

## PASSING OF POPE FRANCIS

---

### Media Statement

**21 April 2025**

It is with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of Pope Francis early this evening and I extend my condolences to his family and friends. I join with Catholics around the world in grieving the passing of our Holy Father and in praying for the repose of his soul.

From the time of his election in 2013, Pope Francis brought a warmth and joy to the papacy, and a desire to be close to people. His first Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, set the tone for his agenda of wanting to revive a sense of newness and aliveness in our approach to the faith.

Through his words and actions, Pope Francis demonstrated that he was a man of deep faith who was in love with the Lord. He had particularly strong devotions to Our Lady and to St Joseph. He spoke often of his love for the Rosary, and he always left a bouquet of flowers at the feet of Our Lady's statue following Mass.

He also desired a Church where the faithful felt a sense of belonging and welcome, regardless of their geographical location or social status. Hence, his constant refrain about the need to reach out to those "on the peripheries" of human society, to offer them our love and to hear their voices.

If anything, his papacy could be described as one focused on the mercy of God and he spoke often of the need to "accompany" others on their walk of faith. His final Encyclical Letter, *Dilexit Nos (On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ)*, demonstrated his desire for all people to know how much they are loved by God and to draw close to the heart of Christ.

May our Holy Father, Pope Francis, rest in peace.

I pray for our Church at this time and for the successor of Pope Francis.

Yours in Christ,

Archbishop Julian Porteous

**ENDS**

**For further information: Catherine Sheehan: 0498 846 957**