



POPE LEO XIV 1st Apostolic Exhortation Letter - DILEXI TE

On the 4th of October, Pope Leo XIV's published his 1st magisterial document *Dilexi Te*, meaning "I HAVE LOVED YOU", showing a clear continuation of the Church's preferential option for the poor. It opens with the prophetic proclamation taken from Revelation 3:9 and frames Christ's love as the decisive motive for every Christian's service to the marginalized.

Leo XIV notes that his predecessor, Pope Francis' Encyclical *Dilexi Nos*, already emphasized that Jesus "*identified himself with the lowest ranks of society*" and that this identification "*confirms the dignity of every human being, especially when they are weak, scorned, or suffering*". *Dilexi te* makes the call to love the poor an "*essential path to holiness*".



The Central Teaching from this letter is that **Love is the Motor of Charity**. The document presents love for the poor not as an optional charitable act but as the "very heart of Christ, his deepest feelings and choices, which every saint seeks to imitate". This love is to be lived out in three interrelated ways:

1. **Recognition of the Poor's Dignity:** The poor are "the lowly and suffering Messiah" (cf. Mt 26:8-9) and therefore deserve the same reverence given to Christ.
2. **Concrete Gesture:** The story of the woman who anointed Jesus with costly perfume illustrates that even a "small gesture of affection" can become a lasting sign of love when directed to the suffering.
3. **Missionary Dimension:** By loving the poor we "share in his work of liberation as instruments for the spread of his love", echoing the Church's universal call to evangelize through service.

The Exhortation urges believers for Personal Conversion, to let "the tears that can convert our hearts" flow, following the example of the anointed woman who "gave all she had". Parishes are called to "build bridges" and "avoid walls of ignominy," fostering solidarity with migrants, refugees, and all who live on the peripheries. Bishops and religious are to promote "the love of the Lord, who does not differentiate between persons and puts the good of others before all else" (John Paul II, *Cor Unum*), ensuring that the Church's structures prioritize the needs of the poor.

The Apostolic Exhortation *Dilēxi Te* crystallizes a central tenet of contemporary Catholic social teaching: the love that Christ has already poured out for the poor must become the love that each disciple lives out today. By rooting the document in Scripture, linking it to recent papal teachings, and presenting concrete pathways for conversion and action, Pope Leo XIV invites the whole People of God to become "instruments of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor," thereby fulfilling the Gospel's call to love neighbour as self.

• **Job Opportunity:** Are you a passionate and visionary leader ready to shape the future of a vibrant Catholic primary school? Do you believe in nurturing every child's potential through faith, love, and learning? St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust welcomes applications from practising and committed Catholics for the **post of Headteacher** at Our Lady & St Peter RC Primary School in Bridlington. This post may be suitable for serving Heads or from a senior leader looking at Headship for the first time. Secondments would also be considered. We are seeking a dedicated Headteacher who will lead our school community with integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to the teachings of Christ. This is a unique opportunity to build upon our strong foundations and guide us into an exciting new chapter. For the full advert, job description and application pack go to: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/147210/EDV-2025-OLASPCSCVA-36294>

• Vantage North Humber Teacher Training is the trading name for St Mary's College, Hull and is now recruiting to fill **primary and secondary teacher training places** for 2026-2027. Vantage works with St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust as well as other local schools to ensure that all its trainees have quality training placements. Use the link below to find out more and apply. There is also information on the website about paid summer internships for current undergraduates and graduates in key shortage subjects who are interested in exploring a teaching career. Please see www.vnhht.org/how-to-apply



November List: if you wish your dear ones to be on the November List Masses, please put the names of those you wish included in the provided envelope, together with your donation, and hand it to Fr Albert or Fr Paul. Please indicate clearly which Church you want your list to be added. For every £20 collected in donations, a Mass will be offered for all names on the November list.

The Blessing of the cemeteries at Bridlington, Filey & Scarborough are:

Blessing of Bridlington Cemetery on Monday, 3rd November at 1:30pm

Blessing of Filey Cemetery on Thursday, 6th November at 1pm.

Blessing of Scarbrough Cemetery on Monday, 10th November at 1pm