

Pope calls on all Catholics to join Anglican prayer campaign

Now globalized program runs from May 30 to June 9

La Croix International staff
Vatican City

May 28, 2019



Pope Francis with Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby at the Vatican, in this file photo. (Photo by EPA/TONY GENTILE/POOL/MaxPPP)

Pope Francis has urged all Catholics to join a global prayer campaign that begins at the end of this month called "Thy Kingdom Come."

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby met with Pope Francis on April 11 at the Vatican and used his smartphone to record a video message from the head of the Catholic Church.

The pope said all Christians seek to embrace the Holy Spirit.

In the video, he prayed this would "expand out hearts and the heart of the Church, from within, so that we could make decisions in obedience and with farsightedness and peace."

He also said that by inviting the Holy Spirit into their hearts, people could ward off the threat of their hearts becoming "smaller and closed." He used the analogy of taking a giant breath and feeling one's lungs expand.

The prayer campaign runs from May 30 to June 9.

It was launched in 2016 by Archbishop Welby, the spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion, and Archbishop John Sentamu of York as an Ascension-to-Pentecost campaign among Anglicans in England.

However, it has since spread, with other faiths around the world embracing its call to prayer for 11 days so that more people can come to know Jesus and feel closer to Him.
