



Bishop's House
Marriott Street
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23 April 2025

My dear young friend,

I am writing to you today following some sad news that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has died. He was the leader of the Catholic Church, and he loved Jesus very much. He also loved all of us, especially children.

Pope Francis was a kind and gentle man. He often reminded us to care for one another, to help people who are poor or lonely, and to take care of God's beautiful world. He told us many times that Jesus is always with us and that we should never stop loving others.

Even though we feel sad, we also thank God for Pope Francis' life. He showed us how to live like Jesus, with joy and kindness. Now we believe that he is safe in Heaven, with Jesus and Mary.

I ask you to say a little prayer for Pope Francis today. You could simply say:

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

Please also pray for the Church, that God will send us a new pope who will be a good and loving shepherd, just like Pope Francis was.

May God bless you and your families. Keep being kind, generous, and full of joy—just as Pope Francis encouraged all of us to be.

With my prayers and blessing,

+ David

✠ Bishop David Oakley
Bishop of Northampton