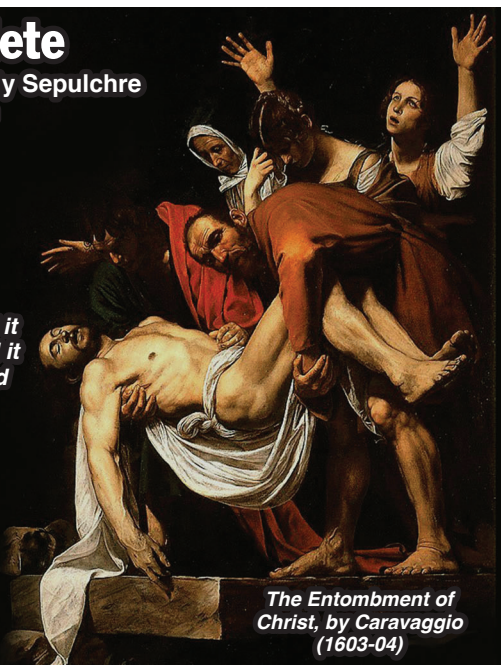
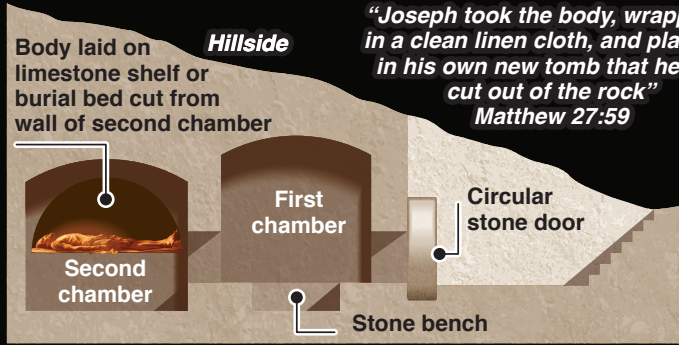


# Restoration of Jesus' tomb complete

Easter celebrations are to take place in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City for the first time after the completion of major restoration works at the tomb where Jesus Christ is traditionally believed to have been buried

## Tomb of Jesus

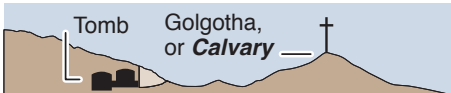
Gospels, composed within decades of crucifixion, describe how Christ was buried in rock-cut tomb belonging to **Joseph of Arimathea** – wealthy Jewish follower of Jesus



## Archaeology of the tomb

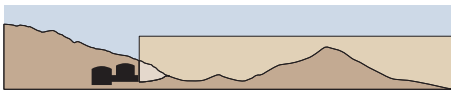
### 33AD Crucifixion of Jesus

According to scripture, Jesus was buried near site of crucifixion on **Golgotha** "place of skulls" – outside ancient city walls



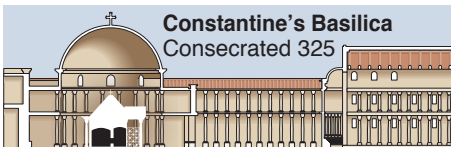
### 135AD Reconstruction

Roman emperor Hadrian had ground levelled to build Temple of Aphrodite



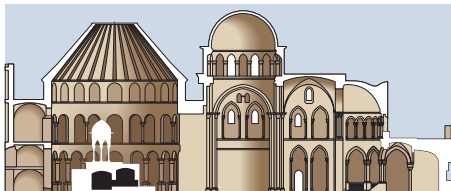
### 325AD Byzantine period

**Constantine**, first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity, uncovers tomb and builds first church on site



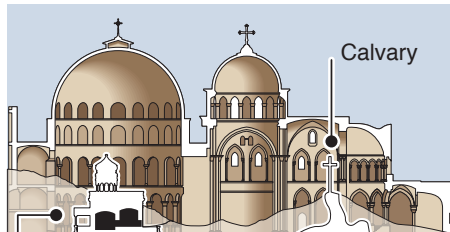
### 1149AD Crusader period

Church restored after Christians recapture city, ending 400 years of Muslim rule



**Church of the Holy Sepulchre**  
Basilica and chapels united under one roof for first time

**Today** Church owes its current shape to restoration works undertaken after 1808 fire and 1927 earthquake



Original hillside superimposed on current church



\$3.3m renovations funded by Greek and Armenian Orthodox, and Roman Catholic churches, and personal donation by **King Abdullah** of Jordan

## Edicule

2016-17 works focused on 18th-century shrine enclosing Jesus' tomb, known as **Edicule** – from Latin **Aedicule** (little house)

Burial bed of Jesus revealed to be intact after marble cladding covering original tomb was removed

