

# Pope at Mass: Today pray together for healing from all pandemics

Pope Francis celebrated Mass on Thursday for the Day of Prayer against the Pandemic, and reminds us that we are all brothers and sisters, no matter our religious affiliation.

At the start of Mass in the Casa Santa Marta on 14 May, **Pope Francis encouraged people of all faiths to pray, fast, and perform works of charity for an end to the coronavirus pandemic.**

*“Today, the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity has called for a day of prayer and fasting to ask the merciful God for an end to this tragic moment of the pandemic. We are all brothers and sisters. St Francis of Assisi used to say: “All brothers and sisters”. And so, men and women of every religious confession are uniting themselves today in prayer and penance to ask for the grace of healing from this pandemic.”*

Pope Francis said people of all faiths and traditions are called to pray and fast together for delivery from the pandemic, as the people of Nineveh did in response to Jonah’s preaching.

The Pope warned those who have not been touched by the pandemic not to rejoice. *“Often the thought can arise: ‘Well, at least I haven’t been affected. Thank God I’m safe.’ But think about others. Think about the tragedy and its consequences on the economy and education. Think about what will come afterwards.”* He said we unite in prayer today to overcome this selfish attitude. He urged everyone to ask God for forgiveness of our sins, so that “God might put an end to this pandemic.”

Citing official statistics, the Pope noted that over 3.7 million people died from hunger in the first four months of the year. *“This day of prayer against the*

*pandemic must make us think also of many other pandemics. The pandemics of war, of hunger. May God put an end to this tragedy – this pandemic – and have mercy on us. And may He put an end to the other terrible pandemics of hunger, war, and uneducated children. This we ask as brothers and sisters, all together. May God bless us all, and have mercy on us.”*