



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

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From the President – Cardinal Vincent Nichols

9 March 2017

Feast of St Frances of Rome

His Holiness Pope Francis
Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City

Most Holy Father

I write on behalf of the Catholic Community in England and Wales, and I am sure of many more, to offer you our prayers and congratulations as you reach the fourth anniversary in this time of your service to the Apostolic See.

We thank God that the Holy Spirit guided the Church in the process of your election and that the same Holy Spirit guides and supports you day by day. We thank God for the richness of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are the hallmarks of your ministry: joy and peace, patience and kindness, faithfulness, wisdom and mercy.

Holy Father, we thank you for the steadfast way in which you uphold the teachings of Christ and the Church, presenting them in deed and in word with a freshness and directness, which draws the attention of the world. We pray that God will give you strength and courage to continue this great ministry from which we all draw such encouragement.

I assure you, Holy Father, of the love, the esteem and the whole-hearted support of us all.

Please, Holy Father, give us your blessing as we give you our love.

Yours sincerely

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
President, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales