

# Special Urbi et Orbi Blessing by Pope Francis



***"I encourage everyone to watch this special broadcast." - Archbishop Eamon Martin***

**Friday, 27 March at 5pm**  
**RTE News Now on Freeview or Saorview**

*(CNS photo/Paul Haring)*

On Friday, 27 March, at 5.00pm Irish time, the Holy Father Pope Francis will preside over an extraordinary global celebration (*Statio orbis*) of prayer.

***"Pope Francis' blessing will be an opportunity to avail ourselves of Divine Grace. I encourage everyone to watch this special broadcast" – Archbishop Eamon***

***Archbishop Eamon continued, "I gratefully acknowledge our national public service broadcaster, RTÉ, for facilitating the live broadcast of Pope Francis' extraordinary Urbi et Orbi blessing at 5.00pm tomorrow on its News Now channel (6.00pm Rome time).***

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It will take place on the *sagrato* of Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome, the platform at the top of the steps immediately in front of the façade of the church. The ceremony will consist of readings from the Scriptures, prayers of supplication, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; and will

conclude with Pope Francis giving his  
of Rome]  
*and to the world*  
) blessing.

*Urbi et Orbi (to the City [*

**During this prayer ceremony the Pope will grant to participants all over the world a plenary indulgence in the context of the Coronavirus.**

Archbishop Eamon Martin said, “In the midst of this horrendous COVID19 pandemic, I thank the Holy Father for his compassion, hope and solidarity by leading us in prayer with an extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* blessing on Friday. This blessing will be a very significant celebration of the mercy of God towards humanity, especially in these current and trying circumstances. Pope Francis is encouraging us all to pray incessantly, and the plenary indulgence will be available to those sick with the Coronavirus, their families, healthcare workers and for all working at the front line exposing themselves to the risk of contagion by following the example of the Good Samaritan.”

*Urbi et Orbi* is very a significant blessing which normally is only given by Pope Francis on Christmas and Easter. The wide dissemination of his important message and blessing will be welcomed by the many, many people throughout Ireland as an opportunity to avail ourselves of Divine Grace. I encourage everyone to watch this special broadcast.”