

# Vox Populi

29 April 2026

Pope Leo XIV will celebrate one year of his pontificate on Friday, 8 May 2026.

Very few had anticipated the quiet Cardinal Robert Prevost from Chicago would emerge from the balcony on 8 May 2025 following the fourth ballot on the second day of voting in the Conclave.

Many have therefore spent the last year getting to know the new Pope, understanding what his priorities are and what his pontificate will look like in the years to come.

So far, it's been a pontificate defined by peace and patience.

His first few remarks as Pope were infused with a deep desire for peace and it's a message that's become even more pronounced during his pontificate, particularly as violence reigns across the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa.

But he has also observed a quiet patience in the Papacy, being slow to make new appointments and carefully considering the state of the Church before moving on any issues.

Only more recently has he chosen to speak publicly on controversial issues within the Church.

The appointment of Archbishop Anthony Randazzo as Prefect of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts has certainly been one of the most tangible acts as Pope for many in Broken Bay.

The next few years hold excitement too, with the Holy Father set to visit Australia in 2028 for the International Eucharistic Congress.

On the anniversary of his pontificate, we keep Pope Leo XIV in our prayers, asking that he will continue to be a good and faithful shepherd of the People of God.