

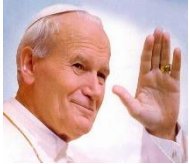
ST. GABRIEL'S NOTES

29th January 2017

A History of the World Day of the Sick

Pope John Paul II initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson's a year before, in 1991, and it is considered that his own illness was impetus for his designation of the day. 11th February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, was chosen as the date and the first World Day of the Sick was observed on 11th February 1993.

It is worth noting that this is a very special year to be hosting this wonderful celebration, as it marks its 25th anniversary.



The following is the opening paragraph of Pope Saint John Paul's Letter Instituting the World Day of the Sick, on 13th May 1992.

"The Christian community has always paid particular attention to the sick and the world of suffering in its multiple manifestations. In the wake of such a long tradition, the universal Church, with a renewed spirit of service, is preparing to celebrate the first World Day of the Sick as a special occasion for growth, with an attitude of listening, reflection and effective commitment in the face of the great mystery of pain and illness. This day, beginning in February 1993, will be celebrated every year on the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes, for all believers. It seeks to be "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding everyone to see in his sick brother or sister the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying and rising, achieved the salvation of mankind"

Pope Benedict XVI also chose the World Day of the Sick 2013 to announce his decision to retire, due to his failing health.



Many Thanks!

We are very grateful to all who have responded to our pleas for help with organizing the various aspects of the Day. We need lots of people at the entrances to meet and greet everybody as they enter and to direct or assist them to their places. We will also have a cup of tea available after Mass in the Gathering Area, and water to hand out to anyone who needs it after Holy Communion.

All volunteers are invited for a cup of tea in the Conference Room of the Church on Wednesday 8th February at 7.30 to make final arrangements and assign roles.

"Christ the Healer -

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

As part of the celebration, a Conference, hosted by the Diocesan World Day of the Sick Committee will be held on
Saturday 11th February

9.30 - 2pm, in the Marine Hotel Sutton.

Speakers: Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Sr Margherita Rock, Canon Damian O'Reilly, Sr Pat O'Donovan and Baroness Nuala O'Loan.

The Conference is directed towards those who care for the sick in the Parish, Ministers of the Eucharist or pastoral visitation of the sick.

Pre-registration is essential as places are limited. Please contact the parish office by next Wednesday at the latest if you would like to attend.