

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH OF PAMBULA

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The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Psalm 46 | Eph 1:17-23 | Mt 28:16-20

May 24th 2020



THE ULTIMATE CALL TO PRAYER

"Within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." —Acts 1:5

Jesus tried to give us the Holy Spirit three times. When He died on Calvary He gave over His Spirit, although only a few were present to receive the Spirit. Jesus' second attempt to give us the Holy Spirit was on the first resurrection night. He breathed on His apostles and commanded: "Receive the Holy Spirit". It seems that they only partially received the Spirit because they stayed locked up in the upper room. The Church received the fullness of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, after having devoted themselves to nine days of prayer (*Acts 1:14*).

Prayer is one of the keys to receiving the Holy Spirit. "If we, with all our sins, know how to give our children good things, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him" (*Lk 11:13*). However, Jesus' followers have traditionally had difficulty spending one hour a day with Him in prayer. Like St. Martha, we are sometimes upset with others who pray and with the Lord Who calls them to pray. We must honestly admit those times that we are not praying people, praying families, or praying couples. However, prayer is necessary to receive the Spirit.

The Ascension of Jesus is the most powerful and successful call to prayer in the Bible. After the Ascension, apostles who didn't pray an hour in the garden of Gethsemane devoted themselves to constant prayer (*Acts 1:14*). On this Solemnity and Holy day of the Ascension, the Lord offers us a special invitation to pray and a gift to pray. Accept the invitation, pray, and receive the Spirit.

Fr Pale

PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

WE CAN STILL PRAY FOR THESE PEOPLE ACROSS OUR WORLD

'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things, with great love' (*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*)

Through your generosity during Project Compassion in 2020, you are empowering communities with hope and helping those in need to shape a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. Mindful of all the needs here locally in our own community perhaps we can give 'something small with great love'.

'We have all known the long loneliness, and we have found that the answer is community'. (*Dorothy Day*) <https://lent.caritas.org.au>

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

3 o'clock prayer - the hour of great mercy

Jesus said: Call upon my mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give that person the grace of conversion.

Let us pray: O Blood and Water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fount of Mercy for us, I trust in you. Jesus, I trust in You.

THE SICK

As we journey with our Risen Lord through this difficult time let us remember in our prayers our family, parishioners local and wider community and all those who are sick. May the mercy and healing power of God touch and give them healing, comfort and strength. Ruth Mercieca, Robert Wallis, Hank Westerlaken.

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for the recently deceased in our parish community. Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of Lyn Matthews' mother, Mary Roberson, Gerald John Edward, Tony Colosimo, Sr Mary Agnes, Caleb, Tess Rizetti, John Seychelles.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Margarita Adecera, Manong Lapinig, Pedro Lapinig, Ruth Tarn Pike, Elwood Zimmerman, Heather Grimmett, Alona Oppus, Cornella (Malaque) Galleros, Rosario Malague, Mike Aggenbach, Anne Riches.

May all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Just a Note to those parishioners who may be in the process of rebuilding their homes following the recent bushfires, Blue Ridge Hardwoods, Eden are still selling timber to the public.

WEEKDAY READINGS

Monday of the Seventh Week of Easter; **Mary, Help of Christians**

Sir 4:11-18/1 Cor 1:18-25 Psalms 112:1-8/Jn 19:25-27

Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Easter; **St Phillip Neri**

Acts 20:17-27/Psalms 67/John 17:1-11a

Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Easter; **St Augustine Canterbury**

Acts 20:28-38/Psalms 67/John 11:11b-19

Thursday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Acts 22:30; 23: 6-11/Psalms 15/John 17:20-26

Friday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Acts 25:13b-21/Psalm 102/John 16:20-23

Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Acts 28:16-20,30-31/Psalm 10/John 21:20-25



REFLECTION by *Dianne Bergant CSA*

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

COVID19

We invite you to explore the latest edition of LITed (Liturgy Brisbane) which looks ahead to what the Church may look like after Coronavirus, and reflects upon how we may have learned to see differently. to view at <https://litedliturgybrisbane.weebly.com/>

COVID-19 Crisis Appeal

Vinnies is launching a COVID-19 Crisis Appeal to raise funds for the additional need we are already seeing due to Covid-19. The COVID-19 Crisis Appeal is replacing the Winter Appeal and is launching ahead of the traditional Winter Appeal start date of 1 May.

This new crisis, this terrible pandemic, nothing our modern community has experienced, will increase the need for the work of Vinnies in serving the poor and needy. Already within Australia, we have witnessed an exponential demand from vulnerable people needing help to find food, as a result of Covid-19 panic buying in the major supermarkets.

Due to the restrictions we're operating within, it will not be possible to do an appeal through parishes in the traditional manner. Please can you [enctodonateonlinewww.vinnies.org.au/covid19crisisappeal](https://www.vinnies.org.au/covid19crisisappeal) or by calling 13 18 12

Free Online Conferences for Catholic Couples:

Unexplained Infertility Summit Monday 25 - Wednesday 27 May
<https://www.unexplainedinfertilitysummit.com/>

Catholic Marriage Summit Thursday 11 - Saturday 13 May
<https://www.joyfuleverafter.org/>

Just about every high profile lay Catholic speaker you have heard of (50 in total, mostly US based) along with their spouse, will give a 20 minute presentation on the day to day realities of living out the sacrament of Marriage.

ENTRUSTING AUSTRALIA TO MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

May 23/24

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

Everything is Connected: *Laudato Si* and our 'home'

Take and eat. Take and drink. When we hear these words in our eucharistic celebrations, we are being reminded not just that we are called to action regarding the sacred elements, but that these are fruit of the earth which God loved so much that He sent His Son to save it. (Jn 3:16)

On Tuesday and Thursday, May 19 & 21st, we were led by Jacqui Rémond in a reflection on Pope Francis' *encyclical Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*. It's Pope Francis' second encyclical and focuses on care for the earth and all that grows in its waters, land and air, making up the home we all hold in common.

Laudato Si follows in the tradition of previous encyclicals, developing Catholic Social Teaching and applying it to life today.

Pope Francis reminds us of God's call to us (Gen 2:15), not just to till and cultivate the land, but also to keep and care for it, as representatives of God's loving presence here on earth. He reminds us, too, that we and the entire earth are interconnected. What we human beings do with the resources at hand has great implications for peoples far away, as well as for the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and the animals on dry land. All are interconnected, in ways that science, even with its vast trove of knowledge, is still only beginning to learn.

We are reminded that God calls us to cultivate the land, to make use of its resources - but that He calls us to do so in a way which keeps the earth, its natural resources, and all that live on it whole and complete for generations yet to come. How do we do that, in a world of such inequitable distribution of resources? The bushfires, and now the covid-19 pandemic, are calling us all to a new way of thinking about life, new questions as to what constitutes 'normal'.

How do we reduce, reuse, recycle in our homes? How do we rouse politicians of all stripes to an awareness of the need to care for and indeed love the land, and equally a willingness to take action for the common good? How do we bridge the gap between the false dichotomy of jobs or the environment, and begin to recognize instead that there are no winners or losers in this equation, that either there are only winners, or that all are losers?

We are also called to listen to those around us who have or are developing perspectives that differ from ours, to learn from them, share questions and discover ways forward. These include especially indigenous peoples and youth around the world.

Laudato Si probes and explores these and other questions, then provides suggestions for reflection and action. You are encouraged to read the encyclical for yourself, to see how it speaks to you. Better still, why not gather with your family, or with a small group of friends, to read and work through it together, discussing as you go? You may find, as I have, that it is rich and rewarding, but also

challenging, calling us all to think anew, work together toward a new 'normal' for the common good.

Laudato Si can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/vp3aw7a>

Resources for *Laudato Si* can be found at <https://laudatosiweek.org/resources/>

Ray Temmerman

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COVID – 19 Latest protocols for NSW Parishes: The NSW Premier has announced changes to COVID – 19 restrictions which will bring NSW in line with the ACT effective Friday, 15 May 2020. Please note the following:

- 1 Churches may now be open but will be restricted to no more than 10 people in the building at any one time.
- 2 Mass may be celebrated for no more than 10 people excluding those conducting the service.
- 3 Funerals celebrated inside the church building are restricted to 20 people, excluding those conducting the service.
- 4 Funerals celebrated outside the church building are restricted to 30 people, excluding those conducting service.
- 5 Weddings may now be celebrated with 10 people, excluding those conducting the ceremony.

These gatherings are permitted with the physical distancing rule of 1.5 meters. No physical sign of peace is permitted and the current protocols for Holy Communion remain in place. Fr Tony Percy VG

OUR
LADY
PRAYS

THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

DICATED BY JESUS TO ST. FAUSTINA, SEPT. 14TH, 1935

BEGIN WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OUR FATHER xi

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is
in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY xi

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed
art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy
womb, Jesus, Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us
sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED xi

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of
heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only
Son, Our Lord. He was conceived by the power of
the Holy Spirit and born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the
third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.
From thence He shall come to judge the living and
the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic
Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

ON EACH OF THE 5 'OUR FATHER BEADS' SAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER: →

Eternal Father I Offer you The Body And Blood,
Soul And Divinity Of Your Dearly Beloved Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ, In Atonement For Our Sins
And Those Of The Whole World.

ON EACH OF THE 50 'HAIL MARY BEADS' SAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER: →

For The Sake Of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy On Us And On The Whole World.

FINAL PRAYER (REPEAT X3)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
Have Mercy On Us And On The Whole World.



Jesus I Trust In You!



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LIVE ROSARY / PRAYERS FOR APOCALYPSE
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FROM THE VATICAN

Appealing to Mary to End Pandemic on Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Francis Thanks God for 'Holy Bishop of Rome' St John Paul II

Reminds That 'Under Her Protection, Life's Sorrows & Afflictions Are More Bearable'

May 13, 2020 14:33 • Deborah Castellano Lubov • Pope and Holy See

Let's ask God, through Mary's intercession, for peace in the world,
the end of the pandemic, a spirit of penance and our conversion...

On this Liturgical Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Francis
made this appeal toward the conclusion of his General Audience, this
Wednesday, May 13th, 2020, in his papal library, in the midst of the
pandemic of coronavirus worldwide, as he focused today's catechesis
on essential characteristics of prayer.

Recalling the Marian apparitions in Fatima, Portugal, the Pope said:
"We turn in thought to Her apparitions and to Her message
transmitted to the world, as well as to the attack on Saint John Paul
II, who in the sparing of his life, saw the maternal intervention of the
Holy Virgin."

Fatima has confirmed that this year there will be no faithful present
at today's festivities.

"In our prayer, let us ask God, through the intercession of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary," Francis said, "for peace in the world, the
end of the pandemic, a spirit of penance and our conversion."

"Next Monday," the Pontiff reminded, "will be the centenary of Saint
John Paul II's birth," Pope Francis said, reminding I will celebrate
Mass at 7:00 am in front of the altar of his tomb, and it will be
broadcast worldwide for all.

"We thank God for giving us this Bishop of Rome, this Holy Bishop,
and we ask him to help us: to help this Church of Rome to convert
and go forward. I bless you from my heart."

Greeting Italian-speaking faithful, Francis said: 'On the anniversary
of the first Apparition to the little visionaries of Fatima, I invite you

to invoke the Virgin Mary so that She renders each one perseverant in love of God and neighbour.”

Offering a special thought to young people, the elderly, sick and newlyweds, Francis advised: “Take recourse constantly to Our Lady’s help.”

“In Her,” the Pope recalled, “we find a solicitous and tender Mother, safe refuge in adversities.”

When greeting Portuguese-speaking listeners, Francis said: “I encourage all to know and follow the example of the Virgin Mary.”

“In this context,” he continued, “let us try to live this month with more intense and faithful prayer, in particular, by reciting the Rosary, as the Church recommends, obeying a desire repeatedly expressed in Fatima by Our Lady.”

“You will see, under Her protection,” the Holy Father reminded, “that the sorrows and afflictions of life are more bearable.”

“I would like to come close in heart today to the Diocese of Fatima, to Our Lady’s Shrine,” he said.

Francis applauded those in Fatima, including the Cardinal Bishop, who go forward “all united with Our Lady, who accompanies us on this daily journey of conversion to Jesus.”

“May God bless you!” he said.

Pope Francis’ Message for 2020 World Day of Migrants and Refugees

‘Like Jesus Christ, forced to flee. Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating internally displaced persons’

●May 15, 2020 11:33●ZENIT Staff●Papal Texts

The following is the Vatican-provided text of the Message of the Pope Francis for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2020, to be held this coming September 27, on the theme: “Like Jesus Christ, forced to flee. Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating internally displaced persons”:

Message of the Holy Father

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS for the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 27 September 2020

Like Jesus Christ, forced to flee. Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating internally displaced persons.

At the beginning of this year, in my Address to the members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, I pointed to the tragedy of internally displaced people as one of the challenges of our contemporary world: “Situations of conflict and humanitarian emergencies, aggravated by climate change, are increasing the numbers of displaced persons and affecting people already living in a state of dire poverty. Many of the countries experiencing these situations lack adequate structures for meeting the needs of the displaced” (9 January 2020).

The Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has issued the document “Pastoral Orientations on Internally Displaced People” (Vatican City, 5 May 2020), which aims to inspire and encourage the pastoral work of the Church in this specific area.

For these reasons, I have decided to devote this Message to the drama of internally displaced persons, an often unseen tragedy that the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated. In fact, due to its virulence, severity and geographical extent, this

crisis has impacted on many other humanitarian emergencies that affect millions of people, which has relegated to the bottom of national political agendas those urgent international efforts essential to saving lives. But “this is not a time for forgetfulness. The crisis we are facing should not make us forget the many other crises that bring suffering to so many people” (Urbi et Orbi Message, 12 April 2020).

In the light of the tragic events that have marked 2020, I would like this Message, although concerned with internally displaced persons, to embrace all those who are experiencing situations of precariousness, abandonment, marginalization and rejection as a result of COVID-19.

I would like to start with the image that inspired Pope Pius XII in his Apostolic Constitution *Exsul Familia* (1 August 1952). During the flight into Egypt, the child Jesus experienced with his parents the tragic fate of the displaced and refugees, “which is marked by fear, uncertainty and unease (cf. Mt 2:13-15, 19-23). Unfortunately, in our own times, millions of families can identify with this sad reality.

Almost every day the television and papers carry news of refugees fleeing from hunger, war and other grave dangers, in search of security and a dignified life for themselves and for their families” (Angelus, 29 December 2013). In each of these people, forced to flee to safety, Jesus is present as he was at the time of Herod. In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help (cf. Mt 25:31-46). If we can recognize him in those faces, we will be the ones to thank him for having been able to meet, love and serve him in them.

Displaced people offer us this opportunity to meet the Lord, “even though our eyes find it hard to recognize him: his clothing in tatters, his feet dirty, his face disfigured, his body wounded, his tongue unable to speak our language” (Homily, 15 February 2019). We are called to respond to this pastoral challenge with the four verbs I indicated in my Message for this Day in 2018: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. To these words, I would now like to add another six pairs of verbs that deal with very practical actions and are linked together in a relationship of cause and effect.

You have to know in order to understand. Knowledge is a necessary step towards understanding others. Jesus himself tells us this in the account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus: “While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him” (Lk 24:15-16). When we talk about migrants and displaced persons, all too often we stop at statistics. But it is not about statistics, it is about real people! If we encounter them, we will get to know more about them. And knowing their stories, we will be able to understand them. We will be able to understand, for example, that the precariousness that we have come to experience as a result of this pandemic is a constant in the lives of displaced people.

It is necessary to be close in order to serve. It may seem obvious, yet often it is the contrary. “But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where the man was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him” (Lk 10:33-34). Fears and prejudices – all too many prejudices – keep us distant from others and often prevent us from “becoming neighbours” to them and serving them with love. Drawing close to others often means being willing to take risks, as so many doctors and nurses have taught us in recent months. This readiness to draw near and serve goes beyond a mere sense of duty. Jesus gave us the greatest example of this when he washed the feet of his disciples: he took off his cloak, knelt down and dirtied his hands (cf. Jn 13:1-15).

In order to be reconciled, we need to listen. God himself taught us this by sending his Son into the world. He wanted to listen to the plea of suffering humanity with human ears: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son... that the world might be saved through him” (Jn 3:16-17). A love that reconciles and saves begins with listening. In today’s world, messages multiply but the practice of listening is being lost. Yet it is only through humble and attentive listening that we can truly be reconciled. In 2020, silence has reigned for weeks in our streets. A dramatic and troubling silence, but one that has given us the opportunity to listen to the plea of the vulnerable, the displaced and our seriously ill planet. Listening gives

us an opportunity to be reconciled with our neighbour, with all those who have been “discarded”, with ourselves and with God, who never tires of offering us his mercy.

In order to grow, it is necessary to share. Sharing was an essential element of the first Christian community: “Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common” (Acts 4:32). God did not want the resources of our planet to benefit only a few. This was not the Lord’s will! We have to learn to share in order to grow together, leaving no one behind. The pandemic has reminded us how we are all in the same boat. Realizing that we have the same concerns and fears has shown us once more that no one can be saved alone. To grow truly, we must grow together, sharing what we have, like the boy who offered Jesus five barley loaves and two fish... yet they proved enough for five thousand people (cf. Jn 6:1-15)!

We need to be involved in order to promote. As Jesus was with the Samaritan woman (cf. Jn 4:1-30). The Lord approaches her, listens to her, speaks to her heart, and then leads her to the truth and makes her a herald of the Good News: “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did! Can this be the Christ?” (v. 29). Sometimes the impulse to serve others prevents us from seeing their real riches. If we really want to promote those whom we assist, we must involve them and make them agents in their own redemption. The pandemic has reminded us of how essential co-responsibility is, and that only with the contribution of everyone – even of those groups so often underestimated – can we face this crisis. We must find “the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity” (*Meditation in Saint Peter’s Square, 27 March 2020*).

It is necessary to cooperate in order to build. That is what the Apostle Paul tells the community of Corinth: “I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement” (1 Cor 1:10). Building the Kingdom of God is a duty common to all Christians, and for this

reason it is necessary that we learn to cooperate, without yielding to the temptation to jealousy, discord and division.

In the present context it should be reiterated: “This is not a time for self-centredness, because the challenge we are facing is shared by all, without distinguishing between persons” (Urbi et Orbi Message, 12 April 2020). To preserve our common home and make it conform more and more to God’s original plan, we must commit ourselves to ensuring international cooperation, global solidarity and local commitment, leaving no one excluded.

I would like to conclude with a prayer suggested by the example of Saint Joseph at the time he was forced to flee to Egypt to save the child Jesus. Father, you entrusted to Saint Joseph what you held most precious: the child Jesus and his Mother, in order to protect them from the dangers and threats of the wicked.

Grant that we may experience his protection and help. May he, who shared in the sufferings of those who flee from the hatred of the powerful, console and protect all our brothers and sisters driven by war, poverty and necessity to leave their homes and their lands to set out as refugees for safer places.

Help them, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, to find the strength to persevere, give them comfort in sorrows and courage amid their trials. Grant to those who welcome them some of the tender love of this just and wise father, who loved Jesus as a true son and sustained Mary at every step of the way. May he, who earned his bread by the work of his hands, watch over those who have seen everything in life taken away and obtain for them the dignity of a job and the serenity of a home.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, whom Saint Joseph saved by fleeing to Egypt, and trusting in the intercession of the Virgin Mary, whom he loved as a faithful husband in accordance with your will. Amen.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 13 May 2020, Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima

FRANCIS