Since 1992, Pope John Paul II has celebrated World Day of the Sick on 11th February, the day the church celebrates Our Lady of Lourdes. The celebration has had three themes. First, it reminds all to pray intensely and sincerely for those who are sick. Second, it invites Christians to reflect on and respond to human suffering. Finally it recognizes and honors all who work in health care and serve as care givers.

Our Lady of Lourdes

World Day of the Sick

11th February

**Entrance song: Magnificat**

**Penitential Act**

**Priest:** Brothers and Sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, that we may prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**All:** I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**First reading:** 1 Kings 8:22-23.27-30.

Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of the whole community of Israel, and stretching forth his hands toward heaven, he said, "LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below; you keep your covenant of kindness with your servants who are faithful to you with their whole heart. "Can it indeed be that God dwells among men on earth? If the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain you, how much less this temple which I have built!   
Look kindly on the prayer and petition of your servant, O LORD, my God, and listen to the cry of supplication which I, your servant, utter before you this day.   
May your eyes watch night and day over this temple, the place where you have decreed you shall be honored; may you heed the prayer which I, your servant, offer in this place.   
Listen to the petitions of your servant and of your people Israel which they offer in this place. Listen from your heavenly dwelling and grant pardon.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

**Psalm: The Lord is my Shepherd**

1. The Lord is my Shepherd

And I want to follow

Wherever he goes.

Over the mountains,

The waters and by-ways,

Valleys and highways,

He’s waiting for me.

REFRAIN: **I want to go to meet him there,**

**To lay myself down in his love.**

**The Lord is my Shepherd**

**And I want to follow**

**Wherever he leads me,**

**Wherever he goes.**

1. And while os the journey

To where we are going,

He promised to be there

To help us along.

And over the mountains

We’ll walk on together

To know all the wonders

He’s given to me.

**Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia!

Bend my heart to your will, O Lord, and teach me your law.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Mark 7:1-13.

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.   
(For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders.  
And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed the purification of cups and jugs and kettles (and beds).)   
So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?"  
He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.'  
You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."   
He went on to say, "How well you have set aside the commandment of God in order to uphold your tradition!   
For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and 'Whoever curses father or mother shall die.'   
Yet you say, 'If a person says to father or mother, "Any support you might have had from me is qorban"' (meaning, dedicated to God),  
you allow him to do nothing more for his father or mother.   
You nullify the word of God in favor of your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many such things."

Priest/Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

**INTENTIONS**

Christ bore our sufferings so that all may be healed. May the healing power of Christ in the Spirit restore health to all the sick. We pray:

**God, may our prayer rise to you!**

Christ is the consolation of God who heals the broken-hearted. May the prayers of His Mother bring comfort to those afflicted in body, mind, or spirit. We pray:

**God, may our prayer rise to you!**

Mary once shared the mystery of pain at the cross of Christ. May all who are in pain and distress experience her loving protection. We pray:

**God, may our prayer rise to you!**

At Lourdes Mary revealed herself as God’s new creation. May Christians who have put on a new humanity through baptism be instruments of healing. We pray:

**God, may our prayer rise to you!**

Mary hastened to be of service to Elizabeth. May all who hasten to healing shrines, especially those that honor Mary, experience Christ’s compassion. We pray:

**God, may our prayer rise to you!**

Mary uses her voice in the reign of heaven to advocate for the world’s peace. May we use our voices on earth to advocate justice for the sick and financially poor. We pray:

**God, may our prayer rise to you!**

Living God, we ask your protection to Br Juan in his surgery tomorrow and guide doctors and nurses, surgeons and medical staff, support and strengthen all those who share in the work of healing, all who strive to bring relief, all who minister to others. We pray;

**God, may our prayer rise to you!**

**EUCHARISTIC SONG: You are Mary**

We inhale your hidden presence like a fragrance in the air

The birds give up their song when you pass by

And you sing with us in the silence the praises of your Son

Your very being glorifies his name

**You are Mary, full of tenderness and grace**

**You are Mary, handmaid of the Lord**

**You are Mary, and you are blessed**

We are humbled to be chosen to bear your tender name

To be like you and to follow in his way

We believe that you are with us

We believe in your support to be instruments of mercy in our day

**You are Mary………**

As we think about the choice God made in you

We think about the blessings we've received

Although you were disturbed by what the angel said

You conceived for you believed

You were there with the disciples gathered in the upper room

And your presence encouraged them in prayer

We give thanks for the gift you are as Mother of the Church

We give thanks for the spirit that we share

**You are Mary………**

**ACT OF CONSECRATION**

The following prayer is said by Catholics as an act of consecration to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, Virgin Immaculate, you appeared 18 times to Bernadette at the grotto in Lourdes to remind Christians of what the truths in the Gospel require of them. You call them to prayer, penance, the Eucharist and the life of the church. To answer your call more fully, I dedicate myself, through you, to your Son Jesus. Make me willing to accept what he said. By the fervor of my faith, by the conduct of my life in all its aspects, by my devotion to the sick, let me work with you in the comforting of those who suffer and in the reconciliation of people that the church may be one and there be peace in the world. All this I ask, confident that you, Our Lady, will fully answer my prayer. Blessed be the Holy and Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

Our Lady of Lourdes prays for us.

**God, our eyes look hopefully to you to bring us healing and peace in times of sickness. Hear our prayers and strengthen our faith that we may be willing to share in the cross of Christ, through whom we have plenteous redemption.**

**Grant this through Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.**

