



His Most Reverend Héctor Vila, Bishop of the Diocese of Whitehorse

Letter to the faithful, April 21 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With a heavy heart, I join each of you and the global Catholic family in mourning the death of our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Our local church in the Diocese of Whitehorse fondly remembers Pope Francis' visit to Alberta in July 2022, where many of us were blessed to share in his presence and receive his messages of peace, reconciliation, and healing. His commitment and passion for evangelization *to the peripheries*, to the poor and vulnerable, and dedication to hope and unity with his embodiment of Christ's message of mercy remain a driving force in our mission and how we bring the Gospel to life in our communities. His vision of a synodal Church, where listening and discerning in the Spirit design how we walk together, continues to shape our ministries.

With humility and grace, as a true shepherd, he called us to draw nearer to Christ and to embrace the Church's mission with open hearts. His life is a powerful testament and living witness to what it means to journey as a tireless *pilgrim of hope*.

Let us unite in prayer for the peaceful rest of our beloved Holy Father, and bless the Lord for the light he brought into our lives and the life of the Church. I will preside over a Memorial Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Whitehorse, we will confirm the date and details soon.

May the Lord shower you with the graces of hope and Easter joy, and may Mary, our Mother, guide us in faith. Christ is Risen; Truly He is Risen!

Most Rev. Héctor Vila
Bishop of Whitehorse