



# The Holy See

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APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF HIS HOLINESS FRANCIS  
TO MALTA  
(2-3 APRIL 2022)

**VISIT TO THE GROTTA OF ST PAUL**

***PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS***

*Basilica of St Paul in Rabat*  
*Sunday, 3 April 2022*

**[[Multimedia](#)]**

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God of mercy,  
in your wondrous providence  
you wished the Apostle Paul  
to proclaim your love to the inhabitants of Malta,  
who did not yet know you.  
He preached your word to them  
and he healed their infirmities.

Saved from shipwreck,  
Saint Paul and his fellow travelers  
found here to welcome them  
pagan people of kindly heart,  
who treated them with rare humanity,  
recognizing that they were in need  
of shelter, security and assistance.

No one knew their names,  
their place of birth or their social status;  
they knew only one thing:  
that these were people in need of help.

There was no time for discussions,  
for judgements, analyses and calculations:  
it was the time to lend a helping hand:  
they left their jobs, and did exactly that.

They lit a great fire,  
to dry them and warm them.  
They welcomed them with open hearts  
And, together with Publius,  
first in government and in mercy,  
they gave them shelter.

Good Father,  
grant us the grace of a kindly heart  
that beats with love for our brothers and sisters.  
Help us to recognize from afar those in need,  
struggling amidst the waves of the sea,  
dashed against the reefs of unknown shores.

Grant that our compassion  
be more than empty words,  
but instead light a bonfire of welcome,  
that can dispel the memory of the tempest,  
warm hearts and bring them together:  
the fireplace of a house built upon rock,  
the one family of your children,  
sisters and brothers all.  
You love them without distinction  
and you desire that they may be one  
with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
through the power of the fire sent from heaven,  
your Holy Spirit,  
who burns away all enmity  
and in the darkness of night lights the way  
to your kingdom of love and peace.

R/. Amen

## PRAYER IN THE BASILICA OF SAINT PAUL

O God, infinite is your mercy,  
boundless the riches of your goodness:  
graciously increase the faith  
of the people consecrated to you,  
so that all may grasp and rightly understand  
the love that created them,  
the blood that redeemed them,  
and the Spirit that gave them rebirth.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen