At 9:45 AM, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Apostolic Chamber, announced the death of Pope Francis from the Casa Santa Marta with these words:

"Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis. At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church. He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favor of the poorest and most marginalized. With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of the One and Triune God."

Professor Andrea Arcangeli, Director of the Directorate of Health and Hygiene of Vatican City State has stated that Pope Francis died from  a stroke, followed by a coma and irreversible cardiocirculatory collapse.

Pope Francis has died aged 88, the Vatican Press Office has confirmed. He served as the 265th successor of St Peter from his election on 13 March 2013 to 21 April 2025.

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales and Archbishop of Westminster, said:**

“The death of Pope Francis brings great sadness to so many around the world, both within the Catholic Church and in societies in general. A voice proclaiming the innate dignity of every human being, especially those who are poor or marginalised, is now silent. The legacy he leaves is one we must seek to carry forward and strengthen.

“Pope Francis was called to priesthood through his experience of the mercy and compassion of God. This remained the core of his ministry, as Priest, Bishop and Pontiff. Only in understanding the love and mercy of God towards each one of us can we fashion societies and communities that bear the mark of the ‘kingdom of God’.“This same focus and emphasis lay at this desire to see membership of the Church as being rooted in ‘missionary discipleship’, a dynamic and powerful vision for every Christian and every community.“Now we pray for the repose of his soul, that he may know, in full measure, the merciful and loving embrace of the Father, of the one God to whom he gave his life in unstinting service.“May he now rest in peace and rise in glory.”

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales will celebrate Requiem Masses for the repose of the soul of the late Pope in their cathedrals. Prayer cards have been distributed to Catholic parishes throughout the two countries.

**The Bishop of Nottingham, the Right Reverend Patrick McKinney, has expressed his sorrow following the death of Pope Francis.**

Bishop McKinney said: “I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. The Pope has left an indelible mark on the Church and the world, as a man of great warmth and humility  who made use of his global prestige to highlight and to listen to the concerns of the poorest and most marginalised people across the world. The loss of the Holy Father will be deeply felt in all of our diocesan communities and well beyond, but I believe his legacy will live on.

“I was very privileged to meet Pope Francis in Rome on two occasions— first, upon my appointment as Bishop of Nottingham in May 2015, and once again during the ‘Ad limina’ visit of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales to Rome in 2018. Each time I was struck by his humility and warm welcome, deep love of Christ Jesus, desire to engage in dialogue, and his profound commitment to the Church and her mission. He will be greatly missed.

“The Holy Father once said, that ‘it is only through faith in the resurrection that we can face the abyss of death without being overwhelmed by fear’. It is so poignant that Pope Francis has died this Easter Monday just one day after wishing the world a ‘Happy Easter’. May the Crucified and Risen Lord reward him for his valiant labours.  He named this year, a Jubilee Year of Hope. So, In the face of his death and our experience of grief and loss, I would encourage all Catholics  to continue to journey as Pilgrims of Hope trusting in Christ’s promise of eternal life to those who are faithful to his teaching,  and to  commend our prayers for the Holy Father to the intercession of  St Ignatius, St Francis of Assisi and Our Lady, Queen of Heaven.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

The Vatican will announce details of Pope Francis’ Funeral arrangements in due course, and details of Masses and Services across the Diocese of Nottingham will be soon be shared on the diocesan website (dioceseofnottingham.uk).

There is also an opportunity to sign a virtual book of remembrance [coming soon], as well as to visit any of the following Jubilee churches across the diocese where there will be a book of remembrance.