



Simla Chandigarh Diocese

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UPDATE ON CIRCULAR - CORONA VIRUS-4

COVID-19: Pope Francis' Appeal for Prayer

Dear Fathers /Sisters / Brothers,

Greetings!

1. Pope Francis has called for all Christians throughout the world to join in praying the "Our Father" on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 - Feast of the Annunciation - at noon (4.30 pm IST).

2. On Friday, March 27, Pope Francis will preside over a prayer service at St Peter's Basilica in Rome at 6pm (10.30 pm IST). The Prayer service consists of the readings from Scriptures, prayers of supplication, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; and will conclude with Pope Francis' extraordinary blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the "City and the World").

The formal blessing — usually given only immediately after a new pope's election and on Christmas and Easter — carries with it a plenary indulgence for all who follow by television, internet or radio, are sorry for their sins, recite a few prescribed prayers (1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, I believe & an Act of Contrition) and promise to go later on to confession and to receive the Eucharist when possible.

Please follow this and receive the Pope's blessings for you and your families.

Given on the Feast of St.Catherine of Sweden, on Tuesday, 24.03.2020 at the Bishop's House, Chandigarh.

Yours Sincerely in Christ

+ Ignatius Mascarenhas
Bishop of Simla-Chandigarh



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NB: By a plenary indulgence is meant the remission of the entire temporal punishment due to sin so that no further expiation is required in Purgatory. The faithful can gain this plenary indulgence in a variety of ways while the pandemic lasts, such as by praying before the Blessed Sacrament, making Eucharistic Adoration or reading the Sacred Scriptures for a half an hour or more.