



The Holy See has informed us that tomorrow, **March 27, 2020** at **18hrs.00, Rome Time**, the Holy Father will lead a Prayer from the Balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, which will be transmitted by "Mondovisione" and the "Vatican News".

Starting with a meditation on the Word of God and the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Pope Francis will confer the Plenary Indulgence and the "Ubi et Orbi" Blessing.

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### **ROME TIME**

FRIDAY 27 MARCH, 6PM

### **NEW ZEALAND TIME**

SATURDAY 28 MARCH, 6AM

***"The gift of special Indulgences is granted to the faithful suffering from COVID-19 disease, commonly known as Coronavirus, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them."*** (Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of special Indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic)

### **What is an indulgence?**

An indulgence is an ancient practice of prayer and penance for the remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven. In Catholic teaching, any baptised Catholic can draw on the merits of Jesus and the saints to claim the indulgence for themselves or offer it on behalf of someone who has died.

### **Who can obtain this?**

- 1) Those who may be suffering from the coronavirus.
- 2) Health care workers, doctors, nurses, hospital staff and volunteers, family members and all those who expose themselves to the risk of the coronavirus.
- 3) Any baptised Catholic.

### **What do I have to do?**

Pray!

Anyone seeking this plenary indulgence asks that in their hearts they detach themselves from all sin and unite themselves spiritually through the means of social communication with Mass; the recital of the rosary or the Stations of the Cross; or that they simply recite the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer and say any prayer to Our Lady; or recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Receiving Sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's Intention is also needed but this can be done once normality resumes outside of the lockdown period.