

On Friday night, Pope Francis delivered an *extraordinary blessing* “*To the City and to the World*” to pray for an end to the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

Standing in a desolate St Peter’s Square , 11 million people around the world watched His holiness, Pope Francis address the world

Pope Francis reflected on scripture from Mark 4:35-41 .

Pope Francis Pope reflects on Jesus’ words to His disciples: “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

Please go through this reflection. You can select a quiet piece of music from you own music selection.

Read through the text . Look at the images

On some slides there are questions for you to answer, using word or key note and reflect on

Pope Francis

Pope Francis held the special Urbi et Orbi on Friday from the steps of St. Peter's Basilica.

Usually a colorful event reserved only for Christmas Day and Easter Sunday, this extraordinary blessing was held in keeping with the gravity of the current global situation, as more than half of the world's population is confined to their homes to prevent the spread of Covid-19.



Standing in a deserted St. Peter's Square with a steady rain falling, Pope Francis spoke to the world through all the means of modern communication: Facebook, YouTube, TV, and radio.



Pope Francis prayed in front of two images which have been symbols of Faith for centuries .

Pope Francis begins with prayers in front of the ,

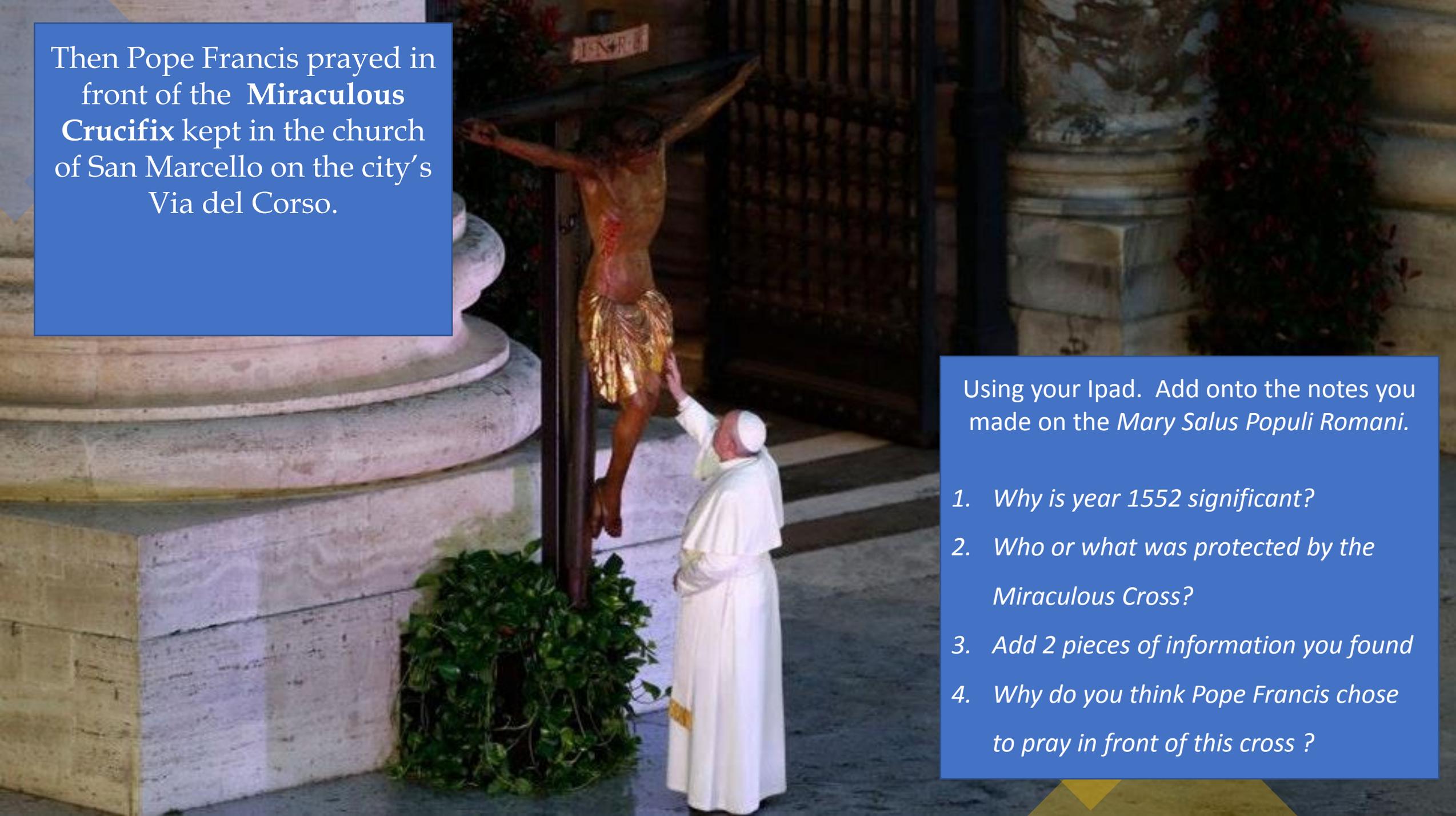
*Mary Salus Populi Romani* – usually housed in the Basilica of St. Mary Major



Using your Ipad. Make notes on word/keynote  
**Research** the *Mary Salus Populi Romani*

1. Who does this icon protect?
2. Why is the 6<sup>th</sup> Century significant?
3. Explain the significance of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
4. Why do you think Pope Francis used this icon ?
5. Find 2 pieces of information about the Icon

Then Pope Francis prayed in front of the **Miraculous Crucifix** kept in the church of San Marcello on the city's Via del Corso.



Using your Ipad. Add onto the notes you made on the *Mary Salus Populi Romani*.

1. *Why is year 1552 significant?*
2. *Who or what was protected by the Miraculous Cross?*
3. *Add 2 pieces of information you found*
4. *Why do you think Pope Francis chose to pray in front of this cross ?*



## Jesus Calms the Storm

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."

Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.

A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!"

Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"



Read the scripture which Pope Francis read.

1. Which words bring a sense of calming?
2. Which words show distress ?
3. Why do you think he choose this piece of scripture, bearing in mind it is called 'Jesus calms the storm'

### Jesus Calms the Storm

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."

Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.

A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

## Pope Francis reflected on Mark 4:35-41

He said;

*'Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm And we find ourselves afraid and lost.'*



**1. What is the storm, Pope Francis is talking about?**

**2. In what ways has this storm caught;**

**People  
Society**

**You**

**Off guard?**



## Pope Francis reflected on Mark 4:35-41

He said;

*'We have realized that we are on the same boat all of us, fragile, disorientated but at the same time important and needed, all of us in need of comforting the other'*

1. Why would the disciples feel disorientated and fragile?
2. Why does this storm make people feel disorientated and fragile?
3. Give two examples of you being important and need to your family or community at this time
4. Give examples of how you can be a comfort to others at this time



## Pope Francis reflected on Mark 4:35-41

He said;

*'We can recognize ourselves in this story but it is harder to understand Jesus' attitude. The disciples are alarmed and desperate. Jesus is in the stern which is sinking fast but Jesus TRUSTS in the FATHER and sleeps on*

*When Jesus wakes up he calms the storm and turns to the disciples asking, 'Why are you so afraid? Have you no faith?' They answer, 'Teacher do you not care we perish?'*





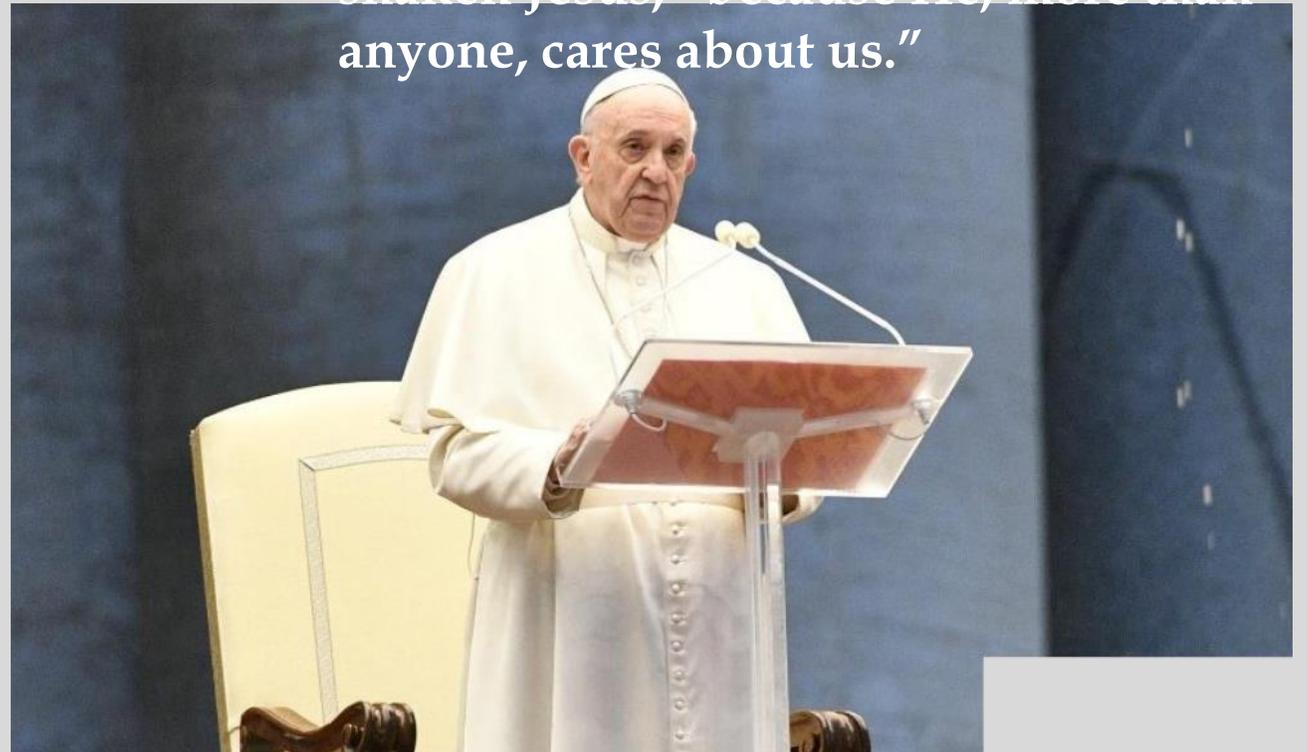
**The storm, said the Pope, exposes “our vulnerability and uncovers those false and certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules” and lays bare “all those attempts to anesthetize ourselves”.**

- 1. Give examples in which society puts themselves first rather than God?**
- 2. Why do you think God has been pushed to the side?**

**The Covid-19 pandemic has reminded us that we are all on the same boat, said Pope Francis, and so we call out to Jesus.**

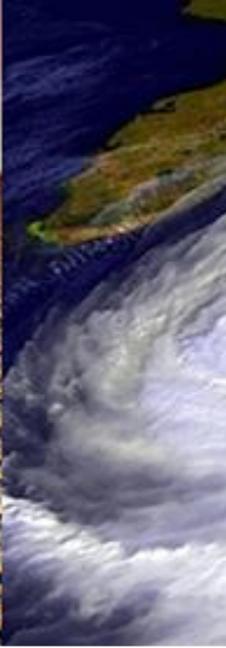
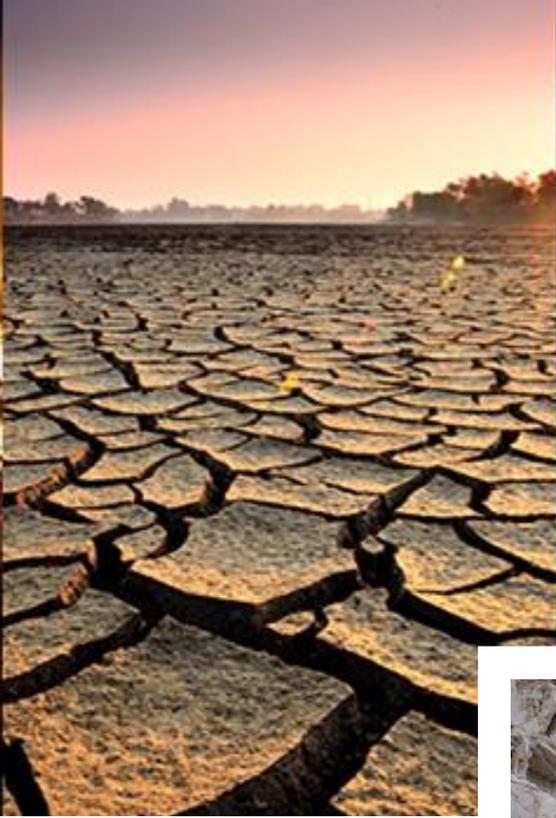
**The disciples ask Him, “Teacher, do you not care if we perish?”**

**The Pope said these words would have shaken Jesus, “because He, more than anyone, cares about us.”**



What is revealed, he said, is “our belonging as brothers and sisters”, our common humanity.

1. What is a common humanity?
2. How can we treat each other as brother and sister of a common humanity?
3. For a common humanity to work what should a common humanity be free from?  
What specific rules, if any should there be?



# “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

What do you think this means?

Why does Pope Francis highlight these questions from scripture?





What do you think each image represents?

Pope Francis said we have all gone ahead “at breakneck speed”, ignoring the wars, injustice, and cries of the poor and our ailing planet. “We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick.”

In our stormy sea, we now cry out: **“Wake up, Lord!”**

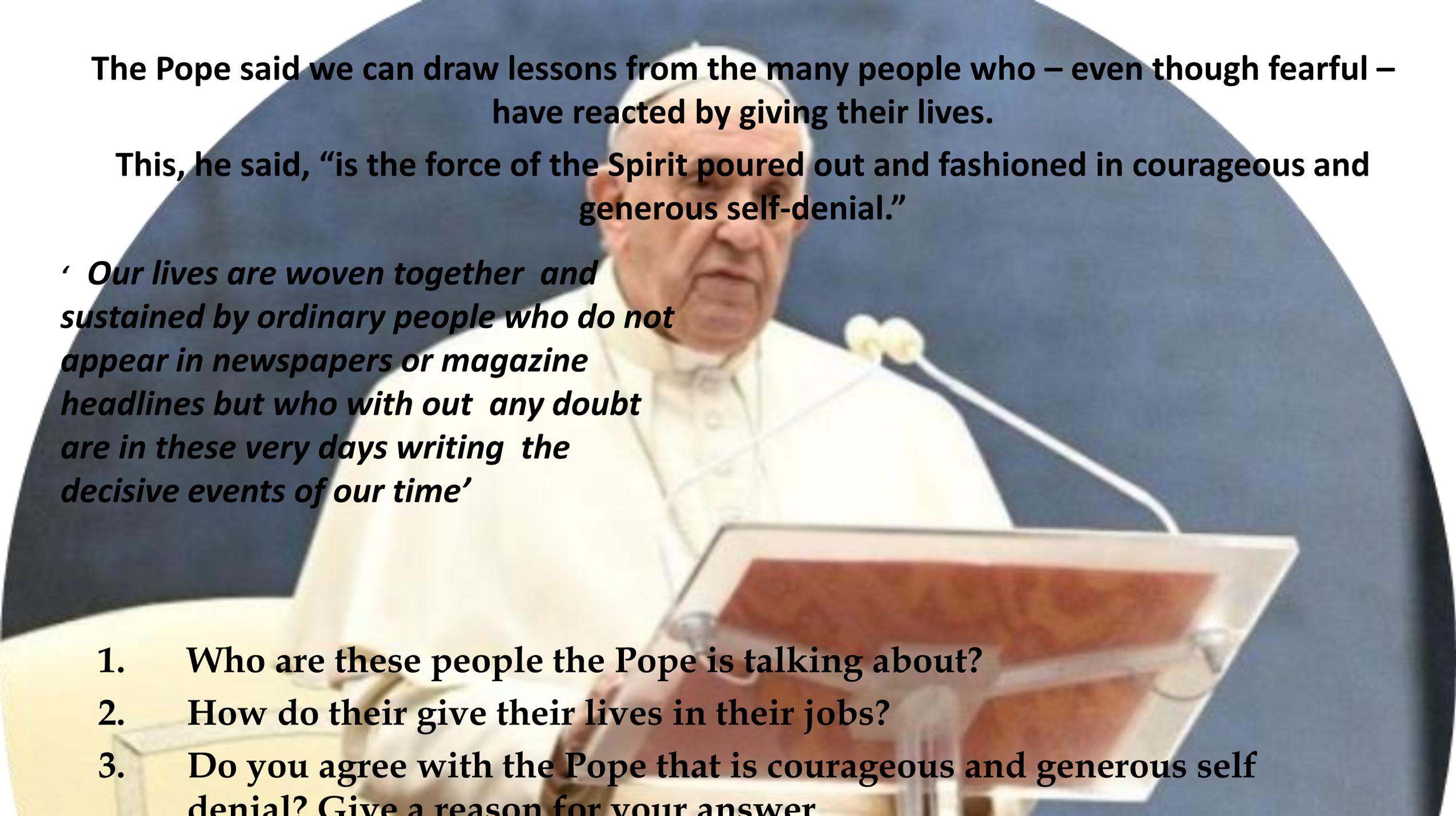


Now is the time of choosing  
Really, said Pope Francis, it is Jesus calling out to us to be converted, calling us to faith.

“You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a *time of choosing*,” he said. Now is not the time of God’s judgment, but of our own: “a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not.”



1. Think about your own life
2. What kind of things do you think are completely necessary?
3. What are you missing from self isolating or locking down?
4. Can you live without these things
5. Has anything become more central or important to you in the lockdown/self isolation period?

A photograph of Pope Francis speaking at a podium. He is wearing his white papal attire and a white zucchetto. The background is a dark blue circular shape. The text is overlaid on the image.

**The Pope said we can draw lessons from the many people who – even though fearful – have reacted by giving their lives.**

**This, he said, “is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial.”**

***‘ Our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people who do not appear in newspapers or magazine headlines but who with out any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time’***

- 1. Who are these people the Pope is talking about?**
- 2. How do they give their lives in their jobs?**
- 3. Do you agree with the Pope that is courageous and generous self denial? Give a reason for your answer**



### **His cross is our hope**

**Jesus' cross, said Pope Francis, is the anchor that has saved us, the rudder that has redeemed us, and our hope, because "by His cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from His redeeming love."**

**“In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things,” he said, “let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: He is risen and is living by our side.”**



1. What things are you missing self isolating/social distancing?
2. Why does ‘*He is risen and living by our side*’, for many Catholics filled them with hope?

*So we embrace His cross in the hardships of the present time, and make room in our hearts “for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring.”*



1. What does the word embrace mean?
2. What does inspiring mean ?
3. Why does faith give people strength and hope?
4. In what ways do you find faith, strength and hope in your life

*“Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.”*

The Pope exposed the Blessed Sacrament for adoration and imparted his Apostolic Blessing,

Catholics believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Monstrance.

Present body, blood, soul and divinity,

The Pope exposes the Blessed Sacrament and then after prayers and a quiet time of reflection he lifts the Monstrance and blesses the whole of Rome and the whole world with his Apostolic Blessing



The Pope exposed the Blessed Sacrament for adoration and imparted his Apostolic Blessing, offering everyone the [opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence.](#)

1. *Using your Ipad research what a plenary indulgence for Catholics is*
2. *And what the plenary indulgence for on the granting of special Indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic, .20.03.2020*

Concluding his meditation, Pope Francis entrusted us all to the Lord, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that our faith might not waiver in this time of crisis.

*“Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: ‘Do not be afraid’ (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, ‘cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us’ (cf. 1Pet 5:7).”*

