**The Universal Prayer**

**First Sunday of Lent**

**9th March 2025**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers,

 Jesus’ experience in the wilderness is one which is our own experience as well, as we have to grapple with the forces of evil and strive to hold God firmly in our hearts.

1. May Pope Francis, elected as Bishop of Rome 12 years ago next Thursday, be held in constant prayer by all in the Church

as he struggles with critical health issues.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May the Jubilee of World Volunteering, being held in Rome this weekend, bring blessings upon the selfless service and unwavering commitment of volunteers across the world.

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May Pope Francis’ intention for March, to pray for the healing of the wounds of broken families bring them forgiveness and recognition of each other’s gifts.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May the Jesus, the Prince of Peace, be close to all suffering in Palestine and Israel, in Ukraine and Russia, as in each place peace negotiations are at critical cross roads.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May each one of us enter sincerely into this Time of Lent, be fervent in prayer, sincere in repentance, disciplined in sacrifices, so that in Australia, through Project Compassion, we *unite against poverty.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

1. May ….

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

1. May those who have died of hunger in the wilderness and in places of drought, be taken by Jesus, who himself felt the pain of the desert, to the heavenly banquet.

We remember….

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

 be merciful to us sinners,

 renew us in your Son Jesus,

 and let us walk confidently in the

 power of the Holy Spirit.

 Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Monday 10th March 2025**

**Monday First Week of Lent**

Celebrant: To live for Christ in faith

 is to live for our neighbour with love.

1. May this Eucharist be a sincere prayer for Pope Francis as he struggles

to breathe, that the Breath of the Spirit of God may be in him.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May the Church be united in prayer for Pope Francis and for all who

struggle with lung and breathing difficulties.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May we see Christ in those who are in need and help them in the spirit of Jesus who came among us ‘as one who serves’.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May we pray on this International Day of Women Judges that the Spirit of God’s wisdom will guide them in the ways of justice and mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May this Commonwealth Day, bringing together a great variety of nations, guide them among the paths of unity and peace, respect for creation, with a care for peoples suffering with poverty and conflict.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Father, your word gives light to our eyes so that we can see

with faith and walk with hope.

Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Tuesday 11th March 2025**

**Tuesday First Week of Lent**

Celebrant: My friends, Jesus has taught us how to pray.

May we be sincere in what we say.

1. That Francis, our Holy Father, will feel the power of prayer in his time of need, and be sustained in hope.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That the Eucharist will be a powerful prayer to inspire people to put aside hatred and work towards peace wherever there is violence.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That every Christian will pray with faith during this season of Lent

praising God, offering their thanks, seeking forgiveness,

and expressing their trust.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That the kingdom of God may be established in every heart

so that each person knows that they are loved personally by God.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That on this 14th anniversary of the Fukashima Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Disaster, we will pray for all affected by that disaster, and commend to God all who died.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Eternal God, look upon those who in our world live in distress. Strengthen the resolve of free people

to work for their liberation.

Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Wednesday 12th March 2025**

**Wednesday First Week of Lent**

Celebrant: Our Sacred Scriptures abound in examples

 of peoples’ conversion from sin to God’s grace.

 May this action of God’s Spirit continue in our world today.

1. May we feel a bond of communion with each other as we pray for Pope Francis in his time of distressing sickness, that he will give himself over to the will of God.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May we repent of our sins and work on those habits of sin which

prevent us from living fully for Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May the distress of the Palestinians in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank,

of Israeli families waiting for the release of the hostages, and the martyred people of Ukraine ascend to the Thone of God.

Lord, hear us.

 4. May bishops, priests and deacons who preach the word of God

do so with truth and compassion during this Lenten Time,

in a manner which encourages and does not oppress the people.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May those who are reluctant to witness to their faith, take heart from the experience of Jonah, whose fear of God’s will, were overcome when he surrendered himself totally to God’s way.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, in the face of life’s difficulties

 put a steadfast spirit in each one of us

 so that we can live for Christ

 who is Lord for ever and ever.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Thursday 13th March 2025**

**First Week of Lent**

**12th Anniversary of the Election of Pope Francis**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers,

 Jesus encourages us to pray

 with confidence in all circumstances.

1. May Pope Francis, elected Bishop of Rome, 12 years ago today,

be sustained in his illness, as we give thanks for his extraordinary ministry in accompanying the Church in hope, passionate for the poor and refugees, deeply concerned for the environment, and reaching out to people of all faiths.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May those who are critical of People Francis be humble before the Holy Spirit who chose him as our universal pastor.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May those who feel that prayer is useless, experience the power of the Holy Spirit, so that they are renewed in hope and discover the peace of prayer.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May those who delight in prayer be able to teach others

its beauty, goodness and joy and lead people to charity, the fruit of prayer.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May those in desperate or impossible situations not despair, but find hope in prayer as did Queen Esther so long ago.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May this World Kidney Day evoke prayer for all who suffer because of kidney diseases, especially in places of war and drought where medical care of not available.

Lord, have mercy

Celebrant: Lord our God, give us a spirit of thanksgiving

 because your love is eternal and never failing.

 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Friday 14th March 2025**

**Friday 1st Week of Lent**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, Jesus has called us to be reconciled with those who have become our enemies and those whom we have offended or hurt.

1. We pray with the whole Church for our Holy Father, Pope Francis,

that he will be sustained in hope and he places himself in the hands of God.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray for the grace to be reconciled with anyone we have fallen out with, or who may have become our enemy.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray for those who so quickly get angry, that they may receive the gift of patience and be able to dialogue with others when they are upset.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray for our parish community, that during this Time of Lent we will support Project Compassion as we unite against poverty,

especially in Gaza, the Occupied West Bank, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray for all who are persecuted or harassed because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord our God,

 with compassion you do not overwhelm us with guilt,

but forgive and renew us so that we can live the Christian life for the good of others.

Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Saturday 15th March 2025**

**Saturday 1st Week of Lent**

Celebrant: Dear friends,

 Jesus is with us to help us grow toward

 that perfection and compassion found in the

 heart of the Father.

1. That the Church, a people consecrated to the Lord, pray without ceasing for the welfare of Pope Francis.

 Lord, have mercy.

1. That we may have in our hearts the power of God’s love

so that we ourselves can love, even our enemies.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That those who are persecuted for their faith

may pray for those who treat them badly,

so that with patience and kindness they can win them over to God.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That Christians may take seriously their responsibility

to love God and their neighbour

so that they can be a light of truth and goodness to others.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That in every place where there in war and violence the Spirit of God will lead leaders to abandon pride, greed and corruption, and seek peace, justice and mercy together.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Father and King, how happy are those who

walk the way of goodness.

 Keep them faithful to you.

 Through Christ our Lord.

**Petitions suitable if Pope Francis should die**

**Sunday 9th March**

1. For the eternal rest of Pope Francis,

that as he was a loyal servant of Jesus and the Church,

he may enter the Father’s heavenly home.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For the Universal Church, that united in prayer

on the death of Pope Francis,

we will be consoled through his ministry to the world.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Monday 10th March**

1. May Pope Francis rest now from his work of service

so that his good deeds will escort him into the arms of Jesus.

Lord, hear us.

1. May the Cardinals, traveling to Rome for the Conclave,

be safe and prayerful, open to the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, hear us.

**Tuesday 11th March**

1. That Pope Francis will be welcomed into heaven

by Mary and all the Saints, and rejoice in the

eternal life of the Trinity.

Lord, hear us.

1. That the Cardinals of the Church will feel the power

of the prayer throughout the Church as they prepare to enter the Conclave and elect the new successor of St. Peter.

Lord, hear us.

**Wednesday 12th March**

1. May God prepare the heavenly Jerusalem

to receive the soul of Pope Francis

so that his hopes will be realised in Jesus.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May the Church be united in prayer for the Cardinals

who will soon elect the next Pope so that hope

reigns in every heart.

Lord, have mercy.

**Thursday 13th March**

1. We pray for Pope Francis, on what would have been the 12th anniversary of his Election, that the eternal rest and joy of Jesus

will be showered upon him after his life of unselfish service.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray for all who will arrange and assist in the Conclave

so that the Cardinals will enter it prayerfully, hopefully

and calmly for the good of the whole Church.

Lord, have mercy.

**Friday 14th March**

1. We pray that Pope Francis will receive the reward of eternal

life after a life of service to the People of God and all humanity.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray that the whole Church will be united in prayer,

assisting the Cardinals with hope, as they ponder in their hearts

a worthy Pope to follow Pope Francis.

Lord, have mercy.

**Saturday 15th March**

1. That the doors of heaven will be thrown open to receive

the soul of Pope Francis as he finally sees God as he really is.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That each Cardinal will scrutinise his heart carefully and prayerfully

that he may vote in the approaching Conclave with a clear conscience.

Lord, have mercy.