



Vox Populi

26 February 2025

People around the world are united in prayer for Pope Francis who remains in hospital in a critical but stable condition.

The news of the 88-year old Pope's respiratory illness, worsened by double pneumonia, infection and kidney complications, has promoted an outpouring of affection by the individual faithful and Christian communities.

Hundreds of people, many pilgrims visiting Rome during this Holy Year, have gathered since the Pope's admittance to hospital nearly two weeks ago to pray and light candles in St Peter's Square. This week, the Cardinals living in Rome have been leading a nightly Rosary, the first one led by the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

In a message sent from hospital, the Holy Father thanked everyone for their prayers saying they were a great comfort.

He asked for the prayers to continue as they are " armour for every shepherd."

Pope Francis is the 266th pontiff having been elected 12 years ago following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

Pray for the Vicar of Christ on earth.