

# INTERRELIGIOUS PRAYER FOR PEACE & HEALING DURING CORONA DISTRESS



LET US COME TOGETHER  
LET US SPEAK TOGETHER  
LET OUR HEARTS BE OF ONE ACCORD

# BRIEF INTRODUCTION

## *Context and Call by the Holy Father Pope Francis:*



On May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, the Good Shepherd Sunday, Pope Francis in his homily gave us the motivation to spend a day of Prayer and Fasting (may 14<sup>th</sup> was originally intended) to implore God's mercy and forgiveness, his healing and consoling touch to the whole wounded world in the context of CORONA virus.

This invitation by the Pope is to join with all people of good will, especially PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS. As students & teachers, let us bring our institutions together in prayer – for peace and healing.

Knowing the seriousness of our diseased context, let us as believers be moved with love and invite our Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh sisters and brothers to spend some time to offer our prayers to God in thanksgiving as well as to implore God's continued mercy and blessings for all.

### *Instruction:*

You need only to read the text prayerfully.

You may send this text to people of all faiths well ahead of time. Offer them consolation and peace, and invoke God's blessings on them. Request them to join you in Prayer and Fasting on 14<sup>th</sup> May (Thursday) any convenient time of the day.

# BEGINNING WITH INVOCATION



*Every religion has its own special prayer of invocation. For example, as Christians, we make the “Sign of the Cross” and begin this prayer.*

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit –  
Amen

Our father in Heaven....

Hail Mary....

Glory be to the Father.... (others will do their invocation)

## ***Awareness Meditation:***

Let us become aware of the God’s presence.

Let us bring our Hindu, Christian, Muslim, and other religious friends in  
the presence of God.

Let us vibrate God’s peace and blessings with ALL.

Let us trust God and be confident of God’s mercy and healing.

For this, let us first spend a moment in purifying our minds and hearts.  
(you may do an act of contrition)

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# INITIAL SONG

## *Any suitable song can be sung:*

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom;

Lead thou me on!

The night is dark, and I am far from home;

Lead thou me on!

Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see

The distant scene, one step enough for me...

I loved to choose and see my path; but now,

Lead thou me on!

I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,

Pride ruled my will. Remember not past years.

So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still

Will lead me on... *(John Henry Newman, 1801-1890)*



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# SCRIPTURE READINGS



*From Hinduism:* (Sacred relation between Earth and Humanity)

Set me, O Earth, amidst what is thy center and thy navel,  
and vitalizing forces that emanate from thy body.  
Purify us from all sides. Earth is my Mother; her son am I;  
and Heaven my Father: may he fill us with plenty....

May those born of thee, O Earth,  
be, for our welfare, free from sickness and waste.  
Wakeful through a long life, we shall become  
bearers of tribute for thee.

Earth, my Mother! set me securely with bliss  
in full accord with Heaven. Wise One,  
uphold me in grace and splendor.

*(Atharva Veda 12.1)*

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## *From Christianity:*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life... Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam”. So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

*Christianity. The Gospel of St. John: 9.  
1-7*



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## *From Judaism:*

May God's great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.

Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored, adored and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be he, beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that are ever spoken in the world; and say, Amen.

May the prayers and supplications of the whole house of Israel be accepted by their Father who is in heaven; and say, Amen.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen.

He who creates peace in his celestial heights, may he create peace for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen.

*(Daily Prayer Book: The Kaddish)*



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## *From Sikhism:*

Farid, I thought I alone had sorrow;  
Sorrow is spread all over the whole  
world. From my roof-top I saw Every  
home engulfed in sorrow's flames.

*Adi Granth, Shalok, Farid, p. 1382*

Now is the gracious Lord's ordinance  
promulgated,  
No one shall cause another pain or  
injury;  
All mankind shall live in peace together,  
Under a shield of administrative  
benevolence.

*Adi Granth, Sri Raga, M.5, p. 74*



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## *From Buddhism:*

Diseases have hunger as their worst.  
Sufferings have dispositions as their worst.  
Knowing this in proper perspective, freedom  
(Nibbana) is the ultimate happiness.

Of all gains, good health is the greatest. Of all  
wealth, contentment is the greatest. Among  
kinsmen, the trusty is the greatest. Freedom  
(Nibbana) is the ultimate happiness.

Having imbibed the essence of solitude and  
the essence of tranquility, and imbibing the  
joyous essence of righteousness, one  
becomes free from anguish and free from  
evil.

*Dhammapada 203-05*



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## *From Jainism:*

Suffering is the offspring of violence. Realize this and be ever vigilant.

### *Acharangasutra 3.13*

Let us have benevolence towards all living beings, joy at the sight of the virtuous, compassion and sympathy for the afflicted, and tolerance towards the indolent and ill-behaved.

### *Tattvarthasutra 7.11*



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## *From Islam:*

You who believe, seek help through patience and prayer; God stands alongside the patient! We will test you with a bit of fear and hunger, and a shortage of wealth and souls and produce. Proclaim such to patient people who say, whenever disaster strikes them, "We are God's, and are returning to Him!" Such will be granted their prayers by their Lord as well as mercy. Those are guided!

*Qur'an 2.153-57*



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## *From MY Country:*

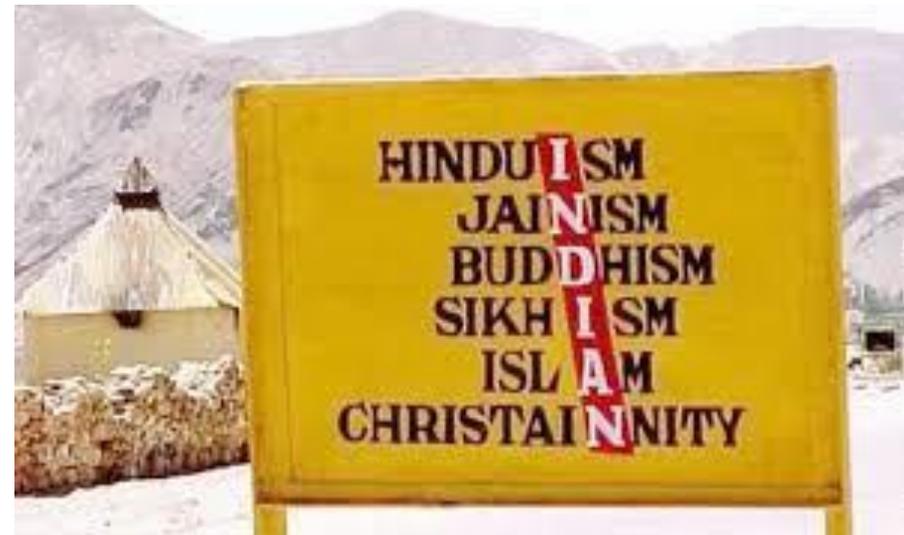
Each country's Constitution has a call and mission to its people to stand for certain values and ideals of LIFE.

For example, India's Preamble of the Constitution seeks "to secure to all its citizens JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation."

*Kindly recall "What is the CALL & MISSION given to ME by MY country?"*

*We pause here to pray for our country, for its political as well as religious leaders, for its people to live in peace and joy, in unity and service.*

## CALL OF OUR COUNTRY



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# PRAYING FOR MERCY AND PROTECTION

We spend a moment in silence in the Divine presence.



## *Petitions:*

We say the following petitions and thank God or ask for his mercy and protection. (it is like the Litany of Prayers and Petitions)

1. O God, creator of heaven and earth – Have mercy on us
2. O God, protector of heaven and earth – Have mercy on us
3. O God, who renews the face of the earth - Have mercy on us
4. O God, who fill us with love and compassion - Have mercy on us
5. O God, who leads the believers in truth, beauty, and love – We praise you and we thank you
6. O God, who binds us in love, unity, and peace - We praise you and we thank you
7. O God, who brings us joy in our sharing with others - We praise you and we thank you

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8. O God, who reveal yourself in the poor and the uncared for – We praise you and we thank you
9. O God, who work through the physicians, nurses, cleaners, and voluntary workers – We praise you and we thank you
10. O God, who gave us dedicated police to take care our safety. and NGOs to feed the hungry - We praise you and we thank you
11. O God, we pray for those who died of Corona and for their family – Grant them your mercy and protection
12. O God, we pray for our country, shattered by economy and livelihood – Grant us your mercy and protection
13. O God, we pray for those who are in the process of finding suitable medicine for Corona – Grant them your mercy and protection
14. O God, we pray for those who are suspected or affected by Corona – Grant them your mercy and protection
15. O God, we pray for those who struggle to change their life caught up with drinks and drugs – Grant them your mercy and protection
16. O God, we pray for those who sow the seed of love and unity and even for those who sow the seed of hate – Grant them your mercy and protection
17. O God, we pray for those who struggle to create a New heaven and the New Earth – Grant them your mercy and protection



# SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE HOMELESS

Bless the homeless with enough food to sustain them, with enough warmth to shield them from the elements, with the power to wrestle personal demons and win, with the will to go on, and build their lives again.

May hope touch each homeless heart, spirit and life, let the kindness of others bring lasting benefits, bring freedom from addiction, illness and misery, open their humanity to include & embrace themselves.

Bless the homeless with self acceptance and love, spark their imaginations with belief in the future, bringing the possibility of a better life, a safer life and a more secure life.



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# ENDING SONG

After a moment of prayerful silence, you may end the IR prayer with a song on UNITY.

*We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord*

*And we pray that all unity  
May one day be restored  
And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love, By our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians  
By our love*

*(Jason Upton 1973-)*



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## THANK YOU

DR. VINCENT SEKHAR SJ  
ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)  
KARUMATHUR, MADURAI DT. 625514  
EMAIL: SEKHARSJ2010@GMAIL.COM