

## *Prayer for Ireland*

Lord we thank you for the countless blessings  
you have poured out on our country in the past.  
We praise you for the way in which your grace  
found expression in many generous and loving lives.  
We are grateful for the prosperity we currently enjoy.  
However, we regret, that the flame of the Spirit  
has sometimes been quenched by an idolatrous pursuit  
of power, pleasure, popularity and possessions.  
We confess Lord, that many of us have gone astray,  
and selfishly rewritten the commandments to suit ourselves.  
We believe that you came to cast fire on the earth  
and long for you to renew your wonders in our day  
as by a new Pentecost.  
Help us to fan the embers of our smouldering faith into a lively flame,  
especially by means of regular periods of personal and family prayer,  
together with acts of self-denial.  
Mary mother of Jesus, we entrust Ireland to your motherly care.  
In the past our people remained faithful to your Son in times of  
persecution.  
We pray now that we may also remain faithful in times of tribulation. Amen.



## **How can we end the world's coronavirus outbreak?**

### **These two saints might be the answer.**

Two saints miraculously cured plagues: St. Roch and St. Rosalie. Below are their incredible stories, as well as prayers invoking their powerful intercession.

#### **St. Roch**

Born of a noble family, tradition says St. Roch was miraculously born with a red cross on his breast.

St. Roch gave all of his fortune to the poor at age 20 after his parents died. In 1315, he assisted plague victims in several Italian cities, miraculously curing people with the sign of the cross. While helping the sick, he also contracted the disease.

However, the saint survived after a dog helped him in the forest. The dog brought him food and licked his wounds. He was later mistaken for a spy and spent the rest of his life in prison. According to tradition, an angel appeared in St. Roch's cell after his death. The angel said that **those who invoked his intercession would be cured of the plague.**

#### **Prayer to St. Roch**

O Blessed Saint Roch, Patron of the sick, Have pity on those Who lie upon a bed of suffering.  
Your power was so great when you were in this world, That by the sign of the Cross, Many  
were healed of their diseases.

Now that you are in heaven Your power is not less. Offer, then, to God our sighs and tears  
And obtain for us that health we seek, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Repeat the following 3 times)

Saint Roch, pray for us,  
That we may be preserved  
From all diseases of body and soul.

#### **St. Rosalie**

The Church knows little about St. Rosalie's life. Her story begins 500 years after her death. In 1625, the city of Palermo in Sicily, Italy suffered a terrible plague. She appeared to a hunter, telling him to find her remains in a cave. She asked him to bring her remains into the city,

citizens processed three times with her relics through Palermo. The plague then miraculously ended.

St. Rosalie became the patroness of Palermo. A sanctuary stands where the hunter found her remains.

### **Prayer to St. Rosalie:**

“Father in heaven, we thank You for the communion of saints so that we can draw near to You through the prayers of St. Rosalie. Through her prayers, help us to remember that our destiny is heaven.

As St. Rosalie gave up all things in this world for the sake of Your Kingdom, through her prayers, may we love more fully Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who together with You and the Holy Spirit are one God forever and ever. Amen.

O God, our Father, mercifully look upon Your people who come to You and grant through the intercession of St. Rosalie, who turned away from earthly delights to the joys of contemplation, that we may be delivered from all harm here on earth and one day be welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven.

St. Rosalie, confessor and virgin, we pray to God for our families and friends. Through your powerful prayers, may we obtain health, life, and eternal salvation.

I also pray today for this special need and intention (make your intention known). O glorious virgin and confessor, St. Rosalie, I promise henceforth to remember and follow your example of faith and love. Pray for me and mine.

Amen.”

**Sts. Roch and Rosalie, please pray for us and protect us from all disease!  
Amen.**

### **A PRAYER TO END CORONAVIRUS**

*“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.” — Jesus (John 14:1)*  
Today is a national day of prayer to end the Coronavirus. Please take a moment to pray with me ...

**Sweet Jesus, our closest friend,**

We come to your throne of grace for mercy and help in these times of need. We bring to you our concerns and cares over the coronavirus, and lay them down. We thank you that you said, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28). And so we pray now, from a position of rest, not of fear.

We rest in the knowledge that you are on your throne, and deeply love us. And we rest knowing that your name is above every name!

Jesus, you are mightier than our greatest fears, mightier than this virus, and mightier than any other name that tries to steal our peace and joy.

So it’s in your name we ask—**STOP THE CORONAVIRUS IN ITS TRACKS.**

We ask you to heal those that are sick with this virus, to protect those who are well, and to prevent its spread. We ask for protection for our family and friends, for ourselves, and for everyone around the world, especially for the elderly and immune compromised.

We ask you to bless and protect the caretakers and medical personal, and everyone on the front lines trying to help. And for those who’ve lost loved ones, we ask you to comfort and heal their

hearts. For you said, *“The LORD is near to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit”* (Psalm 34:18).

Lastly, we ask you to stop the flu, as it’s claimed so many lives. We know we live in a fallen world that is susceptible to sickness and disease. But we also know that you conquered death and the grave and rose again, you are strong and mighty, you are loving and kind, and on your throne. Infuse us with courage and faith to overcome our fears. Help us to trust in your faithful promises and to rest in the knowledge that we are deeply loved.

Thank you for hearing our prayers. We place our hope in you— our Healer, our Saviour, our Mighty Fortress, and our God! Amen.

*Psalm 91:1-4*

*“Those who live in the shelter of the Most High  
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

*This I declare about the Lord:*

*He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;  
he is my God, and I trust him.*

*For he will rescue you from every trap  
and protect you from deadly disease.*

*He will cover you with his feathers.*

*He will shelter you with his wings.*

*His faithful promises are your armour and protection.”*