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POPE LEO XIV



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INSIDE

A Pilgrimage into Hope: From Francis to Leo XIV.
Bishop Anthony Randazzo

P3-4

Pope Leo XIV elected 267th Pope

P5-6

From Chicago to Rome: How Bob Prevost
became Pope Leo XIV

P10-11

A gift and a pathway to service

P14-15

Pope Leo XIV preaches unity
at Mass of inauguration

P16-17

Pope Leo XIV's community now
the universal Church

P22-23

The passing of Pope Francis

P24-25

The world farewells a shepherd
of the people

P26-27

Pope Francis: The great servant who championed
humility, mercy, parity

P30-33

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“My vocation,
like that of every
Christian, is to
be a missionary,
to proclaim the
Gospel wherever
one is.”

Pope Leo XIV.

A Pilgrimage into Hope: From Francis to Leo XIV

Bishop Anthony Randazzo

As I stood in Saint Peter's Square for the funeral of Pope Francis, surrounded by bishops, clergy, religious, and countless faithful from across the globe, I was struck by the quiet strength of a man whose papacy had touched the edges of the world. In his 12 years as the Successor of Peter, Pope Francis did not merely lead the Church, he led it outward, to the peripheries. Like his birthplace in Argentina, his heart seemed to beat most strongly for those on the margins: the poor, the forgotten, the excluded. He reminded us, again and again, of the Gospel's urgent command: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15).

Pope Francis' legacy is one of bold, evangelical outreach, something

Like his birthplace in Argentina, his heart seemed to beat most strongly for those on the margins: the poor, the forgotten, the excluded. He reminded us, again and again, of the Gospel's urgent command: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15).

outside the box. He drew the attention of the Church not inward, but outward, toward those on society's edges. In this way, he challenged us to be a Church of encounter, a Church of mercy, and a Church that listens deeply to the voice of Christ speaking through the lives of the vulnerable. His was a pontificate of the open door and the outstretched hand. He reminded us that the Church must always be on the move, walking with those who long for justice, truth, and the peace that only God can give.

It was within this same spirit of evangelical courage that we received our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As he stepped onto the central balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica for the first time, he did not begin with his own words. He began with Christ's. "Peace be with you" (John 20:26). A hush fell over the gathered crowd. In that moment, the Church heard not only the voice of a new Pope, but the voice of the Risen Lord, spoken anew into our world.

Pope Leo has made it abundantly clear from the outset: his Petrine ministry begins and ends with Jesus Christ. His first act as Bishop of Rome was not to speak of policy, plans, or even priorities. It was to proclaim peace, not his peace, but the peace of Jesus Christ. This simplicity, this clarity, is profoundly evangelical. It reminds us that the heart of our mission is always and only the Gospel.

Each new papacy offers the Church a chance to regenerate, to be renewed in spirit and purpose. With Pope Leo XIV, we are invited once more to

As we begin this next leg of our pilgrimage into hope, we do so with deep gratitude for the abundant blessings received through Pope Francis' generous and faith-filled ministry.

And now, with hope renewed and hearts open, we recommit ourselves to fellowship in Christ and unity with one another through the Petrine ministry of Pope Leo XIV.

return to the source, to the Word, to the sacraments, to the living witness of Jesus Christ.

As we begin this next leg of our pilgrimage into hope, we do so with deep gratitude for the abundant blessings received through Pope Francis' generous and faith-filled ministry. And now, with hope renewed and hearts open, we recommit ourselves to fellowship in Christ and unity with one another through the Petrine ministry of Pope Leo XIV. May his leadership and service build bridges that inspire us all to walk more closely with Jesus and more compassionately with our brothers and sisters, especially those still waiting to hear the Good News.



Paying tribute to the late Pope Francis at St Maria Maggiore Basilica, on 10 May 2025 in Rome.

Pope Leo XIV elected 267th Pope

For just the third time in the 21st century, the words “Habemus Papam” echoed over the crowds of Saint Peter’s Square and reverberated around the world on television screens, announcing the election of a new Pope.

An hour later after the white smoke had first emerged from the chimney above the Sistine Chapel, the curtains behind the basilica’s central balcony looking onto St Peter’s Square opened, and Cardinal Protodeacon Dominique Mamberti uttered the immortal words of “Habemus Papam”, announcing Cardinal Prevost had been elected the 267th Bishop of Rome and taken the Papal name of Leo XIV.

Stepping onto the balcony, many people took their first look at the new Holy Father: an outsider who few expected would be elected to the papacy.

As he waved to the crowds, Pope Leo appeared to hold back tears, as he took in the weight of the office to which he had just been elected.

In his first address to the People of



White smoke pours from the chimney above the Sistine Chapel

God, the Pope invoked peace and unity saying: “Peace be with you all!”

“Dear brothers and sisters, these are the first words spoken by the risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for God’s flock,” he added.

“I would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your

families, among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the world. Peace be with you!”

His first appearance already marked him as someone who wouldn’t be a carbon copy of Pope Francis. While Pope Francis adopted a simple white cassock and white mozzetta for his first appearance as Pope in 2013, Pope Leo XIV returned to the sartorial stylings of his predecessors, wearing both the red mozzetta and stole.

His wardrobe offered an early hint to many as to what his papacy will entail, particularly given he had not been among the favourites to be elected to the highest office in the Church.

Just after 6:00pm on Thursday, 8 May, white smoke began billowing from the chimney above the Sistine Chapel, signifying a pope had been elected after just four ballots.

When the white smoke appeared after just four rounds of voting, many had suspected Cardinal Pietro Parolin or



The world gets its first look at its new Holy Father

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle may have been elected. Many claimed they were “favourites” heading into the conclave.

But commentators and “experts” were surprised and left scrambling when Cardinal Robert Prevost was declared Pope.

His election marked the first time a North American had been elected Pope and he will also be the first Bishop of Rome to be chosen from the Order of Saint Augustine.

Many had discounted the possibility of Cardinal Prevost given the short period he had been a Cardinal and his North American background.

Prior to the conclave, he had been touted as a potential “compromise” candidate, enjoying favour with many cardinals who had gotten to know the Chicago-native through his time as the Prefect for the Dicastery for Bishops, but was far from a frontrunner in the eyes of many.

As he entered the conclave, many eyes were likely on those around him.

Processing into the Sistine Chapel, he



Pope Leo XIV greets the crowds above Saint Peter's Square

was alongside Cardinal Peter Turkson, also considered a “front-runner” for the papacy.

At the voting table, he was seated next to Cardinal Tagle, and just a few spots away from Cardinal Parolin, both of whom enjoyed short odds in betting markets to be elected the 267th Pope.

While Cardinal Prevost’s election was certainly a surprise, he brings a wealth of pastoral, administrative and diplomatic experience to the office. He did extensive missionary work in Peru through the 1980s and 1990s, serving

as a parish priest, seminary teacher and administrator.

From 2001 to 2013, he was Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine, responsible for the 2,600 friars of the order across the globe. In 2015 he became Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, and in 2023, he was made a cardinal.

In 2023, he also began work as the Prefect for the Dicastery for Bishops, overseeing the selection of new bishops, managing the formation of new dioceses and scheduling ad limina visits for bishops across the globe.

Since his election, Pope Leo has promoted messages of peace and unity, suggesting both will be hallmarks of his papacy.

His papal name was inspired by Pope Leo XIII, who developed modern Catholic social teaching amid the Second Industrial Revolution in the late 19 century.

Pope Leo XIV has said he believes a new industrial revolution is taking place as artificial intelligence and robotics pose “new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice, and labor”.



The Cardinals prepare to vote for the new Pope





Pope Leo XIV blesses the College of Cardinals after celebrating Mass the day after his election

From Chicago to Rome: How Bob Prevost became Pope Leo XIV

The future Pope Leo XIV, Robert Francis Prevost, was born on 14 September 1955 in Chicago, Illinois, the youngest of three brothers born to Louis Marius Prevost and Mildred Agnes Prevost (née Martínez).

Known as “Rob” to his family and “Bob” to his friends, he sang in the school choir and served as an altar boy. According to his family, he aspired to be a priest from a young age and would play-act Mass at home.

He completed his secondary studies at a minor seminary run by the Order of Saint Augustine, where he regularly appeared on the honour roll and was the secretary of the student council. Upon graduation in 1973, he chose to pursue a science degree.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics at the Augustinian-founded Villanova

University in 1977, but took elective courses in Hebrew and Latin, unusual considering his major. Later that year, he decided to join the Order of Saint Augustine.

He took his first vows as an Augustinian in September 1978 and solemn vows in August 1981. He was ordained a priest for the Order of Saint Augustine by Archbishop Jean Jadot in Rome on 19 June 1982.

He earned a Licentiate of Canon Law in 1984 and a Doctor of Canon Law in 1987 from the Pontifical College of St Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

One of his first assignments as a priest was to the Augustinian mission in Peru. He served as chancellor of the Territorial Prélature of Chulucanas from 1985 to 1986. He returned to the US in 1987, working as pastor for vocations and director



Robert Prevost (left) with his older brothers and mother

of missions for the Augustinian Province of Chicago.

In 1988 he returned to Peru, where he would spend the next ten years running the Augustinian seminary in Trujillo.

In 1999, he returned to the Augustinian Province of Chicago after being elected its Provincial. In 2001, he was elected as Prior General of the Augustinians for a six-year term. He was re-elected in 2007 for another six-year term.

In 2014, he was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Chiclayo and titular Bishop of Sufer. In 2015, he was elevated to Bishop of Chiclayo.

He became a naturalised Peruvian citizen before becoming Bishop. Although he had not served in the Diocese before he quickly won over



Fr Robert Prevost blesses his mother following his Ordination

the clergy under his care with his strong Spanish proficiency, which was better than most American clergy in the region.

He served as vice-president of the Peruvian Bishops' Conference from 2018 to 2023. The Conference played an important role in ensuring stability in the country amid successive political crises and overthrows of successive presidents. He served as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Callao in Peru from 2020 until 2021.

In January 2023, Pope Francis appointed him Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. The Dicastery oversees the selection of new bishops, schedules ad limina visits and oversees the formation of new dioceses. In this role, he quickly gained prominence among many cardinals and bishops, which elevated his



The future Pope Leo XIV meets with Pope Benedict XVI

prominence as a papal candidate. He was elevated to the Cardinalate later that year.

Prior to the conclave, Cardinal Prevost was seen by some as a “compromise candidate” who could draw on both curial and missionary experience, while also having strong diplomatic skills.

Throughout his priestly life, he met all three of his papal predecessors. He met Saint John Paul II when he was a deacon and would later meet him in his role as Prior General of the Augustinians. He would also meet

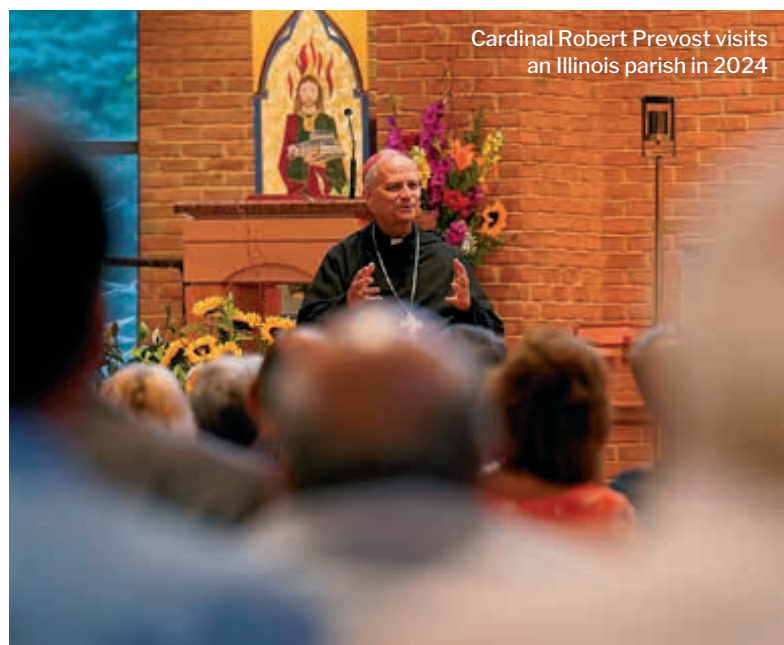
Pope Benedict XVI in this capacity too. And he met Pope Francis in a private audience in 2021, which many speculate led to his later appointment as Prefect for the Dicastery for Bishops.

Aside from his native English, Pope Leo XIV speaks several languages, including Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese, along with some German. He also reads Latin.

He enjoys playing tennis and has been a lifelong fan of the Chicago White Sox baseball team.



Deacon Robert Prevost meets with Saint John Paul II



Cardinal Robert Prevost visits an Illinois parish in 2024

Papal Name

Pope Leo XIV said he chose the Papal name of Leo after taking inspiration from Pope Leo XIII's pontificate. "Pope Leo XIII, with the historic Encyclical *Rerum novarum*, addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution," Pope Leo recalled. "Today, the Church offers to all, her treasure of social teaching

in response to another industrial revolution and the developments of artificial intelligence." The first Pope to have the name was Pope Leo the Great in the 5th century. The name is not only deeply rooted in the tradition of the Catholic Church, but also one that shows a desire for the Church to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Coat of Arms & Motto

Pope Leo XIV's Papal Coat of Arms and Motto has been modified from the one he had as a bishop and cardinal. The shield in the centre features a blue background with a white fleur-de-lis, symbolizing the Virgin Mary. The lower section features a red heart pierced by an arrow, resting on a closed book. This imagery is inspired by Saint



Augustine, who described how the Word of God pierced his heart, a symbol of his conversion. It is a key symbol of the Order of Saint Augustine. His episcopal and Papal motto is "*In illo Uno unum*" (Latin for 'In the One, [we are] one'). It's a reflection of the unity he seeks to promote, both as an Augustinian and as the Holy Father.

Peace & Unity

Peace and unity have been key themes of the first few days of the Papacy. In his opening address to the People of God following his election, Pope Leo XIV greeted the crowds saying "Peace be with you all!" before pledging to walk together in unity. During his Mass of inauguration just over a week later, he re-emphasised these themes. "I would like that our first great desire

be for a united church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a haven for a reconciled world," he said in his homily. "Let us build a church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the Word, allows itself to be made restless by history, and becomes a haven of harmony for humanity."

Cross

The Pectoral Cross worn by Pope Leo XIV on the day of his election, when he appeared to the crowds above Saint Peter's Square, carries the relics of great saints linked with the Order of Saint Augustine. Bone fragments of Saint Augustine and his mother, Saint Monica, are contained within the cross, along with relics from Thomas of Villanova, Blessed Anselmo Polanco, and Venerable Giuseppe Bartolomeo

Menochio. The relics were a gift from the Augustinians to the Pope upon his elevation to the Cardinalate on 30 September 2023. "The relics it contains are all linked to the Augustinian tradition," said Fr Josef Sciberras, Postulator General of the Augustinian Order. "Each one represents fidelity, reform, service, or martyrdom – virtues that now guide and sustain the ministry of the new Pope."



A gift and a pathway to service

When Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, 69, was introduced to the world on St Peter's Central Loggia as Pope Leo XIV, his first words emphasised the importance of the crowd who had gathered in St Peter's Square for the white smoke, and the 1.4 billion Catholics around the world. This moment was not about him but rather the people he would serve.

"Peace be with you all," he said. And then describing himself as an Augustinian, a son of Saint Augustine, who once said – With you I am a Christian, and for you I am a bishop – Pope Leo XIV said; "In this sense, all of us can journey together toward the homeland that God has prepared for us."

At this time many were still shocked an American had been elected to lead the Catholic Church, except those who knew him from seminary days or from his 20 years in Peru. As one friend from his time in the seminary said: "Bob is not so much American but American-born. He has lived only a third of his life in the United States, the rest of his time in Latin America and Europe. He



As a missionary in Peru sometimes the only way to reach villagers was on horseback

understands the American landscape but is certainly not beholden to ideological extremes."

Robert Prevost served in his local Chicago parish alongside his two brothers as an altar boy, musician, lector and volunteer. Even as a young student friends spoke of his intellectual abilities, along with his tennis skills and keen support for the White Sox (baseball). However family and friends always believed

he was destined for the priesthood, often "playing priest" using an ironing board as an altar. A neighbour even suggesting he would be pope one day.

Following a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics Prevost became a friar of the Order of St Augustine in 1977 and was ordained a priest in 1982.

Serving as a missionary in Peru in the 1980s and 1990s saw him gain experience as a parish pastor, diocesan official, seminary teacher, and administrator. He was described as being very down to earth, kind, reserved – known for his humility.

When elected Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine from 2001 to 2013, his fellow friars said while always focused, serious and dependable, he had a good sense of humour. Calm and measured, not a careerist but always wanting to serve.

Returning to Peru as Bishop of Chiclayo, and a naturalised citizen from 2015, he travelled widely throughout the diocese which was



Bishop Prevost leading the clergy and local community in Corpus Christi procession in Chiclayo

founded by Spanish priests in the 16th century, and sits close to the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

During the eight years in Chiclayo the people remember him as their kind, humble, and gentle bishop. They say he sowed hope, walked alongside the most needy, and shared the simple joys of the people. He chose to be one of the many, and to carry in his heart the faith, culture, and dreams of the nations. Not surprising those first words on 8 May included a special greeting to “my beloved Diocese of Chiclayo, in Peru, where a faithful people has accompanied its Bishop, shared its faith and given so much, so much, to continue being a faithful Church of Jesus.”

Clearly Pope Leo XIV’s time in Latin America played a key role in his priorities – bridge-building, inclusion, and global consciousness. Considered by many to be pastorally compassionate and attuned to the poor and marginalised, while remaining doctrinally grounded.



Feeding the homeless and marginalised was always on the schedule in Peru.

Recognised as a more than capable leader, in 2023 Pope Francis appointed him prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, and made him a cardinal the same year.

Pope Leo XIV has already signalled

continuity with his predecessor, however he has made it abundantly clear he views his Petrine ministry through the Augustinian lens. He said in 2023; “As can be seen from my episcopal motto – *In the One, we are one* – unity and communion are truly part of the charism of the Order of St Augustine, and also of my way of acting and thinking. I believe it is very important to promote communion in the Church, and we know well that communion, participation, and mission are the three key words in the Synod. So, as an Augustinian, for me promoting unity and communion is fundamental.”

By taking the name Leo, after Pope Leo XIII, also often called the Pope of the Workers with his emphasis on justice, labour, migrant issues, and the Church’s role in the modern world, this Leo may be signalling a similar path. A papacy that will confront injustices not through identity political tribalism, but Catholic moral clarity, advocating for the common good while guarding human dignity; where our identity is found and lived in Jesus Christ.



Then-Bishop Robert Prevost in floodwaters in the Chiclayo Diocese, Peru in 2023



Pope Leo XIV's preaches unity at Mass of inauguration

Pope Leo XIV celebrated the Mass of inauguration of his Petrine ministry in Saint Peter's Square on Sunday, May 18, formally beginning his pontificate.

The Mass was attended by more than 200,000 pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square, with world leaders and religious leaders joining the celebration, showing the universal strength to unify that the Catholic Church holds.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo was among the many bishops concelebrating the inauguration Mass while Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was among the many world leaders in attendance.

Just prior to the Mass, Pope Leo XIV greeted the crowds who had gathered, waving from the back of the popemobile and blessing the hundreds of thousands of people waving and cheering in Saint Peter's Square and nearby rooftops and office windows.



Pope Leo XIV presides over the Mass of inauguration

The theme of unity was key to Pope Leo XIV's homily during the Mass, preaching that love and unity are the two aspects of the mission entrusted to Peter by Jesus.

"I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling," said Pope Leo, "I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with

you on the path of God's love, for he wants us all to be united in one family."

He said the role of the Pope was to preside in love, spreading the joy and love of Christ to all.

"The ministry of Peter is distinguished precisely by this self-sacrificing love, because the Church of Rome presides in charity and its

true authority is the charity of Christ,” he said.

“It is never a question of capturing others by force, by religious propaganda or by means of power. Instead, it is always and only a question of loving as Jesus did.”

He also expressed his hope for “a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a haven for a reconciled world.

He also paid tribute to his predecessor.

“In these days, we have experienced intense emotions,” he said.

“The death of Pope Francis filled our hearts with sadness. In those difficult hours, we felt like the crowds that the Gospel says were ‘like sheep without a shepherd’. Then, on Easter Sunday, we received his final blessing and, in the light of the resurrection, we experienced the days that followed in the certainty that the Lord never



Pope Leo XIV takes in the moment

abandons his people, but gathers them when they are scattered and guards them ‘as a shepherd guards his flock’.”

Pope Leo XIV closed his homily, by emphasising the call to unity in Christ.

“Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another,” he said.

During the Mass, Pope Leo XIV was given the Ring of the Fisherman by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, a symbol of the office which began with Saint Peter. He became visibly emotional while receiving the ring.

He also received the pallium, a strip of lambswool, symbolising his role as a shepherd.



Hundreds of thousands gathered in Saint Peter's Square for the inauguration





Pope Leo XIV blesses the crowds in Saint Peter's Square before his Mass of inauguration





Pope Leo XIV waves to crowds gathering for his Mass of inauguration



Mass at the beach for then Prior General of the Order of St Augustine in 2008

Pope Leo XIV's community now the universal Church

Pope Leo is no stranger to Australia's shores.

As Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine from 2001 to 2013, he travelled extensively visiting the orders around the world, including Australia.

On trips to Australia in 2002, 2005, and 2008, he visited many parish communities and Augustinian schools, attended World Youth Day in Sydney followed by the International Augustinian Youth Encounter.

Little wonder the "quiet man with a great sense of humour" whom his fellow friars called "Bob", were extremely happy when Cardinal

Robert Francis Prevost was introduced to the world as the 266th Successor of Saint Peter, Pope Leo XIV.

We know this election ticked a number of firsts: the first North American-born pope; the first pope to hold American and Peruvian dual citizenship; and the first pope from the Order of Saint Augustine.

We also know he is the youngest of three boys, enjoys tennis, the web-based word game Wordle, is a Chicago White Sox fan, was one of the smartest in his elementary school which continued with his academic studies when he gained a degree in Bachelor of Sciences in mathematics,

"I am an Augustinian, a son of Saint Augustine."

speaks and/or reads seven languages, and his birthday is 14 September, 1955, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

However this pope made it very clear following his greeting "Peace be with you all" to the thousands of people in St Peter's Square on 8 May 2025, and to the 1.4 billion Catholics around the world, what formed his spirituality – "I am an Augustinian, a son of Saint Augustine."

The Augustinians trace their spiritual roots to St. Augustine of Hippo, a 5th century Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Augustinian Spirituality takes its inspiration from Augustine's encounter with God's Mystery as it is revealed in his writings and prayers. An Augustinian community is basically a Christian community, living, reflecting on, and proclaiming the message of Jesus. The life of the community is characterised by reflection, prayer and mission, friendship and the search for truth, sensitivity towards the disadvantaged, valuing and respecting the dignity of all human beings and loving service.

When Pope Leo XIV visited Australia he made a profound impression on parishioners, students and his fellow Augustinians. Many remember with joy his school visits, presenting

sporting awards, and celebrating Mass at Collaroy beach.

Parish Priest at North Harbour Parish, Broken Bay, Fr Michael Belonio, OSA, recalls having welcomed him to North Harbour a number of times during his time as Prior General.

"His presence always left a lasting impact," Fr Michael said.

"We know first-hand his warmth, humility, and dedication to building strong communities rooted in Christ.

"His leadership will undoubtedly be marked by a deep concern for the marginalised, and a call to all Christians to engage actively in the mission of justice and peace.

"And his election reminds us that we

"And his election reminds us that we are called to embody the Gospel with courage and joy, just as he has done throughout his ministry."

are called to embody the Gospel with courage and joy, just as he has done throughout his ministry."

The Augustinians look forward to one day welcoming back their brother to our shores – who recently let it be known he enjoys our Tim Tams – but leave the Vegemite aside.



The Holy Father Francis, Bishop of Rome, died on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025 at the age of 88 at his Casa Santa Marta residence.

His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and His church.

“He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with faithfulness, courage, and universal love, especially for the poorest and most marginalised.

“ With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of God, One and Triune.”

The Vatican



“There is never a reason to lose hope.
Jesus says: ‘I am with you until
the end of the world.’”

Pope Francis



Cardinal Re prays before the coffin of Pope Francis

The world farewells a shepherd of the people

More than 250,000 people poured into Saint Peter's Square on Saturday, 26th May, to farewell Pope Francis, the man who had shepherded the Church for the past 12 years.

Millions more around the world watched on television and livestreams, as the funeral Mass for the 266th Bishop of Rome was celebrated.

His death would have had a profound

impact on the lives of many people. His pontificate had been characterised by a closeness to the people, and a deep desire to show the heart of the Church to all.

It was a sentiment addressed in the homily by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, the Dean of the College of Cardinals.

"Despite his frailty and suffering towards the end, Pope Francis chose to follow this path of self-giving until the last day of his earthly life," in which he "followed in the footsteps of his Lord, the Good Shepherd," he said.

"The final image we have of him, which will remain etched in our memory, is that of last Sunday, Easter Sunday, when Pope Francis, despite



The body of Pope Francis is processed towards Saint Peter's Basilica

his serious health problems, wanted to give us his blessing from the balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica. He then came down to this Square to greet the large crowd gathered for the Easter Mass while riding in the open-top popemobile."

At the heart of his Petrine ministry, was pastoral leadership.

"He was a Pope among the people", said Cardinal Re.

"[But he was] also a Pope attentive to the signs of the times and what the Holy Spirit was awakening in the Church."

The deep love of the people for their Holy Father was on show during the days following his death.

For three days prior to the funeral, Pope Francis' body lay in state in Saint Peter's Basilica, with thousands



Thousands sought to pay their final respects to the deceased Pontiff

queuing every day to pay their final respects to the Argentinian pope.

As the funeral Mass concluded, the crowd gathered in Saint Peter's Square applauded, grateful for the service of the Holy Father.

His body was then processed through Rome to the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major where he was finally laid to rest. Hundreds of thousands of

people lined the streets to get a final glimpse of the Pope, many waiting since the early morning.

He was buried in the Marian Basilica, in the burial niche in the side aisle between the Pauline Chapel (Chapel of the Salus Populi Romani) and the Sforza Chapel of the Basilica.

He was just the eighth Pope to be buried in the Basilica.

Pope Francis lying-in-State in Saint Peter's Basilica







Elevated to Cardinal in September 2023, Pope Leo XIV was a friend and confidant of Pope Francis for many years. “Let us take up his precious legacy and continue on the journey,” he said at the start of his Petrine ministry.

Pope Francis:

The great servant who championed humility, mercy, parity

As a pope who sought to restore the Church's role as a faithful servant to the poor and protector of Creation, Pope Francis will first and foremost, be remembered for his humility, mercy and parity.

Shunning the splendour typically associated with the office, his papacy broke down many barriers and sought to open the Church's door to all corners of society.

Pope Francis, 88, died at 7:35am Rome time at Casa Santa Marta, his residence at the Vatican.

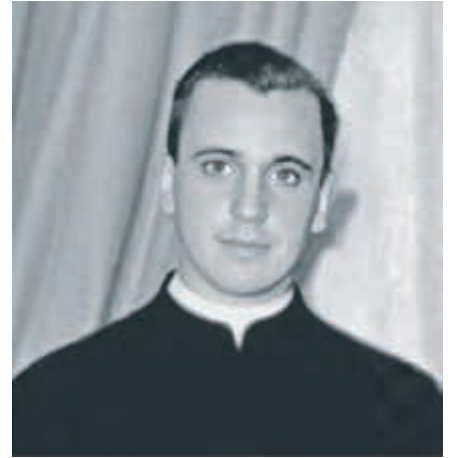
Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on 17 December 1936, his father Mario was an Italian immigrant who fled Italy to escape the fascist rule of Benito Mussolini. He was the eldest of five children.

He attended the Wilfrid Barón de

los Santos Ángeles, a school of the Salesians of Don Bosco, in sixth grade. He then went on to attend the technical secondary school Escuela Técnica Industrial N° 27 Hipólito Yrigoyen, named after the former President of Argentina, Hipólito Yrigoyen, who died in 1933.

After graduating from secondary school with a chemical technician's diploma he spent several years working in the food section of Hickethler-Bachmann Laboratory, which specialised in food hygiene analysis. Prior to this, he had been a janitor and also worked as a bouncer at a local nightclub.

He only worked there briefly however, deciding to enter the seminary at the Inmaculada Concepción Seminary, the seminary for the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires. During his study here, at the age of 21, he suffered a bout of life-threatening pneumonia. His right lung



Pope Francis as a young seminarian developed three cysts. Surgeons had to remove the upper lobe of his right lung.

Upon his recovery, he entered the Society of Jesus as a novice on 11 March 1958. He studied the humanities in Santiago, Chile and after completing his novitiate, made initial vows on 12 March 1960. The same year, he obtained a licentiate in philosophy, and taught literature and psychology at the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepción, a high school in Santa Fe.

In 1967, he began theological studies Facultades de Filosofía y Teología de San Miguel, a Jesuit university and seminary in Buenos Aires. He was ordained to the priesthood on 13 December 1969 by Archbishop Ramón José Castellano, the Archbishop Emeritus of Cordoba, at the Colegio Máximo de San José Chapel in Buenos Aires.

Following his ordination, he completed his tertianship at Alcalá de Henares, Spain, and took final, solemn vows as a Jesuit, on 22 April 1973. Just a few



A young Pope Francis at primary school in Buenos Aires, Argentina

months later, he was named provincial superior of the Society of Jesus in Argentina. He served a six-year term until the end of 1979.

In 1980, he became rector of the Facultades de Filosofía y Teología de San Miguel, where he had previously studied. In 1986, he moved to Frankfurt, Germany where he spent several months studying, before returning to Argentina to serve as confessor and spiritual director to the Jesuit community in Cordoba.

In 1992, in the midst of a fallout with Jesuit authorities, Jorge was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires. He was ordained a bishop on 27 June 1992 at Holy Trinity, Cathedral, Buenos Aires by Cardinal Antonio Quarracino, Archbishop of Buenos Aires. He chose his episcopal motto *Miserando atque eligendo*, drawing from Saint Bede's homily on Matthew 9:9-13 which says: "because he saw him through the eyes of mercy and chose him".

He served as Auxiliary Bishop until 3 June 1997, when he was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos



Francis regularly caught public transport as Archbishop of Buenos Aires

Aires. Just a few months later, he became Archbishop of Buenos Aires following the death of Cardinal Quarracino.

He was created a Cardinal in 2001 by Pope John Paul II and elected Pope in 2013 following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

A champion of humility, simplicity

was a hallmark of his papacy. Well before his election to the head of the Catholic Church, he was well-known for his simple lifestyle, living in a small apartment when he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires, cooking his own meals and taking public transportation.

He also sought to open the Church's arms wide to embrace people from all walks of life, particularly those who had historically felt neglected. He was a fierce champion of social justice and made it one of the defining characteristics of his papacy.

He also made mercy a hallmark of his papacy, emphasising the importance of Christ's mercy and the endless capacity for God to show mercy for all. He also encouraged more dialogue within the Church and changes within its governance, empowering laity and women to take on roles previously held exclusively by clergy.

He had actively urged the College of Cardinals not to vote for him in the 2005 papal enclave, in favour of electing Joseph Ratzinger, who would



Pope Francis served as Archbishop of Buenos Aires from 1997 until his election

Pope Francis: The great servant who championed humility, mercy, parity

go on to be Pope Benedict XVI. His eventual election to the papacy in 2013 was a considered a surprise to some.

Francis was the first pope to be a member of the Society of Jesus, the first from the Americas, the first from the Southern Hemisphere, and the first pope from outside Europe since the 8th century, when the Syrian-born Gregory III was elected as bishop of Rome.

He rejected the sartorial opulence of some of his predecessors and opted for a plainer look which dispensed with the usual excessive or traditional adornments. It was a symbolic nod to his papal name, following in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi who abandoned the fine clothes he was accustomed to as the son of a silk merchant, in favour of a simple habit.

Like his 12th century namesake, Pope Francis was noted for his humility and concern for the poor, even opting to reside in the Domus Sancta Marta guesthouse rather than in the papal apartments of the Apostolic Palace.

Just a few months into his papacy he released *Evangelii Gaudium*, an apostolic exhortation which urged the entire Church to “to embark on a new chapter of evangelism” and embrace a permanent state of mission.

A more liberal theologian than Benedict XVI, Francis drew criticism from the most conservative corners of the Church. But his willingness to embrace new ideas drew acclaim from the Church’s more progressive corners and parts of secular society too.

He initiated dialogue on the possibility of women deacons and increase the role of women within the Roman Curia. However, he still maintained the Church’s firm stance on the ordination of women to the priesthood, despite ever mounting pressure from both within and outside the Church.

He embraced members of the LGBT community, maintaining a desire for the Church to be more open and welcoming. He clarified the Church’s teaching on the blessing of those within same-sex relationships, allowing the blessing of individuals

in a non-liturgical environment, while forbidding any blessing of the union.

He maintained a rigid line on marriage and criticised the corruption of the institution of marriage through same-sex unions, saying it disfigured God’s plan for creation.

He was a champion of the infinite dignity of every human being, opposing the death penalty and slamming surrogacy and abortion as moral evils.

Francis will also be remembered as a critic of unbridled capitalism, consumerism and overdevelopment. He was the first pope to push for aggressive action on climate change and made it a focus of his papacy, calling on all the people of the world to take “swift and unified global action” in his defining second encyclical, *Laudato si’* in 2015.

But his willingness to engage with progressive dialogue was coupled with a fierce defence of traditional views of the Church regarding abortion, clerical celibacy, and the ordination of women, which could sometimes draw criticism from secular supporters who championed more progressive aspects of his papacy.

His work in international diplomacy will also be remembered. He helped restore diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba, and supported the cause of refugees during the European and Central American migrant crises. He was a vocal supporter of peace in the Russo-Ukrainian War and the Gaza conflict. He also embraced refugees with a fond heart and encouraged global leaders to do more to protect those forced to flee their homelands.

Pope Francis received praise from many



circles for his work in continuing the Church's work in responding to sexual abuse by clergy, in keeping with a strong theme of his papacy to care and listen to the most vulnerable of society. He was not completely free from criticism however, particularly when he was seen to be intervening in individual cases.

He guided the faithful through COVID-19 pandemic, one of the greatest periods of economic and liturgical disruptions to ever beset the Church, urging clergy not to forget the sick and poor during the crisis. He was also seen as one of the most influential drivers of COVID vaccination, while maintaining it was a moral obligation to have respect for the health of others.

In making mercy a hallmark of his papacy, announcing an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy held from 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, to 20 November 2016, the Feast of Christ the King. Following this, he instituted World Day of the Poor, noting that Christ often identified himself with the poor: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40).

Keen to reform the Roman Curia, he established the Secretariat for the Economy to oversee the economic activities of the Holy See and Vatican City. He appointed Australian Cardinal George Pell to be its first Prefect.

Francis was also eager for more dialogue within the Church, to identify how the Church could better live out its mission. He announced the Synod on Synodality in 2020 which officially began in 2021 and during the 2023 and 2024 sessions in Rome included women and laity in the Synodal process in a way

which had never been done before. He demonstrated a desire for the Church to "journey together" and not simply be dragged along by the Holy See, or even be left behind.

While falling short of the extraordinary level of travel of Saint John Paul II, Pope Francis was still among the most widely travelled popes in history. In his travels, he again made a point of going to the margins. He became the first pope to enter an active warzone when he visited the Central African Republic in the midst of a civil war. He was also the first Pope to visit Mongolia, Iraq, Myanmar and the Arabian Peninsula.

In his final year of life, he made "hope" a key theme of his papacy. He announced and opened the 2025 Holy Jubilee, with the motto "Pilgrims of Hope", and released his autobiography at the beginning of 2025, simply titled "Hope", the first time a sitting pope has ever published a memoir.

By the end of his pontificate, Pope Francis had created 163 cardinals from 76 countries, 25 of which had never been represented in the College of Cardinals. He also canonised 942

saints over his 12-year papacy, nearly double the number Saint John Paul II had done over his 27-year tenure.

At the heart of Pope Francis' legacy will be his emphasis on humility and mercy. The two qualities shone through almost every aspect of his pontificate and his life, casting its light onto a world that was sorely in need of both.

He recaptured the hearts of many who might have felt the Church had turned its eye away from the poor and vulnerable. His fondness for those at the periphery of society will be lovingly remembered as many mourn the loss of someone who showed them the intense and enduring love of the Father.

It's fitting that his last encyclical was centred on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was a heart he was eager for the Church to show to everyone, but particularly those on the margins. The demand on the Church to keep showing that heart will be intense under the next pontiff. The enduring legacy of Pope Francis will not be easily forgotten.

Requiescat in pace



Pope Francis embraces Pope Benedict XVI



Cardinal Prevost, in the presence of the image of Mary Mother of the Church, leading the Rosary in St Peter's Square while Pope Francis was in hospital.





IN HONOREM PRINCIPIS APOST PAVLVS SVBVRGHEVS ROMANVS PONT MAX ANNI MDCLXXVII



A packed Saint Peter's Square watches on as Pope Leo XIV celebrates his Mass of inauguration

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