



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —



CELEBRANT
FR BRIAN GLASHEEN

MASS FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF POPE FRANCIS

WEDNESDAY,
30TH APRIL 2025
7:00 P.M.

FIRST READING *Wisdom 3:1-9*

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
no torment shall ever touch them.
In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster,
their leaving us, like annihilation;
but they are at peace.
If they experienced punishment as men see it,
their hope was rich with immortality;
slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.
God has put them to the test
and proved them worthy to be with him;
he has tested them like gold in a furnace,
and accepted them as a holocaust.
When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out;
as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.
They shall judge nations, rule over peoples,
and the Lord will be their king for ever.
They who trust in him will understand the truth,
those who are faithful will live with him in love;
for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 91:1-2, 10-15*

R: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
and abides in the shade of the Almighty,
says to the LORD: 'My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!'

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell,
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.'
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

SECOND READING *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any

advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *John 14:6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one can come to the Father except through me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *John 14:1-12*

Jesus said to the disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you know my Father too.
From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?
Do you not believe
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.
You must believe me when I say
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.
'I tell you most solemnly,
whoever believes in me
will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.'



REMEMBERING POPE FRANCIS

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.*

May he rest in peace.

AMEN

As priest, bishop and pope, he embodied Christ's command to care for all people, especially the most vulnerable.

He was a Pope of many firsts. He was the first to take the name 'Francis,' the first Jesuit pope, the first pope from the Southern Hemisphere, and the first non-European pontiff in more than a millennium.

Yet for all those firsts, he will be remembered foremost as the 'pope of the peripheries', determined to lead the Church in reaching out to those on the margins—the poor, elderly, disabled, unborn, refugees and prisoners. He demonstrated this in the way he carried out the Petrine ministry, making pastoral visits to many parts of the developing world or to prisons and detention centres in the developed world, using his global profile to give voice to those too often forgotten.

His care for those on the peripheries was animated by his belief in the transformative power of God's mercy. His motto, taken from St Bede's homily on the call of St Matthew, was "Miserando atque eligendo" ('by having mercy and by choosing Mercy'), reflected the importance of Divine Mercy to his own faith and vocation, to what he taught and to how he treated others.

We will always remember the moving images of Pope Francis stopping his vehicle to embrace those with severe disabilities, joyfully greeting young children who broke through security barriers to reach him, and washing and kissing the feet of prisoners on Holy Thursday.

Pope Francis passionately decried views and actions contrary to human dignity and flourishing. He condemned what he described as 'the globalisation of indifference' when it came to refugees and the poor, 'the ideological colonisation' of the developing world by secularising Western forces, and 'the throwaway culture' that treats everything and everyone deemed no longer useful, including the unborn and elderly, as disposable.

He cared deeply for all of God's creation, especially our common home the earth, and his celebrated encyclical, *Laudato Si'* called for an integral ecology and reinforced the teaching that Christians must be good stewards of the natural world.

Francis was also 'the pope of synodality', inviting all members of the Church to journey together as pilgrims, listening to each other and to the voice of the Holy Spirit, in order better to carry out the mission of evangelisation and outreach.

Pope Francis died on Easter Monday only hours after giving his Easter Sunday "Urbi et Orbi" blessing to the city and the world. He said "From the empty tomb in Jerusalem, we hear unexpected good news: 'Jesus, who was crucified, is not here, he has risen'."

Jesus is not in the tomb, he is alive! Love has triumphed over hatred, light over darkness, and truth over falsehood. Forgiveness has triumphed over revenge. Evil no longer has the upper hand; it no longer has power over those who accept the grace of this day."

Now Pope Francis has himself entered into the triumphant truth, goodness, mercy and love of the Risen Lord he served so well. Whilst saddened by his death, we are grateful for the blessing of his long life, spent in service of Christ and His people.

Pope Francis began his papacy and ended his every Sunday Angelus by asking those gathered to pray for him. Let us all heed this request now, offering our prayers for the Holy Father, that he will now receive the merciful embrace of the Lord he preached and served so well.

MOST REV. ANTHONY FISHER OP
CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

266TH
BISHOP OF
ROME



FRANCISCVS

Jorge Mario Bergoglio

17th December 1936 -
21st April 2025

Born

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ordained

13th December 1969

Bishop

27th June 1992

Cardinal

21st February 2001

Papacy

13th March 2013 –
21st April 2025

Franciscus



"The Lord never tires of forgiving. It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness."

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*