



21 April 2025

Communiqué

With great sadness I communicate to the priests, religious and the people of God in the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia that our beloved Holy Father Pope Francis has returned to the house of God this morning at 7:35 AM Rome time. May the Lord receive Pope Francis into heavenly abode and grant him eternal peace. The People of God in the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia will always remain grateful for his great service to the Church, especially all the people in the UAE are greatly saddened by the death of Pope Francis, whom we remember with gratitude for his visit to Abu Dhabi in 2019.

I ask all parishes in our vicariate to offer a Holy Mass for Pope Francis and invite all people of God to participate in the mass for our beloved Pope Francis in their respective parishes. Let us stand and unite in prayer as the See of St. Peter is now vacant. I sincerely extend my condolences to all people of God.

United in prayer,

Bishop Paolo Martinelli OFM Cap
Apostolic Vicar of Southern Arabia

