



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
23rd February 2025

Vox Populi

20 February 2025

The Holy Father has been in hospital for the past several days, suffering with pneumonia in both lungs.

Despite reports on Thursday morning that his health was improving, his condition remains complex, according to a Vatican spokesman.

It's expected the Pontiff will be in hospital for the next few days at least.

The entire Church joins in prayer for the Holy Father, praying for his recovery, and hopeful he will soon return to serving the People of God.

It is fitting that on Saturday, the Church will celebrate the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, honouring the supremacy of Saint Peter and all his successors, the Bishops of Rome.

It represents an apt time to elevate our prayers for the health of the Holy Father, who sits on the Chair of Saint Peter, as the Vicar of Christ.

The feast is an ancient one, having been celebrated as early as the 4th century.

The person who sits on the Chair of Saint Peter has been a universal sign of unity and communion within the Church since the first century. “[Jesus Christ] placed Blessed Peter over the other apostles, and instituted in him a permanent and visible source and foundation of unity of faith and communion.” (*Lumen Gentium 18*)

It's a reminder the power of Christ rests not on the person, but in his office, and that the authority given to Saint Peter by Christ, also rests with his successor.

On this Feast, let us turn our attention towards our Holy Father in a particular way, as we pray for the one who Christ has appointed to serve us and guide us, modelling the Good Shepherd, who both guards his flock from enemies and leads them to heaven.