

Special Issue: A Tribute to Pope Francis

AOTEAROA



Pope Francis was **a beacon of hope in a divisive world**. His teachings inspired global action on environmental justice, Indigenous rights, and peace in Palestine. In Aotearoa New Zealand, **Laudato Si' united interfaith groups**. Through his words, we found strength, compassion, and a moral anchor amid growing global chaos. Read the [full tribute here](#).

AUSTRALIA



Although Pope Francis never visited Australia, we are deeply saddened by his death; we have lost **a courageous peace leader in a troubled world**. We give thanks for his humanity, compassion, and ability to transcend boundaries. His calls to *ecological conversion* and a *culture of encounter* remain strong challenges for us. Read the [full statement](#) by Claude Mostowik, MSC, President of Pax Christi Australia.

KOREA



With heavy heart, I mourn the passing of Pope Francis, a shepherd of peace and justice for our times. Meeting him [on 19 Sept. 2024](#) to present the [Nagasaki and Rome Appeal for Peace](#) was a profound honor. His **humility, love, and teachings** in *Fratelli Tutti* and *Laudato Si'* continue to inspire my mission for justice, peace, and creation care. Read the [full tribute](#) by Anselmo Lee, Co-President of Pax Christi Korea.

JAPAN



On a visit to [Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#), when he met the Hibakushas, Pope Francis **condemned the use and possession of nuclear weapons** as 'immoral' and urged support for 'the principal international legal instruments of [nuclear disarmament](#) and [non-proliferation](#)'.

PHILIPPINES



Pope Francis' 2015 visit to the **Philippines** impacted the Filipino people during his meeting with Typhoon Yolanda survivors in Tacloban. His nickname, "**Lolo Kiko**," reflects the **bond** he forged. His compassion, humility, and advocacy for community and resilience continue to inspire Filipinos today. [Read more](#) and [watch this video](#).