



النيابة الرسولية لشمال شبه الجزيرة العربية
APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF NORTHERN ARABIA
BAHRAIN . KUWAIT . QATAR . SAUDI ARABIA

**Statement of Bishop Aldo Berardi, O.S.S.T.
On the Passing of His Holiness Pope Francis
21 April 2025 – Easter Monday**

On this radiant Easter Monday morning, 21st April 2025, we awoke to the sorrowful news of the passing of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis. He returned to the Father just a day after we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord—an event that proclaims our hope in eternal life.

We unite with the universal Church in mourning the loss of the Vicar of Christ, and in offering fervent prayers for the repose of his soul. We ask for his intercession for the Church he so dearly loved—a Church now grieving the departure of her shepherd.

Pope Francis will be forever remembered for his deep humility, pastoral heart, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel. From the moment he stepped onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica in 2013 with a simple greeting—"Buona sera"—he captured the world's attention not with grandeur, but with gentleness. He taught us by example what it means to be a Church that goes forth—a Church that reaches out to the peripheries, embraces the forgotten, and walks alongside the wounded.

Here in our Apostolic Vicariate, we hold a special closeness to him, having been graced by his historic visit in 2022 in Bahrain—a moment that continues to bless and inspire us. His encouragement to the often-hidden Church in the Arabian Peninsula gave us strength and joy. We were reminded that even in the desert, the seeds of faith grow and bear fruit.

Let us, as one family of faith, pray for Pope Francis. Let us pray for the Church in this time of mourning. And may the light of Easter—the very light in which our Holy Father now rests—continue to shine in our hearts, granting us hope and peace.

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

+ Aldo Berardi, O.S.S.T.
Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia



Community Services:

Tuesday April 22: Bahrain Our Lady of Arabia Cathedral at 7pm; Qatar; Parishes of Kuwait.

Wednesday April 23: Manama, Sacred Heart Church, 7 pm

Friday April 25: Holy Family Co-Cathedral in Kuwait