

Historic papal visit to Iraq

Pope Francis is set to make a four-day trip to Iraq, marking the first time that a pope has ever visited the country. It will be his first foreign visit since the coronavirus pandemic struck the world



POPE FRANCIS' ITINERARY

1 Mar 5: Flies to Baghdad airport, greeted by Iraqi Prime Minister **Mustafa al-Kadhimi**. Official welcome ceremony at Presidential Palace, meets Iraqi President **Barham Salih**

Meeting with Catholic priests and nuns in **Our Lady of Salvation Church** in Baghdad – site of 2010 massacre by Al Qaeda-linked gunmen that killed 58 people

2 Mar 6: Travels to Najaf, meets with **Ali al-Sistani**, Iraq's top Shiite Muslim cleric

3 Flies to Nasiriyah. Hosts interfaith meeting in ancient city of Ur, birthplace of **Abraham** – prophet common to Muslims, Christians and Jews

1 Returns to Baghdad to celebrate mass at **Chaldean Cathedral of Saint Joseph**



4 Mar 7: Departs for Irbil, meets with representatives of autonomous region of Kurdistan

5 Offers prayer in Mosul at memorial for victims of conflict in Iraq

6 Visits Qaraqosh, largest Christian town in Iraq where population fled when so-called Islamic State arrived in 2014

4 Celebrates mass at Irbil's **Franso Hariri Stadium** before returning to Baghdad

1 Mar 8: Farewell ceremony at Baghdad airport