



Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough

April 21, 2025

**STATEMENT BY THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL MIEHM, BISHOP OF
PETERBOROUGH, UPON THE DEATH OF POPE FRANCIS**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Pope Francis in Rome early this morning. In his remarkable papacy of twelve years, he exemplified the virtues of a humble shepherd with an enormous heart for people, especially the poor, the sick and suffering, and those living on the margins.

These qualities were especially evident to us in Canada when he made a penitential pilgrimage here in 2022, apologizing to Indigenous people for the Church's role in Residential schools. His visit set us on a renewed path of reconciliation, a legacy and a work that will continue.

The clergy and lay faithful of the Diocese of Peterborough are united with people around the world in praying for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. In these Easter days, as the Church celebrates the Lord's resurrection, we pray that Pope Francis may share in that risen life, and dwell in the eternal light and peace of heaven.

A memorial Mass will be offered for Pope Francis at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Additionally, memorial Masses will be celebrated in every parish church in this diocese in the coming days.

In gratitude for the pastoral leadership and tremendous legacy of Pope Francis, we continue in prayer for him and for the Church at this very important time.

Yours in Christ,

†Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehms
Bishop of Peterborough