



For immediate release

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Catholic Mission Australia Mourns the Passing of Pope Francis: A Shepherd of Missionary Hope

A Message from Fr. Brian Lucas, National Director, and the Staff of Catholic Mission Australia:

With profound sorrow, Catholic Mission joins the global Catholic community and all people of goodwill, in mourning the passing of His Holiness, Pope Francis.

As the Pontifical Mission Societies in Australia, we reflect on his unwavering commitment to missionary discipleship and his enduring legacy of compassion and outreach.

"Today, we grieve the loss of a shepherd whose life and teaching reminded us of our duty to reach out to the peripheries, to embrace the marginalised, and to be bearers of hope in a world often overshadowed by despair." Fr Brian Lucas said.

Pope Francis' emphasis on a 'missionary option' challenges us to go forth and make disciples of all nations, embodying the joy of the Gospel in our daily lives. We commit to honouring his memory by continuing the mission he so passionately championed—as missionaries of hope amongst all people.

We find strength in his call: *"May all the baptised, as missionary disciples of Christ, make his hope shine forth in every corner of the earth."*

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About Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies – the Catholic Church's global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ's mission in the world: that all may have life to the full. Catholic Mission contributes funding and project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. These include spiritual formation, pastoral care, education, health, sanitation, and agricultural programs. Here in Australia, we form people to go out and be missionary in their professional and personal lives; to pray, advocate and act for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.