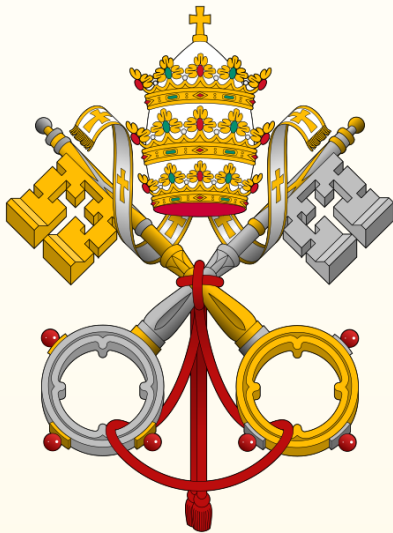


EXTRAORDINARY URBI ET ORBI BLESSING IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS



FRIDAY,
MARCH 27, 2020,
1:00^{PM} (EDT)

Pope Francis has announced that on Friday, March 27, 2020 he will preside over a moment of prayer on the *sagrato* of St Peter's Basilica, the platform at the top of the steps immediately in front of the façade of the Church.

"I invite everyone to participate spiritually through the means of communication", he said.

The ceremony will consist in readings from the Scriptures, prayers of supplication, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; and will conclude with Pope Francis giving the *Urbi et orbi* Blessing, with the possibility of gaining a plenary indulgence for all those who listen to it live through the various forms of communication. The blessing "to the City [of Rome] and to the World" is normally only given on Christmas and Easter.