



Our Holy Father, Pope Francis  
Bishop of Rome  
Vicar of Jesus Christ

*'My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the courts of the Lord!' Ps 83*

Dear Holy Father,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and commend you to His love and mercy as you experience this time of personal trial and ill health. The prayers of the Diocese of Lancaster are with you, and Holy Mass is offered for your intentions, for your recovery.

In your experience of personal frailty, we thank God for your leadership of the Church, for your example of serene surrender to the Holy Spirit and for your continuing care for us. Truly, you are a gift to us from the Lord.

We see your face and your soul fixed lovingly on the Lord of Life. This brings to us a deep sense of calm and reassurance that the Lord does not abandon His people and that He does hear the cry of the poor.

We pray for those medical specialists whose care and expertise you receive at this time. We pray for those who must work to guide the Church during this time when you are unable to give your attention to the cares of office. We pray for your own family who feel deep concern for you. We ask the Lord to give His Light to you and all who are in darkness and the shadow of death, that He will, in due course, lovingly guide you into the way of His peace.

With fraternal affection in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading '+ Paul Swarbrick.' The signature is written in a cursive style.

+ Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick  
**Bishop of Lancaster**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2025