mother Mary's House (TurKey)</i>	For all people at war and for world peace
20	<i>Our Lady of Charity of Copper (Cuba)</i>	For all pharmacists and health care personnel
21	<i>Our Lady of Nagasaki (Japan)</i>	For all social workers
22	<i>Our Lady of Montserrat (Spain)</i>	For all volunteers
23	<i>Our Lady of Cap (Canada)</i>	For all law enforcement and military personnel and for all firefighters
24	<i>To be confirmed</i>	For all those who provide essential services
25	<i>Basilica of the Blessed Virgin of Ta'Pinu (Malta)</i>	For all teachers, students and educators
26	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)</i>	For all workers and entrepreneurs
27	<i>Mother of God (Ukraine)</i>	For all the unemployed
28	<i>Black Madonna of Altötting (Germany)</i>	For the Holy Father, bishops, presbyters, and deacons
29	<i>Our Lady of Lebanon (Lebanon)</i>	For all consecrated men and women
30	<i>Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii (Italia)</i>	For the Church
14	<i>Our Lady of Health (India)</i>	For all scientists and medical research institutions
15	<i>Our Lady Queen of Peace (Bosnia)</i>	For all migrants
16	<i>St. Mary's Cathedral (Australia)</i>	For all victims of violence and human trafficking
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