

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
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ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL LEADS GLOBAL PRAYERS TO END THE PANDEMIC

Pope Francis has chosen Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral as one of 30 shrines around the world in a global prayer campaign throughout the month of May to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will lead the congregation in a Rosary prayer **at 6pm tomorrow (Sunday 16 May)** which will be dedicated to the victims of violence and human trafficking.

Catholic churches and cathedrals across Europe, Africa, Asia and North and South America are joining in this campaign which will conclude on 31 May with prayers in the Vatican Gardens for an end to the pandemic and the resumption of social and economic life.

Archbishop Fisher said the choice of the Rosary, a popular Catholic prayer through the intercession of Jesus' earthly mother, Mary, was an appropriate one in a time of pandemic.

"When we are numb with grief or paralysed by fear, when we accompany a loved one who is dying or pray for them after their death or our world is sick, we reach for the Rosary as a prayer that carries us when we do not know what to pray", Archbishop Fisher said.

"In Sydney, we are asked to pray also for all victims of violence and human trafficking. We are conscious that at this very time, there is violence in the Holy Land that the Lord Jesus walked and we pray for peace there. We are conscious also that slavery and human trafficking continue in the modern world and may have worsened during the present pandemic and so we pray for an end to this scourge upon humanity".

"We also ask the Holy Spirit, who came upon the Church at Pentecost, to protect our loved ones and ourselves in these anxious times and to pour out His grace upon the people of India and of other places where COVID is most damaging at this time", Archbishop Fisher added.

Members of the media wishing to attend the Rosary prayers to end the Pandemic should contact Michael Kenny on 0438-046-406 by 3pm tomorrow. They are then asked to meet Michael at the College Street entrance to St Mary's Cathedral by 5:30pm at the latest.

The prayers will be livestreamed via the St Mary's Cathedral You Tube Channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDteaSywyel>

A full list of the 30 shrines around the world joining in the campaign can be found here:

<http://www.pcpne.va/content/dam/pcpne/pdf/Eventi/rosario2021/Shrine%20List%20Ing.pdf>

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