

## “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5) but strengthens us in times of trial

*O most loving Father God,*

if, in the time of illness, we feel, on the one hand, all our frailty as creatures, on the other hand, we experience Your compassionate closeness, because in Jesus You have shared our suffering. You do not abandon us and often surprise us with the gift of a strength we never thought we had. Through Your providential gift, illness becomes the occasion of an encounter that changes us, the discovery of You, the unshakable Rock to which we discover we can anchor ourselves to face the storms of life.

We praise You!

*O our Lord Jesus Christ,*

only from your Easter comes the certainty that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God. And from this ‘great hope’, a free gift, comes every other glimmer of light with which we can overcome the trials and obstacles of life. You walk with us, becoming our travelling companion, as for the disciples of Emmaus. Like them, we too can share our bewilderment with You, listening to Your Word that enlightens us and inflames our hearts, and recognising You present in the breaking of the Bread.

We thank You!

*O Holy Spirit, comforter of the afflicted and our strength in tribulation,*

by your gift the places where we suffer become places of sharing, where we enrich one another, learning to hope, to believe, to love.

You make us ‘angels’ of hope for one another, all together: the sick, doctors, nurses, family members, friends, priests, men and women religious; wherever we are: in families, clinics, nursing homes, hospitals and medical centres. Help us to give each other kind smiles, grateful and trusting, understanding and caring looks.

We call upon You!

*O Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick,*

pray for all of us, sick people and health workers, that our walk together in this Jubilee may be a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope, capable of stimulating and encouraging in charity the choral participation of society as a whole.

Amen. Alleluia!