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WORLD DAY  
OF THE SICK



It is not good that  
man should be alone

# Pastoral Suggestions for Families and Parishes

32nd World Day of the Sick, Sunday 11 February 2024

*“It is not good that man should be alone”: Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships*

[Inspired by the message of Pope Francis](#)

**Homily suggestion:** How can we be instruments of tenderness and compassion in a world that is sometimes indifferent and individualistic? Let us remember that we are called to live in communion with one another, to care for relationships, to be messengers of love and hope to those who suffer. Pope Francis, in his message for this year's World Day of the Sick 2024, reminds us that since the beginning of creation, God has given us the capacity to enter into relationships. We are not meant to be alone. The Holy Father points out that loneliness is a deep wound in humanity, exacerbated by disease, pandemics, war, and even by a culture of individualism that neglects the most vulnerable. Let us care for relationships. Let us be close to those who suffer. Let us reach out to those who are alone.

In speaking of the parable of the Good Samaritan in his message for today's World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis reminds us of the compassion and tender love we must show towards our suffering brothers and sisters. As a community of faith, we are called to adopt the benevolent gaze of Jesus, to care for those who suffer, to pray for them and to accompany them in their loneliness. When we are ill, we must not be ashamed of our desire for closeness and tenderness, for it is in these moments that we rediscover ourselves and find the true therapy to heal the ills of our society. The Eucharist gives us the mutual love needed to heal the wounds of loneliness and isolation. Together, we can counter the culture of individualism and cultivate instead a culture of tenderness and compassion.

As we hear in the Gospel today, Jesus is always willing to heal. We need only ask.



## Suggestions for Prayers of the Faithful:

### Introduction by the celebrant:

Brothers and sisters, "it is not good for man to be alone". From the very beginning, God created human beings for communion. Let us unite in prayer, opening our arms to all those who are alone or suffering, and to all those who support them with their care and tenderness.

### Lector:

For the sick, the lonely and the isolated, that their solitude may be soothed by the warmth of our presence and compassion. That we may be shoulders on which they can find comfort, and living witnesses to the love of Jesus that shines through our acts of tenderness towards them, let us pray to the Lord:

**℟ Lord, hear our prayer.**

For families who are caring for a suffering loved one, that their dedication may be strengthened by divine grace, that their love may endure trials, and that the community of faith may surround them with support and prayers, so that they may continue their mission of love and compassion, let us pray to the Lord:

**℟ Lord, hear our prayer.**

For healthcare professionals and volunteers who devote their time to caring for the sick, that divine wisdom may illuminate their path, and that the tenderness of their hearts may be an inexhaustible source of comfort and healing. May their dedication be a beacon of hope to those they serve, and may their work continue to embody the deep compassion of Christ, we pray to the Lord:

**℟ Lord, hear our prayer.**



**Conclusion by the celebrant (Adapted from Collect: Mass for the Sick, *Missel romain* (Paris: AELF, 2021) p. 1148)**

Loving God,  
you give life to all  
and never abandon your children.  
Grant our sick the strength to fight, so they may heal:  
Help them discover your closeness  
in brothers and sisters who support them,  
and through their hope in Jesus Christ.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**℟ Amen.**



## Prayer for bulletins, groups or families:

**Option 1** (from *Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*, page 152)

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son accepted suffering  
to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness.  
Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brother/sister.  
May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease,  
realize that they have been chosen to be saints  
and know that they are joined to Christ  
in his suffering for the salvation of the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R Amen.**

**Option 2** (from *Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*, page 152)

All-powerful and ever-living God,  
the lasting health of all who believe in you,  
hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick;  
restore their health,  
that they may again offer joyful thanks  
in your Church.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**R Amen.**

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