

SPECIAL PRAYERS WITH THE HOLY FATHER

In St. Peter's Square

Friday, March 27 - Noon CDT (6:00 Rome)

- Streamed on Vatican News - www.vaticannews.va

With an empty St. Peter's Square and the public joining him only by television, internet or radio, we will listen to the Word of God, raise our prayer (and) adore the Blessed Sacrament. At the end, Pope Francis will give the benediction 'urbi et orbi,' , to the city and to the world, to which will be connected the possibility of receiving a plenary indulgence.

- *What is a Plenary indulgence?*

First, we incur the guilt of sin, which in the case of grave or mortal sin destroys supernatural charity within us and deprives us of communion with God, or eternal life with Him. Second, we incur temporal , punishment, a spiritual debt to God.

An indulgence is an ancient practice of prayer and penance for the remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven. In Catholic teaching, a person can draw on the merits of Jesus and the saints to claim the indulgence for themselves or offer it on behalf of someone who has died.

A plenary indulgence fully removes all punishment.

- *What is the Urbi et Orbi Blessing?*

The Urbi et Orbi blessing translates as a blessing to the city and the world.

It is a formal blessing, usually given only immediately after a new pope's election and on, Christmas and Easter, which carries with it a plenary indulgence for all who follow by television, internet or radio, are sorry for their sins, recite a few prescribed prayers and promise to go to confession and to receive the Eucharist as soon as possible.