**30th World Day of the Sick**

**Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – 11 February 2022**

Introduction

‘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.’ (Francis – World Day of the Sick 2022)

Candle Procession

*While respecting current Covid guidelines, a procession of five unlit candles may take place accompanied by the opening song.*

Song: Holy Mary Full of Grace (Paul Décha)

All sing: When creation was begun
God had chosen you to be
Mother of his blessed son
Holy Mary full of grace
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

When creation was restored
You were there beside the Lord
Whom you cherished and adored
Holy Mary full of grace
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Prayer Let us pray,

 God of compassion and mercy,

 Be with all who are in need of healing.

 Show them that they are not alone.

 Inspire us to follow your Son’s example

in reaching out to the sick with love.

We ask this in the Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Message of Pope Francis (1) … light candle one

‘The theme chosen for this Thirtieth World Day of the Sick, “*Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful*” (*Lk* 6:36), makes us first turn our gaze towards God, who is “rich in mercy” (*Eph* 2:4); … who cares for us with the strength of a father and the tenderness of a mother;

Reflection Veni Lumen Cordium (Margaret Rizza)

*(Come light of hearts, Come Holy Spirit)*

Prayer

Gracious God, give me the strength to show mercy in a practical way when I can.

Bless those carers who tirelessly look after family and stranger alike.

May Mary, our tender mother, lead us to place our cares at the feet of your Son.

Message of Pope Francis (2) … light candle two

‘Jesus made it paramount in the mission of the apostles, who were sent by the Master to proclaim the Gospel and to heal the sick (cf. *Lk* 9:2).’ …to be witnesses to God’s charity, who, following the example of Jesus, pour the balm of consolation and the wine of hope on the wounds of the sick. [[3]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20211210_30-giornata-malato.html#_ftn3)’

Reflection Ubi Caritas (Taizé)

*(Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est*

*where charity and love abound, God is there*)

Prayer

Loving God, you gave us a mission at our Baptism and strengthened the bonds between us as the People of God. May we be instruments of balm and hope as we move forward together in a spirit of unity and solidarity.

Message of Pope Francis (3) … light candle three

‘Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission… I would hope that the training provided to health workers might enable them to develop a capacity for listening and relating to others.’

Reflection Listen (Aniceteo Nazareth)

(Listen to the Spirit calling me)

Prayer

Compassionate God, help me to listen with my heart to those who are in distress … and to your Holy Spirit who is our guide on life’s journey.

Message of Pope Francis (4) … light candle four

‘I wish to reaffirm the importance of Catholic healthcare institutions: they are a precious treasure to be protected and preserved; their presence has distinguished the history of the Church, showing her closeness to the sick and the poor, and to situations overlooked by others.’

Reflection Open My Eyes, Lord (Jesse Mannibusan)

*(Open my eyes, Lord, help me to see your face … open my ears, Lord, help me to hear your voice … open my heart, Lord, help me to love like you)*

Prayer

Merciful God, you inspired men and women to be your healing and tender hands through many foundations for the health of the poor. We are grateful for their witness. Help us to reawaken that spirit of selflessness in our community.

Message of Pope Francis (5) … light candle five

‘I would like to remind everyone that closeness to the sick and their pastoral care is not only the task of certain specifically designated ministers; visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ addresses to all his disciples.’

Reflection The Servant Song (Richard Gillard)

*(Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you)*

Concluding Prayer

May Mary, the Mother of God, keep us in her care especially during this pandemic.

Go mbéadh Muire na nGrás i gcónaí linn ar ár mbealach

May Our Lady of Lourdes be our companion today and tomorrow.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Song The Bells of the Angelus

The bells of the Angelus
Call us to pray
With sweet tones announcing
the sacred Ave.

Chorus:
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria,
Ave, Ave , Ave Maria.

An angel of mercy,
led Bernadette's feet,
Where flows the deep torrent,
Our Lady to greet.

