

**PRAYER FOR PEACE  
DURING CORONA DISTRESS**

**WE PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS**

**ON MAY 14, 2020**

# BRIEF INTRODUCTION

## *Context and Call by the Holy Father Pope Francis:*



On May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, the Good Shepherd Sunday, Pope Francis in his homily desired that May 14<sup>th</sup> could be a day of Prayer and Fasting to implore God's mercy and forgiveness, his healing and consoling touch to the whole wounded world in the context of CORONA virus.

This invitation by the Pope is to join with all people of good will, especially PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS.

Knowing the seriousness of our diseased context, let us as believers be moved with love and invite our Hindu, Christian Muslim, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh sisters and brothers to spend some time to offer our prayers to God in thanksgiving as well as to implore God's continued mercy and blessings for all.

### *Instruction:*

You need only to read the text prayerfully.

You may send this text to people of all faiths well ahead of time. Offer them consolation and peace, and invoke God's blessings on them. Request them to join you in Prayer and Fasting on 14<sup>th</sup> May (Thursday) any convenient time of the day.

# BEGINNING WITH INVOCATION



*Every religion has its own special prayer of invocation. For example, as Christians, we make the “Sign of the Cross” and begin this prayer.*

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit –  
Amen

Our father in Heaven....

Hail Mary....

Glory be to the Father.... (others will do their invocation)

## *Awareness Meditation:*

Let us become aware of the God’s presence.

Let us bring our Hindu, Christian, Muslim, and other religious friends in  
the presence of God.

Let us vibrate God’s peace and blessings with ALL.

Let us trust God and be confident of God’s mercy and healing.

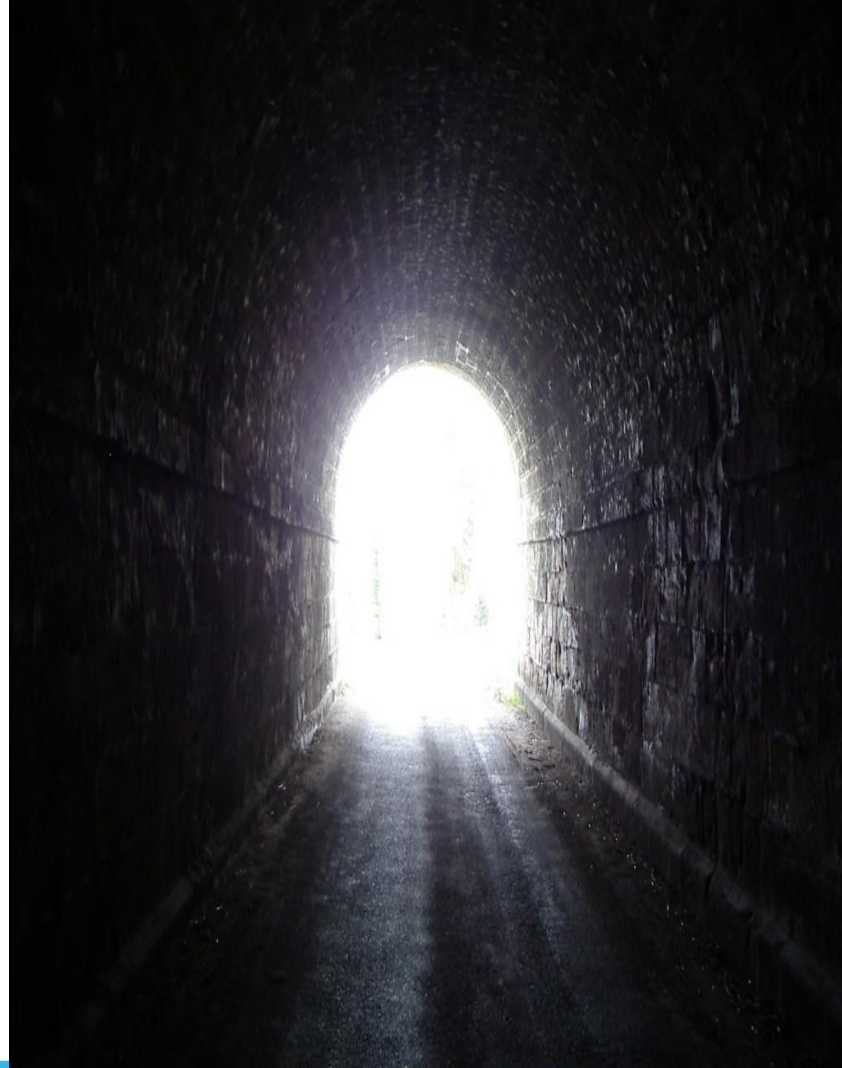
For this, let us first spend a moment in purifying our minds and hearts.  
(you may do an act of contrition)

**LET US COME TOGETHER, LET US SPEAK TOGETHER,  
LET OUR HEARTS BE OF ONE ACCORD.**

# INITIAL SINGING

*Any suitable song can be sung:*

Lead me from Falsehood to Truth;  
Lead me from Darkness to Light;  
Lead me from Death to Eternal Life.



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# SCRIPTURE READINGS



## *From Hinduism:*

Set me, O Earth, amidst what is thy center and thy navel,  
and vitalizing forces that emanate from thy body.

Purify us from all sides. Earth is my Mother; her son am I;  
and Heaven my Father: may he fill us with plenty....

May those born of thee, O Earth,  
be, for our welfare, free from sickness and waste.

Wakeful through a long life, we shall become bearers of tribute for thee.

Earth, my Mother! set me securely with bliss in full accord with Heaven. Wise One, uphold me in grace and splendor.

*(Atharva Veda 12.1)*

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*From Sikhism:*

Farid, I thought I alone  
had sorrow; Sorrow is  
spread all over the whole  
world. From my roof-top I  
saw Every home engulfed  
in sorrow's flames.

*Sikhism. Adi Granth, Shalok,  
Farid, p. 1382*



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## *From Buddhism:*

Diseases have hunger as their worst.  
Sufferings have dispositions as their worst.  
Knowing this in proper perspective, freedom  
(Nibbana) is the ultimate happiness.

Of all gains, good health is the greatest. Of all  
wealth, contentment is the greatest. Among  
kinsmen, the trusty is the greatest. Freedom  
(Nibbana) is the ultimate happiness.

Having imbibed the essence of solitude and  
the essence of tranquility, and imbibing the  
joyous essence of righteousness, one  
becomes free from anguish and free from  
evil.

*Dhammapada 203-05*



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### *From Christianity:*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life... Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam”. So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

*Christianity. The Gospel of St.  
John: 9. 1-7*

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*From Jainism:*

Suffering is the offspring of violence. Realize this and be ever vigilant.

*Acharangasutra 3.13*

Let us have benevolence towards all living beings, joy at the sight of the virtuous, compassion and sympathy for the afflicted, and tolerance towards the indolent and ill-behaved.

*Tattvarthasutra 7.11*



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## *From Islam:*

You who believe, seek help through patience and prayer; God stands alongside the patient! We will test you with a bit of fear and hunger, and a shortage of wealth and souls and produce. Proclaim such to patient people who say, whenever disaster strikes them, "We are God's, and are returning to Him!" Such will be granted their prayers by their Lord as well as mercy. Those are guided!

*Qur'an 2.153-57*

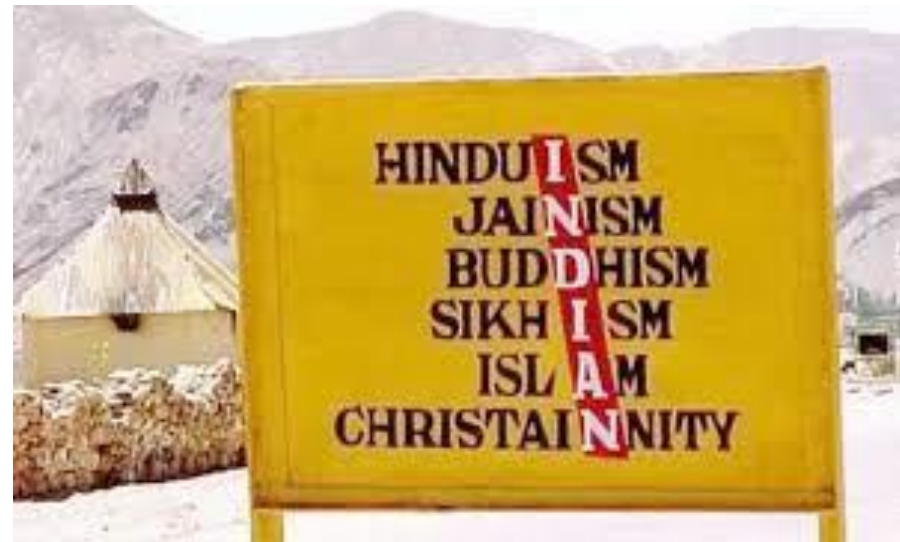


LET US COME TOGETHER, LET US SPEAK TOGETHER,  
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WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation.

*We pause to pray for our country and for us to live the values of Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.*

## FROM THE PREAMBLE OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION



LET US COME TOGETHER, LET US SPEAK TOGETHER,  
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# PRAYING FOR MERCY AND PROTECTION

We spend a moment in silence in the Divine presence.



## *Petitions:*

We say the following petitions and thank God or ask for his mercy and protection. (it is like the Litany of Prayers and Petitions)

1. O God, creator of heaven and earth – Have mercy on us
2. O God, protector of heaven and earth – Have mercy on us
3. O God, who renews the face of the earth - Have mercy on us
4. O God, who fill us with love and compassion - Have mercy on us
5. O God, who leads the believers in truth, beauty, and love – We praise you and we thank you
6. O God, who binds us in love, unity, and peace - We praise you and we thank you
7. O God, who brings us joy in our sharing with others - We praise you and we thank you

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8. O God, who reveal yourself in the poor and the uncared for – We praise you and we thank you
9. O God, who work through the physicians, nurses, cleaners, and voluntary workers – We praise you and we thank you
10. O God, who gave us dedicated police to take care our safety. and NGOs to feed the hungry - We praise you and we thank you
11. O God, we pray for those who died of Corona and for their family – Grant them your mercy and protection
12. O God, we pray for our country, shattered by economy and livelihood – Grant us your mercy and protection
13. O God, we pray for those who are in the process of finding suitable medicine for Corona – Grant them your mercy and protection
14. O God, we pray for those who are suspected or affected by Corona – Grant them your mercy and protection
15. O God, we pray for those who struggle to change their life caught up with drinks and drugs – Grant them your mercy and protection
16. O God, we pray for those who sow the seed of love and unity and even for those who sow the seed of hate – Grant them your mercy and protection
17. O God, we pray for those who struggle to create a New heaven and the New Earth – Grant them your mercy and protection



# PRAYER FOR THE HOMELESS

Bless the homeless with enough food to sustain them, with enough warmth to shield them from the elements, with the power to wrestle personal demons and win, with the will to go on, and build their lives again.

May hope touch each homeless heart, spirit and life, let the kindness of others bring lasting benefits, bring freedom from addiction, illness and misery, open their humanity to include & embrace themselves.

Bless the homeless with self acceptance and love, spark their imaginations with belief in the future, bringing the possibility of a better life, a safer life and a more secure life.



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# END SONG

After a moment of prayerful silence, you may end the Interreligious prayer with a song on Unity-in-Diversity.



**LET US COME TOGETHER, LET US SPEAK TOGETHER, LET OUR HEARTS BE OF ONE ACCORD.**

## THANK YOU

DR. VINCENT SEKHAR SJ  
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