



May 8, 2025

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers of the Diocese of Pembroke,

*"Peace be with all of you!"
These are the first words of the Risen Christ,
the Good Shepherd who gave his life for God's flock*

With these words, our Holy Father Leo XIV greeted the people of Rome and the World from the balcony above the doors of St. Peter's Basilica. Cardinal Robert Prevost, O.S.A., former Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, was elected as the successor of St. Peter today. *Habemus Papam!*

It is with great joy that we give thanks first of all to Almighty God for the gift of Leo XIV, our new Holy Father, and we join together as the Diocese of Pembroke in welcoming him into the Petrine Ministry and into our prayers and our hearts. Immediately, his name is included in the Eucharist Prayer at every Mass in the Diocese. I invite every family to remember him in their prayers, especially when they gather for a meal together.

I also ask that every parish celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for Pope Leo XIV at the first opportunity. I urge all the faithful of the diocese to participate in these parish Masses, and to unite our hearts with the whole Universal Church, the visible Body of Christ in the world. We do not need to wait for the Pontifical Mass for the Inauguration of his Petrine Ministry. From the moment Cardinal Prevost accepted the election, he is already the Bishop of Rome, the Successor of Peter, and our Holy Father!

May Almighty God bless and guide our Holy Father Leo XIV by the light of the Holy Spirit as he follows Jesus our Redeemer and Shepherds your Holy Church! May Mary, our Blessed Mother and Mother of the Church, always accompany him with her maternal love!

And may God bless us all with joy, hope and peace!

In Christ our Redeemer,

+ Michael Brehl, C.S.R.

✠ Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R.

Bishop of Pembroke

Prayer for the Pope

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favourably on your servant Leo XVI,
whom you have set at the head of your
Church as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example
he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that,
together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to
everlasting life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.