



# The Holy See

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**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II  
TO PILGRIMS FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
AND FROM THE DIOCESE OF YORK**

*Thursday, 22 April 1993*

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here today, pilgrims to Rome from the Church of England and from the Diocese of York. In particular I greet the Archdeacon of York, the Venerable George Austin, and through him I wish to convey my good wishes to your Archbishop and to all the clergy and laity of your Diocese.

In May 1982 it was my joy to visit York during the course of my pastoral visit to the Catholic Church in Great Britain. That visit had special significance in our common quest for the fulness of unity among Christ's followers. Although the path to unity is beset by trials and by serious obstacles, we must continue to rely on the grace of the Holy Spirit, who will in his own time bring about the fulfilment of the prayer of Christ himself: "May they all be one" (Jn. 17: 21).

More recently, at the Day of Prayer for Peace in Europe and especially in the Balkan region, which was convened at Assisi in January of this year, the Archbishop of York represented the Church of England. His presence was deeply appreciated. In the face of the terrible violence and injustice that confronts us in the world today, it is vital that Christians should bear united witness to the Prince of Peace, who alone can free us from the sin and disorder which lie at the root of the evil in the world.

I am aware that you are visiting Rome in support of the Anglican Centre, which stands as a symbol of the longing for reconciliation between Catholics and Anglicans. That longing is shared by the Bishop of Rome, and it is in such a spirit of hope and confidence in God that I invoke abundant divine blessings upon you and your families.

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