



Press release
For immediate release

Pope Francis' message for the 33rd World Day of the Sick (11 February 2025)

Ottawa, 6 February 2025 – Earlier this year, the Vatican published [*Pope Francis' message for the 33rd World Day of the Sick*](#), celebrated each year on February 11.

In his message, Pope Francis offers a reflection on the theme, “‘*Hope does not disappoint*’ (Rm 5:5) *but strengthens us in times of trial*,” emphasising the profound role the Christian tradition accords to the theological virtue of hope in moments of illness and suffering. Pope Francis reminds the faithful that physical illness can have emotional and spiritual effects. The Holy Father calls for our renewed commitment to caring for the sick with love, compassion, and faith, recognising that hope is a gift that sustains both those who suffer and those who accompany them.

Jesus earnestly calls us to visit and care for the sick (e.g., Matthew 25: 35), teaching us by example through His solicitude for the sick and His miracles to free men and women from sickness. Inspired by our Lord, the Church desires the faithful to contribute to building a culture of care wherever we live—one that responds to the dignity of each person from conception to natural death, and that offers spiritual support in times of trial.

Established by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1992, the World Day of the Sick is observed annually on the liturgical Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, a significant day of devotion to the Blessed Mother, who is a powerful intercessor for the sick. In a particular way on this day, the faithful are invited to reflect more deeply on the Church’s teachings about sickness and caring for the sick, as well as to express solidarity with the sick through works of charity and special prayers, including the option of attending Mass, and by encouraging and expressing appreciation toward caregivers.

The CCCB’s resources for World Day of the Sick 2025 are available through [this link](#).

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