



Zimbabwe Catholic
Bishops' Conference



ZIMBABWE HEADS OF CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS: CONDOLENCE MESSAGE ON THE PASSING OF POPE FRANCIS

Issued on 22 April 2025

It is with profound sadness that the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) mourns the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis on 21 April 2025 at the age of 88. We extend our deepest condolences to the Roman Catholic Church and the global Christian community.

Pope Francis' leadership was marked by a steadfast commitment to justice, peace, and the dignity of all people. His call for a "poor Church for the poor" resonated deeply in Zimbabwe, where economic hardships and social challenges persist. His messages of reconciliation, environmental stewardship, and dialogue inspired our collective efforts to address pressing national issues such as poverty, corruption, and political polarization. Through his teachings, he encouraged us to build bridges of unity and to work together for the common good.

As we grieve the loss of Pope Francis, we draw comfort from the words of John 11:25-26: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.'" This verse reminds us of the eternal hope we share as Christians and the enduring legacy of Pope Francis' faith and service.

We pray for the Roman Catholic Church during this period of mourning and for the continued strengthening of ecumenical ties through the ZHOCD. May the spirit of unity and shared purpose that Pope Francis embodied inspire us to work tirelessly for a Zimbabwe that reflects God's kingdom—united, just, and compassionate.

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