

Pope Francis laid to rest at Vatican funeral

28th April 2025



Pope Francis has been laid to rest after a solemn ceremony in Rome. The funeral and procession were attended by more than 250,000 people. Many high-ranking church officials, royalty, heads of state, and foreign dignitaries paid their respects to the

pontiff in the magnificent 16th-century St Peter's Basilica. The Vatican News website called the ceremony "moving, intense, and heartfelt". Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday, aged 88, after serving as head of the Catholic Church for 12 years. Francis was the first Pope from South America. A Catholic Church cardinal said the outpouring of affection in the Vatican streets "tells us how much Pope Francis touched minds and hearts".

Pope Francis was a hugely popular pontiff. He was seen as a man who did his utmost to bring people together. Cardinal Re told mourners that the late Pope had a deep commitment to the plight of migrants and to world peace. Cardinal Re said Francis had constantly urged people to "build bridges, not walls". Francis was always outspoken in his criticism of war. He continually urged leaders to end conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and Myanmar. Francis will also be remembered for his calls for greater inclusivity. He gave his conditional blessing of same-sex couples. He also recognized transgender and LGBTQ+ issues, even though this brought criticism from conservatives.

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [vaticannews.va](https://www.vaticannews.va)

Writing

Religious leaders are better than political leaders. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

solemn / ceremony / funeral / procession / royalty / paying respects / Pope / affection / popular / mourners / migrants / building bridges / war / same-sex couples / LGBTQ+

True / False

- 1) Over a quarter of a million people were at Pope Francis' funeral. T / F
- 2) The St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican was built in the 1500s. T / F
- 3) Pope Francis passed away on Easter Sunday. T / F
- 4) Pope Francis is the only Pope ever to come from South America. T / F
- 5) Pope Francis used to be builder and helped design and build bridges. T / F
- 6) Pope Francis rarely spoke about war. T / F
- 7) Pope Francis was opposed to same-sex couples. T / F
- 8) Pope Francis' views on LGBTQ+ issues were popular with conservatives. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. laid to rest | a. deceased |
| 2. solemn | b. VIPs |
| 3. dignitaries | c. love |
| 4. moving | d. disapproval |
| 5. affection | e. dignified |
| 6. utmost | f. difficult condition |
| 7. late | g. buried |
| 8. plight | h. support |
| 9. blessing | i. touching |
| 10. criticism | j. best |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Who in the world can bring people together?
- c) How can the world help migrants?
- d) What can we do to achieve peace in the world?
- e) Where should the next Pope come from?
- f) How can we create more inclusivity in the world?
- g) What LGBTQ+ issues need to be addressed?
- h) What questions would you like to ask an expert on Pope Francis?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Francis has been laid to rest after a | a. bring people together |
| 2. many high-ranking church | b. respects to the pontiff |
| 3. heads | c. LGBTQ+ issues |
| 4. paid their | d. migrants |
| 5. the outpouring | e. officials |
| 6. a man who did his utmost to | f. inclusivity |
| 7. a deep commitment to the plight of | g. of affection |
| 8. Francis was always | h. solemn ceremony in Rome |
| 9. remembered for his calls for greater | i. outspoken |
| 10. He also recognized transgender and | j. of state |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Pope Francis?
- Who is the world's greatest religious leader?
- How important are religious leaders?
- What good did Pope Francis do for the world?
- What do you know about the Catholic Church?
- Why do people stick to one religion?
- How religious are you?
- Who has touched your heart and mind?

Spelling

- laid to rest after a solemn mcenroey
- The funeral and sosicnoper
- foreign giredisanti
- the nimegacfitn 16th-century St Peter's Basilica
- A Catholic Church anldciar
- the quitnoporu of affection
- Pope Francis was a hugely popular fpitnof
- Cardinal Re told ernousmr that
- a deep commitment to the thgilp of migrants
- Francis was always nkeootpus
- his calls for greater vityisicnul
- this brought iticsicrm from conservatives

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. b	4. i	5. c
6. j	7. a	8. f	9. h	10. d

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	How many people attended Pope Francis' funeral and procession?
2.	When was the St Peter's Basilica built?
3.	Who called the ceremony "moving, intense, and heartfelt"?
4.	How many Popes have there been from South America?
5.	What did a cardinal say Pope Francis touched?
6.	What did Pope Francis bring together?
7.	Who was Pope Francis concerned about the plight of?
8.	What was Pope Francis outspoken about?
9.	What think did Pope Francis want there to be more of?
10.	Who criticized Pope Francis' views on LGBTQ+ issues?

Speaking – Leaders

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important leaders at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Political leaders | • Civic leaders |
| • Religious leaders | • Civil rights leaders |
| • National leaders | • Business leaders |
| • Military leaders | • Team leaders |

Answers – True False

1	T	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	F	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.