

# L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

WEEKLY EDITION



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*Unicuique suum**Non praevalent*

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At the General Audience the Pope issues an appeal for help for all those affected by the devastating earthquakes

During the General Audience, Pope Francis issued an appeal for help for all those affected by the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, as the death toll soars.

Addressing those present, the Pope said his thoughts at this time go to the peoples of the neighbouring countries, hard hit by the earthquake that caused thousands of deaths and injuries.

## Solidarity and concrete aid for Türkiye and Syria

“With emotion I pray for them, and express my closeness to these peoples, to the families of the victims and to all those who are suffering from this devastating calamity”.

The Holy Father thanked those

who are working to bring relief, and encouraged everyone to show solidarity with those territories, “some of which have already been battered by a long war”.

PAGE 17



The Holy Father concludes his three-day ecumenical pilgrimage of peace to South Sudan

## Reconciliation and Hope

## Songs in the night

ANDREA MONDA

We came back singing, with the songs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and of South Sudan still in our ears, that is, in our hearts. That's what it means to remember: to bring back to the heart. Among the memories of this long journey to two countries, the first one that lingers and lasts is of the songs.

The songs of DRC and those of South Sudan are different from one another (due to their different histories), but both spring forth from where one would least expect. They are “songs in the night”, as the Pope said to some 100,000 people gathered in Juba, during his homily dedicated to the proclamation of Crucified and Risen Christ, on Sunday morning, 5 February; it is “a message of hope. Jesus knows your anguish and the hope you bear in your hearts, the joys and struggles that mark your lives, the darkness that assails you and the faith that, like a song in the night, you raise to heaven. Jesus knows you and loves you. If we remain in him, we must never fear, because for us too, every cross will turn into a resurrection, every sadness into hope, and every lament into dancing”.

Songs and dancing: we have seen two peoples sing and dance, despite living in the shadows of a night that seems not to open up to a dawn that is still far away.

Two peoples, two rivers. In his discourses, the Pope often turned to the image of the two great rivers which mark and in some

Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey to South Sudan concluded on Sunday, 5 February. He ended the long-awaited and postponed journey with words of encouragement and hope for the impoverished and war-ravaged people, telling them never to forget that Jesus knows their pain and loves them.

During his stay in Juba, he also had strong words for the country's leadership, openly expressing his disappointment for not having honoured the pledges they had made to cement peace and work for reconciliation and development.

His voice wasn't a solitary one: his visit took the form of an Ecumenical Pilgrimage for Peace in the company of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Iain Greenshields.

Together they prayed with the people and called for unity; the three voices were one issuing a powerful appeal for peace and reconciliation in the divided nation. Together they challenged the country's political leaders to stand true to their pledges to work for the common good, and to shy away from corruption and personal benefits

PAGES 2-15

### THIS WEEK

*Sisters Project*

Mission of presence

SR KIVEN ON PAGE 19

*Gospel reflection*

Greatness in the Kingdom

FR NGUYEN ON PAGE 20

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5