

21 April 2025

His Eminence Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re

Your Eminence

I write on behalf of the Anglican Communion to extend our prayers for the repose of the soul of His Holiness Pope Francis, and to express our condolences to all the Catholic faithful on the death of the Servant of the Servants of God. I want to express the deep appreciation of the Anglican Communion for the remarkable leadership that Pope Francis has given to the Catholic Church and to the world at large. Anglicans have so often encountered his great personal warmth and friendship, and have been greatly encouraged by him in the search for Christian unity.

Anglicans rejoice in Pope Francis' profound commitment to evangelisation, to showing justice, mercy, love and reconciliation. His words and actions have touched the hearts of millions, transcending the boundaries of Christian divisions and inspiring people of all faiths to join hands in pursuit of a more just and compassionate world.

His unwavering dedication to the plight of the poor, the refugee and the vulnerable has been a great inspiration. His calls for global solidarity, for the protection of our common home and for the pursuit of peace have resonated deeply within the hearts of people across continents and cultures, especially in my home country, South Sudan. In particular I rejoice in the pastoral journey there, undertaken by His Holiness, Archbishop Justin Welby and Moderator Iain Greenshields.

Renewal of the Church's structures through synodality and the voice of women and lay people within decision-making processes was a major contribution of Francis's Papacy. In this way, he drew upon and deepened friendships across the Christian world, not least as he invited Anglicans to walk together in the process.

Pope Francis dedicated himself to fostering greater unity among Christians and to leading by example. His commitment to deepening the communion we already share opened new avenues of collaboration between the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion. We have begun to heal the wounds of division as we learn to walk together toward the fullness of unity that Christ desires for His Church.

I am very grateful for Pope Francis' support of the work of the Anglican Centre in Rome, the Anglican–Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), and the International Anglican–Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission (IARCCUM). The 2024 IARCCUM Summit and the Vespers at St Paul Outside the Walls (where the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury commissioned pairs of bishops for a second time to work together) was powerful and striking.

The welcome Pope Francis gave to the Anglican Communion Primates' Meeting a year ago will be a life-long blessing to us.

Anglicans join with millions around the *oikoumene*, and with all people of goodwill, in giving thanks to God for Pope Francis. We offer our condolences to our sisters and brothers in the Roman Catholic Church. We pray God's blessing on us all and on all who, like Pope Francis, try to follow Christ in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Our prayers will be with the Catholic Church during the coming days and weeks.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Poggo'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'A'.

The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo  
Secretary General of the Anglican Communion