

# An invitation to pray during the EASTER SEASON with Pope Francis

VIA LUCIS

VIA PACIS

‘The light of the Resurrection illumines our path one step at a time; quietly, it breaks through the darkness of history and shines in our hearts, calling for the response of a humble faith, devoid of all triumphalism’

Homily of the Easter vigil, 19 April 2025



**Eight stages contemplating the mystery of the Resurrection following the steps of the women, the apostles with Mary, the disciples of Jesus “from the eighth day on a journey with the Risen Lord”.**

**Eight steps to take with so many peoples who live in conflict, emphasising these words of Pope Francis in this Jubilee Year in which we are pilgrims of hope: ‘starting from the words of the prophet Isaiah, some features of a diplomacy of hope, of which all of us are called to be heralds, so that the dense clouds of war may be swept away by renewed winds of peace.’**



# VALLUIS

**‘Let us make room for the light of the Risen Lord! And we will become builders of hope for the world’.**

**texts from the homily of the Easter Vigil 19 April 2025  
and from the Easter homily 20 April 2025**





stages

contemplating  
**the mystery of the Resurrection**

*following  
the steps of the women,  
the apostles with Mary,  
the disciples of Jesus*

from the eighth day on a journey with the Risen Lord

*For personal prayers – For community prayers*



**FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS – FOR COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

**B. THE EIGHT STAGES**

- **FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN:**
- **THE SINGING OF THE ALLELUIA**
- **LISTENING TO THE WORLD OF GOD**
- **SILENCE**
- **A PRAYER (FROM THE COLLECTS FOR THE TIME AFTER EASTER)**

**ALLELUIA**



# THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Matthew 28, 1-8



*The light of the  
Resurrection illumines our  
path one step at a time;  
quietly, it breaks through  
the darkness of history  
and shines in our hearts,  
calling for the response of  
a humble faith, devoid of  
all triumphalism.*



# THE RISEN CHRIST APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE

John 20, 1-18



*the Resurrection is like  
little seeds of light that  
slowly and silently come  
to take root in our hearts,  
at times still prey to  
darkness and unbelief. (...)*

*during this Jubilee Year in  
particular, we should feel  
strongly within us the  
summons to let the hope  
of Easter blossom in our  
lives and in the world!*



# THE RISEN CHRIST APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES ON THEIR WAY TO EMMAUS

Luke 24, 13-35



*We are to reflect Easter in our lives and become messengers of hope, builders of hope, even as so many winds of death still buffet us.*

*We can do this by our words, by our small daily acts, by decisions inspired by the Gospel.*



# THE RISEN CHRIST APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES AND TO THOMAS (II SUNDAY AFTER EASTER)

John 20, 19-29



*Our whole life can be a presence of hope. We want to be that presence for those who lack faith in the Lord, for those who have lost their way, for those who have given up or are weighed down by life; for those who are alone or overwhelmed by their sufferings; for all the poor and oppressed in our world; for the many women who are humiliated and killed; for the unborn and for children who are mistreated; and for the victims of war. To each and all of them, let us bring the hope of Easter!*



# JESUS GIVES HIMSELF IN THE EUCCHARIST

John 6, 30-40



*Mary Magdalene, seeing that the stone of the tomb had been rolled away, ran to tell Peter and John. After receiving the shocking news, the two disciples also went out and – as the Gospel says – “the two were running together” (Jn 20:4)*



# THE RISEN CHRIST APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES ON THE LAKE OF TIBERIAS

John 21, 1-25



*The main figures of the Easter narratives all ran! On the one hand, “running” could express the concern that the Lord’s body had been taken away; but, on the other hand, the haste of Mary Magdalene, Peter and John expresses the desire, the yearning of the heart, the inner attitude of those who set out to search for Jesus.*



# THE RISEN CHRIST ASCENDS TO HEAVEN (THE ASCENSION)

Acts of the Apostles 1, 1-14



*He, in fact, has risen from the dead and therefore is no longer in the tomb. We must look for him elsewhere.*

*This is the message of Easter: we must look for him elsewhere. Christ is risen, he is alive! (...) we must look for him and this is why we cannot remain stationary. We must take action, set out to look for him: look for him in life, look for him in the faces of our brothers and sisters, look for him in everyday business, look for him everywhere except in the tomb. We must look for him without ceasing. (...)*



# THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (PENTECOST)

Acts of the Apostles 1, 1-14



*Easter spurs us to action, to run like Mary Magdalene and the disciples; it invites us to have eyes that can “see beyond,” to perceive Jesus, the one who lives, as the God who reveals himself and makes himself present even today, who speaks to us, goes before us, surprises us..(...) And this “everything” that is the risen Christ opens our life to hope. He is alive, he still wants to renew our life today.*





**with people who are suffering in conflicts**

‘I would like us to renew our hope that peace is possible! From the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Resurrection, where this year Easter is being celebrated by Catholics and Orthodox on the same day, may the light of peace radiate throughout the Holy Land and the entire world.’

**Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi 20 April 2025**



**The vocation of diplomacy** is to foster dialogue with all parties, including those interlocutors considered less “convenient” or not considered legitimized to negotiate. Only in this way is it possible to break the chains of hatred and vengeance that bind and to defuse the explosive power of human selfishness, pride and arrogance, which are the root of every destructive determination to wage war.

I would like to trace with you this morning, starting from the words of the prophet Isaiah, some features of a diplomacy of hope, of which all of us are called to be heralds, so that the dense clouds of war may be swept away by renewed winds of peace.



# **1 A diplomacy of hope is above all, a diplomacy of truth**

If the link between reality, truth and knowledge is missing, human beings will no longer be able to speak and understand one another, because the foundations of a common language, anchored in the reality of things and therefore universally comprehensible, are lacking.

The purpose of language is communication, which is only successful if words are precise and the meaning of terms is generally accepted.

The biblical account of the Tower of Babel shows what happens when everyone speaks only in his or her “own” language.



## 2 Let's pray for...

the HOLY LAND and the MIDDLE EAST: Israel Palestine Syria ...

I express my closeness to the sufferings of Christians in Palestine and Israel, and to all the Israeli people and the Palestinian people.

Let us pray for the Christian communities in Lebanon and in Syria, presently experiencing a delicate transition in its history. They aspire to stability and to participation in the life of their respective nations. I urge the whole Church to keep the Christians of the beloved Middle East in its thoughts and prayers.

I also think in particular of the people of Yemen, who are experiencing one of the world's most serious and prolonged humanitarian crises because of war, and I invite all to find solutions through a constructive dialogue.

Urbi et Orbi 20 April 2025





### **3 A diplomacy of hope is also a diplomacy of forgiveness,**

A diplomacy of hope is also a diplomacy of forgiveness, capable, at a time full of open or latent conflicts, of mending relationships torn by hatred and violence, and thus caring for the broken hearts of their all too numerous victims. ...

The prospect of a diplomacy of forgiveness is not, however, meant to heal international or regional conflicts alone.

It makes everyone responsible for becoming an artisan of peace, in order to build truly peaceful societies in which legitimate political, but also social, cultural, ethnic and religious differences constitute an asset and not a source of hatred and division.



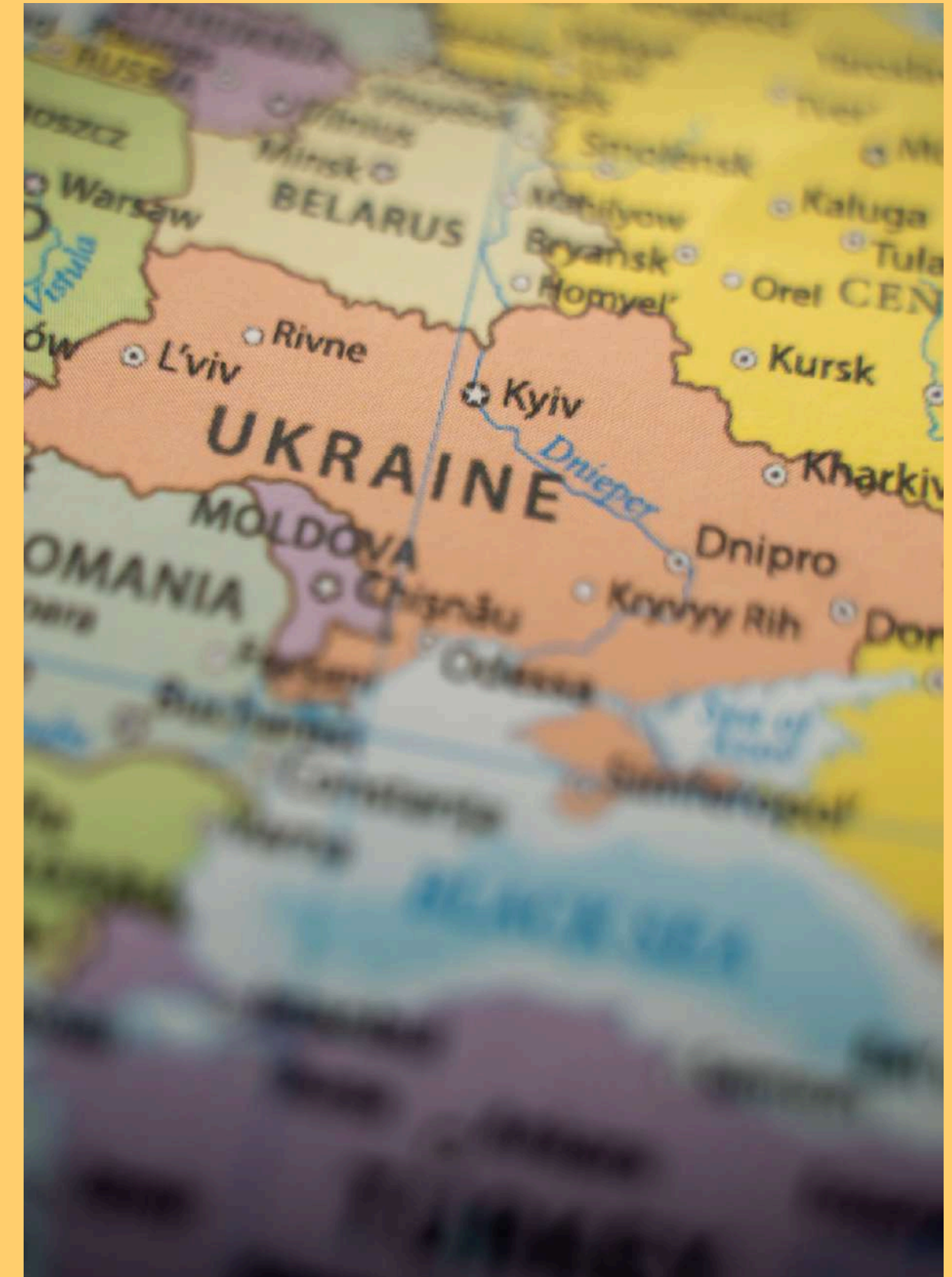
## 4 Let's pray for.... UKRAINE and Eastern European countries

May the risen Christ grant Ukraine, devastated by war, his Easter gift of peace, and encourage all parties involved to pursue efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace.

On this festive day, let us remember the South Caucasus and pray that a final peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan will soon be signed and implemented, and lead to long-awaited reconciliation in the region.

May the light of Easter inspire efforts to promote harmony in the western Balkans and sustain political leaders in their efforts to allay tensions and crises, and, together with their partner countries in the region, to reject dangerous and destabilizing actions.

Urbi et Orbi 20 April 2025





## 5 A diplomacy of hope is a diplomacy of freedom

Among other forms of slavery in our day, one of the most dreadful is due to human trafficking by unscrupulous people who exploit the needs of thousands of people fleeing war, famine, persecution or the effects of climate change in search of a safe place to live.

A diplomacy of hope is a diplomacy of freedom, which calls for the common commitment of the international community to eliminate this horrid commerce.

It is crucial that we address the root causes of displacement, so that leaving one's home to look for another is a choice and not a necessary means of survival.

With this in mind, I consider a common commitment to cooperation in development, as a means of helping eliminate some of the causes leading people to migrate, to be essential.



# 6 Let's pray for...

## MYANMAR and the countries of Asia

During this time, let us not fail to assist the people of Myanmar, plagued by long years of armed conflict, who, with courage and patience, are dealing with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Sagaing, which caused the death of thousands and great suffering for the many survivors, including orphans and the elderly.

We pray for the victims and their loved ones, and we heartily thank all the generous volunteers carrying out the relief operations.

The announcement of a ceasefire by various actors in the country is a sign of hope for the whole of Myanmar.

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# 7 The diplomacy of hope is, in the end, a diplomacy of justice

The diplomacy of hope is, in the end, a diplomacy of justice, without which there can be no peace. The Jubilee year is a favourable time to practise justice, to forgive debts and to commute the sentences of prisoners.

However, there is no debt that allows anyone, including the State, to demand the life of another. In this regard, I reiterate my call for the death penalty to be eliminated in every nation, since it finds no justification today among the instruments capable of restoring justice.(...)

Increasingly, nature itself seems to be rebelling against human action by extreme manifestations of its power. ... we have a duty to make the greatest effort to care for our common home and its inhabitants, now and in the future.



# 8 Let's pray for...

South Sudan, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and African countries

May the risen Christ, our hope, grant peace and consolation to the African peoples who are victims of violence and conflict, especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Sudan and South Sudan.

May he sustain those suffering from the tensions in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, as well as those Christians who in many places are not able freely to profess their faith.

Urbi et Orbi 20 April 2025

