

OPENING PRAYER

As we gather to remember and pray for all those who are sick in this world, we call to mind our mission as women and men who have committed our varied gifts and talents to helping our brothers and sisters who suffer all forms of illness. Let us not forget the many steps along the way to healing. Let us be gentle with ourselves when we too find that we have become ill. Amen.



READING

Reader: An excerpt from [Pope Francis' 2024 World Day of the Sick message](#).

The Samaritan calls the innkeeper to “take care of him” (Lk 10:35). Jesus addresses the same call to each of us. He exhorts us to “go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37). As I noted in *Fratelli Tutti*, “The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good” (No. 67). Indeed, “we were created for a fulfilment that can only be found in love. We cannot be indifferent to suffering” (No. 68).

It is not only what functions well or those who are productive that matter. Sick people, in fact, are at the centre of God’s people, and the Church advances together with them as a sign of a humanity in which everyone is precious and no one should be discarded or left behind.

I entrust all of you who are ill; you who care for them in your families, or through your work, research and volunteer service; and those of you who are committed to weaving personal, ecclesial, and civic bonds of fraternity. To all, I impart my heartfelt blessing.



World Day of the Sick Prayer

2024

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Leader: Oh God, you have always cared for the sick in a special way, wanting your children to be healed in both body and soul. We pray in special gratitude for those health care workers who continue to be signs of the merciful hands of God, offering care and comfort even as they perhaps struggle themselves. As we remember now all the ways you have come to heal the sick, we pray together: *Oh God, heal all who are sick in body and soul.*

Reader: For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord, because they have called you an outcast. (Jer. 30:17)

All: *Oh God, heal all who are sick in body and soul.*

Reader: The Lord sustains all who are on their sickbed; in their illness you restore them to full health. (Psalm 41:3)

All: *Oh God, heal all who are sick in body and soul.*

Reader: All who had people sick with various diseases brought them to Jesus. He laid his hands on each of them and cured them. (Lk 4:40)

All: *Oh God, heal all who are sick in body and soul.*

Reader: Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' (Lk 10:8-9)

All: *Oh God, heal all who are sick in body and soul.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Hear our prayer, Oh God, and heal the many illnesses that afflict us in body, mind and soul. Bring comfort to those who suffer. Bring consolation to those who despair. Bring strength to those of us who walk with the sick. Bring hope to all for whom the path to healing is long or may not end. Let us never forget your special care for the sick, that they may also know they are precious and loved. Amen.