

Prayer for the Pope

Let us pray for Benedict, our Pope.

May the Lord protect him
and grant him length of days.
Amen.

May the Lord be his shield
and deliver him from all harm.
Amen.

May the Lord give him happiness and peace
all the days of his life.
Amen.

— *This versicle and its response were formerly sung at the end of the litany of the saints.*

Collect for the Pope

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favourably on your servant Benedict,
whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd;
grant, we pray, that by word and example
he may be of service to those over whom he presides
so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care,
he may come to everlasting life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen

— *Roman Missal*

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**Liturgy
Office**
ENGLAND
& WALES

The Gift of a Shepherd 1

Prayers from the Tradition of the Church for use at the time of the Resignation of Pope Benedict XVI

Prayers for the Pope

For use from the day of announcement of the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI

Almighty ever-living God,
who has given your faithful servant Benedict
grace to maintain his faith and hope in you
amid the labours of his apostolic ministry;
graciously bestow upon him, we pray,
the consolations of your Holy Spirit
and uphold him in serenity of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.
St Peter, pray for us.
St Paul, pray for us.
St Benedict, pray for us.
All holy men and women, pray for us.

The Angelus

℣. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

℟. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail, Mary...

℣. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

℟. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

℣. And the Word was made flesh.

℟. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

℣. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

— The custom of saying the “Hail Mary” three times when the bell rang in the evening goes back to the thirteenth century, and there are bells of that period inscribed with the angelic salutation. The prayer was formerly the postcommunion for Masses of our Lady in Advent and is now the opening prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Ancient Prayer to the Virgin

We turn to you for protection,
holy Mother of God.

Listen to our prayers
and help us in our needs.
Save us from every danger,
glorious and blessed Virgin.

— This prayer, first found in a Greek papyrus, c. 300 is the oldest prayer to the Virgin.

Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, intercede for us.

O Lord, guard your people,
who rely on the patronage of your apostles Peter and Paul,
and keep them under your continual protection.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

— Roman Missal