

Patron saints of plagues - Beginning with Jesus and Mary



O Cross of Christ, save me. Z. May zeal for your house free me. + The Cross conquers; the Cross reigns; the Cross rules; by the sign of the Cross free me, O Lord, from this plague.

- The Cross of Christ will expel the plague from this place and from my body. B. It is good to wait for the help of God in silence, that he may drive away this plague from me.

I. I will incline my heart to performing your just deeds, and I will not be confounded, for I have called upon you. Z. I had zeal on occasion of the wicked; seeing the peace of sinners, I have hoped in you.

- The Cross of Christ puts demons to flight; corrupt air; and drives away the plague. S. I am your Salvation, says the Lord; cry out to me, and I will hear you, and I will liberate you from this plague.

A. Abyss calls to abyss, and you have expelled demons by your voice; liberate me from this plague. B. Blessed the man who hopes in the Lord, and does not look upon vanities, and false extravagances.

- May the Cross of Christ, which was once the cause of scandal and indignity, and is now in glory and nobility, be for my salvation, and expel from this place the demon, and corrupt air, and plague from my body.

Z. May zeal for the honor of God convert me before I die, and in your name, save me from this plague. + May sign of the Cross free the People of God, and those who trust in him, from the plague.

H. Will this foolish people return to the Lord? Make good on your vows, offering a sacrifice of praise and faith to him, because he is able to liberate this place and me, from this plague; for whoever trusts in him will not be confounded.

G. If I will not praise you, let me tongue stick to my throat and to my jaws; free those who hope in you; in you I trust; liberate me and this place, O God, from this plague, for your name has been invoked in prayer.

F. At your death, O Lord, darkness fell over the whole earth; my God, render the power of the devil tenuous and dim, for it is for this that you have come, O Son of the living God: so that you might destroy the works of the devil with your power, drive out from this place and from me, your servant, this plague; and may the corrupt air depart from me into the outer darkness.

- Defend us, O Cross of Christ, and expel from this place the plague, and free your servant from this plague, you who are kind, and merciful, and of many mercies, and true.

B. Blessed is he who does not look upon vanities, and false extravagances; on the day of evil the Lord will free him; Lord, I have trusted in you; free me from this plague. F. God has become my refuge; because I have trusted in you, free me from this plague.

R. Look upon me, O Lord my God, Adonai, from the holy seat of your Majesty, and have mercy on me, and because of your mercy, free me from this plague. S. You are my Salvation: heal me, and I will be healed; save me, and I will be saved.



Our Lady Help of the Sick —

Salus Infirmorum — ora pro nobis

PRAYER IN TIMES OF EPIDEMICS

(extract from the Roman Ritual, Titulus IX, Caput X)

℣. Dómine, non secúndum peccáta nostra fácias nobis.

℟. **Neque secúndum iniquitátes nostras retribuas nobis.**

℣. Adjuva nos, Deus, salutáris noster.

℟. **Et propter glóriam nóminis tui, Dómine, libera nos**

℣. Dómine, ne memineris iniquitátum nostrárum antiquárum.

℟. **Cito anticipent nos misericórdiæ tuæ, quia páuperes facti sumus nimis.**

℣. Ora pro nobis, sancte Sebastiáne.

℟. **Ut digni efficiámur promissionibus Christi.**

℣. Dómine, exáudi oratióem meam.

℟. **Et clamor meus ad te véniat.**

℣. Dóminus vobíscum.

℟. **Et cum spírítu tuo.**

Orémus.

Exáudi nos, Deus salutáris noster: et intercedénte beáta et gloriósa Dei genitríce María semper vírgine, et beáto Sebastiáno mártire tuo, et ómni-bus Sanctis, pópulum tuum ab iracúndiæ tuæ terróribus libera, et mise-ricórdiæ tuæ fac largitáte secúrum.

Propitiáre, Domine, supplicatióibus nostris: et animárum et córporum medére languóribus: ut remissióne percépta, in tua semper benedictióe lætémur.

Da nobis, quæsumus, Dómine, piæ petitiónis efféctum: et pestiléntiam mortalitátémque propitiátus avérte; ut mortálium corda cognóscant, et te indignánte tália flagélla prodíre, et te miseránte cessáre. Per Dóminum.

℟. **Amen.**

Ultimo benedicit cum Reliquia S. Crucis, dicens:

Benedictio Dei omnipoténtis, Patris, et Fílii, + et Spírítus Sancti, descéndat super vos, et máneat semper.

℟. **Amen.**

℣. Deal not with us, Lord, according to our sins.

℟. And take not vengeance on us because of our misdeeds.

℣. Help us, O God, our Deliverer.

℟. And for thy name's sake, O Lord, free us.

℣. Remember not, O Lord, our sins of old.

℟. Hasten to us with thy compassion, for we are become exceeding poor.

℣. St. Sebastian, pray for us.

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

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.

℟. And let my cry come unto thee.

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And with thy spirit

Let us pray.

Vouchsafe to hear us, O God, our only salvation! And through the intercession of the glorious and blessed Mary, Mother of God and ever Virgin, of thy blessed martyr, Sebastian and of all the saints, deliver thy people from the terrors of thy wrath, and restore their confidence by the outpouring of thy compassion. Be moved to pity, O Lord, at our earnest entreaties, and heal the illnesses of body and soul; so that experiencing thy forgiveness we may ever rejoice in thy blessing.

We beseech thee, O Lord, grant us a hearing as we devoutly raise our petitions to thee, and graciously turn away the epidemic of plague which afflicts us; so that mortal hearts may recognize that these scourges proceed from thine indignation and cease only when thou art moved to mercy. Through our Lord...

℟. **Amen**

The priest then blesses the people with a relic of the True Cross, saying:

And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain forever.

℟. **Amen**



St Corona

Patron Against Epidemics

In Anzù, Northern Italy, the hotbed of the coronavirus in Europe, is a basilica where the relics of Saint Victor and Saint Corona are being preserved since the 9th century.

Saint Corona was only fifteen when she professed her Christian Faith during the persecution of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius around 165.

Corona was arrested and tied by her feet to the tops of two palm trees which were bent to the ground. When the palms were let loose she was torn apart. According to the Roman Martyrology, this happened in Syria.

Two investigations in 1943 and 1981, proved that the relics belong indeed to a man and a woman. Cedar pollen was found confirming an original burial in Syria and then in Cyprus.

Saint Corona is especially venerated in Austria and Bavaria as the patron-saint of treasure hunters and against epidemics. Her feast day is May 14.

St. George

he is one of the 'Fourteen Holy Helpers' – a group of saints people turned to for assistance during times of need. St George is also the patron of other things including soldiers, armourers, farmers and even sufferers of the plague and syphilis.(1)

The 1675–76 Malta plague epidemic was a major outbreak of plague (Maltese: pesta) on the island of Malta, then ruled by the Order of St John. It occurred between December 1675 and August 1676 and it resulted in approximately 11,300 deaths, making it the deadliest epidemic in Maltese history. Most deaths were in the urban areas including the capital Valletta and the Three Cities, and these had a mortality rate of about 41%. In the rural settlements, the mortality rate was 6.9%.

There was a religious revival during the epidemic, resulting in the veneration of the Blessed Sacrament and relics. There was particular devotion to patron saints of the plague-infected such as Saint Roch and Saint Sebastian, and also to other saints including Our Lady, Saint Rosalia, Saint Nicholas and Saint Anne. The historian Bartholomeo dal Pozzo attributed the epidemic as divine retribution against the population for their sins.

Most sources agree that the epidemic killed about 11,300 people out of a population of about 60,000 to 70,000. The Order's archives record only 8,726 deaths, while other sources give the death toll as 8,732 or estimate it to have been between 11,000 and 12,000. This death toll makes the epidemic Malta's deadliest plague outbreak.

Among the clergy, the dead included a Knight Grand Cross, 8 other knights, 10 parish priests, 1 canon, 95 other priests and 34 monks.[3] 10 physicians, 16 surgeons and over 1000 hospital attendants also died in the plague. (1)

(From the Catholic Encyclopedia) – Born at Montpellier towards 1295; died 1327. His father was governor of that city. At his birth St. Roch is said to have been found miraculously marked on the breast with a red cross. Deprived of his parents when about twenty years old, he distributed his fortune among the poor, handed over to his uncle the government of Montpellier, and in the disguise of a mendicant pilgrim, set out for Italy, but stopped at Aquapendente, which was stricken by the plague, and devoted himself to the plague-stricken, curing them with the sign of the cross. He next visited Cesena and other neighbouring cities and then Rome. Everywhere the terrible scourge disappeared before his miraculous power. He visited Mantua, Modena, Parma, and other cities with the same results. At Piacenza, he himself was stricken with the plague. He withdrew to a hut in the neighbouring forest, where his wants were supplied by a gentleman named Gothard, who by a miracle learned the place of his retreat. After his recovery Roch returned to France. Arriving at Montpellier and refusing to disclose his identity, he was taken for a spy in the disguise of a pilgrim, and cast into prison by order of the governor, — his own uncle, some writers say, — where five years later he died. The

miraculous cross on his breast as well as a document found in his possession now served for his identification. He was accordingly given a public funeral, and numerous miracles attested his sanctity.

In 1414, during the Council of Constance, the plague having broken out in that city, the Fathers of the Council ordered public prayers and processions in honour of the saint, and immediately the plague ceased. His relics, according to Wadding, were carried furtively to Venice in 1485, where they are still venerated.(2)

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.

Click [here](#) to get prayer cards of St. Roch (pack of 25... give some away ... sermon below mentions this)

St. Sebastian

He converted to Christianity after seeing the bravery of Christian martyrs and eventually compelled close companions to convert, including a Roman prefect who was cured of a plague when he renounced his pagan idols. Because his intercession to God contributed to the cure of the Roman prefect, Sebastian became widely associated with the cure of plagues, especially in

cities throughout the Italian Peninsula and cities and villages often adopted a “plague saint” to protect them from pestilence in addition to a patron saint. Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance and cultural hub of Europe, relied on Saint Sebastian’s intercession after the city’s bishop constructed an altar in Sebastian’s honor as a last resort to stopping the Black Death. Shortly thereafter, the plague ceased, and the bishop built a church dedicated to Saint Sebastian in thanksgiving for his intercession. (3)

St. Rosalia



“Santuzza”, as St. Rosalia is affectionately called in Palermo, emerged as one of the best known and most venerated saints in Christianity, especially in Sicily; still today, anywhere in the world, the people from Palermo exchange the greeting “Viva Palermo e Santa Rosalia.”

Rosalia was born in 1128. She was a young girl descendant of a noble family, named Sinibaldi, who lived at the court of Roger II of Sicily. When Rosalia was 13-15 years old, the count Baldovino asked her in marriage in return for saving the king’s life, but she refused him and decided to follow the Basilian Order, living a religious life in a cave in the Quisquina forest, not far from Bivona, a village near Agrigento. Later

Rosalia moved to Palermo, hiding in Monte Pellegrino, in a cave with abundant water, where she lived until her death.

In 1624 a plague beset Palermo. In the same year a sick woman went to Monte Pellegrino and drank some water dripping from the rock inside the cave. Suddenly she saw an apparition of the Virgin Mary and Rosalia who told her that in the cave was hidden a treasure: under a sheet of marble they found human bones smelling of flowers.

One year later a hunter, named Vincenzo Bonello, went to Monte Pellegrino to kill himself after his wife died because of the plague. There, Saint Rosalia appeared to him, saying that the only way to save Palermo from the plague was to bring her bones through the town. A few months later in Palermo took place the procession on honour of Saint Rosalia, during which a miracle happened: when her bones were carried around the town, plague ceased, people suddenly recovered and the contamination stopped.(4)

Father in heaven, we thank You for the communion of saints so that we can draw near to You through the prayers of St. Rosalia. Through her prayers help us to remember that our destiny is heaven. As St. Rosalia 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. Rosalia, 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. Rosalia, 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. Rosalia, I promise henceforth to remember and follow your example of faith and love. Pray for me and mine. Amen

Pope St Gregory the Great

In 590 Gregory was elected pope, taking office unwillingly. He succeeded Pelagius II, who had succumbed to the plague that swept Rome that year. According to tradition, Gregory led a penitential procession to Santa Maria Maggiore during that plague; a vision of the archangel Michael atop Hadrian's Tomb (now the Castel Sant'Angelo) convinced him that Rome would be spared. Today a statue on the Castel Sant'Angelo depicts Michael replacing his sword in its scabbard. The Seven Penitential Psalms associated with this procession date from the 12th century and have been incorrectly ascribed to Gregory.(5)

St Charles Borromeo

Greg DiPippo writes: I would recommend that we also ask, on behalf of our bishops, for the intervention of St Charles Borromeo, a model bishop in so many ways. When Milan was struck by a plague in 1576-77, the city was largely abandoned by the civil authorities, and St Charles was the first not only to aid the afflicted, but also to lead the Church in prayer for deliverance from the plague.(6)

St Charles Borromeo leading a procession with the relic of the Holy Nail during [the great plague which struck Milan in 1576-7](#); by Giovanni Battista Della Rovere (also known as "il Fiamminghino – the little Fleming", since his father was born in Antwerp), 1602. This is one of several paintings of episodes of St Charles' life which every year are hung from bars between the columns of the Duomo for his feast day (November 4th), and left up until the Epiphany.