



23 July 2026

Dear Prime Minister

The Catholic Bishops of Scotland offer our warmest congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister. We assure you of our prayers and urge you to exercise your office with moral clarity, courage and a firm commitment to justice, peace and the common good.

At this time of grave national and international challenge, we ask you and your Government to place human dignity at the centre of your work: defending life wherever it is threatened, protecting the poorest and most vulnerable, fostering a welcoming attitude to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and resisting policies that deepen suffering, division or fear.

This commitment is especially relevant to the United Kingdom's approach to the Middle East. The continuing conflict calls for moral clarity, humanitarian concern and a sustained commitment to the dignity of all peoples. Any response should acknowledge the suffering experienced by communities across the region, support the protection of innocent life, uphold access to humanitarian aid, reject violence, seek the release of detainees and encourage a political settlement rooted in justice, security and equal dignity for all people.

More widely, peace should remain a defining priority in international affairs. The war in Ukraine, the conflict involving Iran, and the many other crises afflicting the world require sustained diplomacy, humanitarian concern and a rejection of the idea that violence is inevitable. The United Kingdom has an important role to play in encouraging ceasefires, negotiations, the protection of civilians, respect for international law and the pursuit of just peace wherever war destroys lives and nations.

That pursuit of peace should also inform decisions on public spending and national security. A balanced approach should recognise the importance of diplomacy, dialogue, development, disarmament and the protection of human life alongside legitimate security concerns. In this context, we urge your Government to take seriously the moral and humanitarian implications of nuclear weapons and on how public resources can best serve peace, stability and the healing of a wounded world.

For that reason, we strongly urge you to reverse the cuts to foreign aid and restore the United Kingdom's commitment to spending 0.7% of GDP on international development. Reducing support for the world's poorest communities while increasing military and nuclear expenditure sends the wrong moral signal and weakens our service to peace, stability and human flourishing.



The same concern for the vulnerable must guide care for creation. Climate change is already causing great damage across the world, especially among poorer communities. Your Government must remain steadfast in meeting the United Kingdom's commitments to pursuing a just transition to renewable energy, meeting net zero targets, reducing emissions and protecting communities from climate harm.

We also urge you to protect human life at every stage, including the unborn and those at the end of life. To this end, we urge you to reject repeated proposals to legalise assisted suicide. A compassionate society should not make it easier for vulnerable, elderly, disabled or terminally ill people to end their lives, but should accompany every person with dignity and practical support until natural death. We ask you, instead, to improve end-of-life care, including better funded and more accessible palliative care, so that no one feels driven towards death by pain, loneliness, fear or lack of support.

As you address these pressing issues, we ask you to act with compassion, justice, solidarity and respect for human dignity. We also encourage the fostering of a climate of goodwill and good faith in political debate, so that public life may be marked by honesty, mutual respect and a shared concern for the common good. We pray that your leadership will defend the vulnerable, name injustice honestly and help build a more peaceful, humane and sustainable world.

Yours sincerely,

+ John Keenan, President, Bishop of Paisley
+ Brian McGee, Vice President, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles
+ Andrew McKenzie, Episcopal Secretary, Bishop of Dunkeld
+ Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh
+ William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow
+ Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell
+ Hugh Gilbert, Bishop of Aberdeen
+ Francis Dougan, Bishop of Galloway