Christian News | 13 November 2026 | English article

Pope Leo XIV Returns to Chiclayo Today for Mass

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Pope Leo XIV returns today, Friday 13 November 2026, to Chiclayo, Peru, the diocese he led as bishop from 2015 to 2023, for an open-air Mass at 10:30 a.M"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Pope Leo XIV returns today, Friday 13 November 2026, to Chiclayo, Peru, the diocese he led as bishop from 2015 to 2023, for an open-air Mass at 10:30 a.M. Near the Pampas de Pimentel. Around a million faithful are expected at the Mass, with some reports putting the figure as high as 1.5 Million. The Pope flies from Lima at 7:40 a.M. For a day that brings him back to the city that still calls him "Padre Robert".

This is not a state visit to a place he barely knows. Chiclayo is home.

Leo XIV spent eight years as its bishop, walking its streets, confirming its children, burying its dead and sharing its table. He left for Rome in 2023, and the city has been waiting for him to come back ever since.

Among those waiting is Zuly Castillo, his former secretary in Chiclayo, who has spoken of the homecoming in the days before the visit. She worked beside him through those eight years, and her presence in the coverage of the trip is a reminder that this return is personal before it is ceremonial: a pastor coming back to the people he once shepherded, and to the staff who kept his diary and answered his door.

Pope Leo XIV Chiclayo Mass Today November 13

The Mass is the centre of the day. It will be held in the open air near the Pampas de Pimentel at 10:30 a.M. Local time, and the expected crowd is enormous.

Around a million faithful are expected, and some reports put the figure as high as 1.5 Million. Those are expectations, not counts: the Mass has not happened yet, and the true number will only be known once the crowds have gathered and the day is done.

The scale is in keeping with the rest of this trip. Leo XIV was welcomed by around 3 million people when he arrived in Lima on 11 November, as Pope Leo XIV Welcomed by 3 Million in Peru Today reported, and he drew 2.5 Million to a Mass in Buenos Aires earlier in the journey, as Pope Leo Draws 2.5 Million to Buenos Aires Mass reported. Peru has answered his homecoming with numbers that match the affection.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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