

Life and times of Pope Francis



Pope Francis' coat of arms



■ **Dec 17, 1936:** Born **Jorge Mario Bergoglio** in Buenos Aires, son of Italian immigrants to Argentina

■ **1958:** Joins Jesuits after recovering from losing part of right lung during severe bout of pneumonia

■ **1969:** Ordained as priest

■ **1973-79:** Serves as head of Jesuit order during Argentina's dictatorship amidst accusations of collusion, which Vatican has denied



■ **1992:** Appointed auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires

■ **1998:** Named Archbishop of Buenos Aires (left)

■ **2001:** Appointed cardinal by **Pope John Paul II**

■ **Feb 28, 2013:** **Pope Benedict XVI** (right) steps down due to health concerns – first pontiff to do so in six centuries

■ **Mar 13:** Conclave of cardinals elects Bergoglio, 76, as 266th successor to **St Peter**, becoming first non-European pope in nearly 1,300 years. He takes name **Francis** in honour of **St. Francis of Assisi**, patron saint of the poor



■ **Jul 8:** **Pope Francis** makes first trip, choosing Italian island of Lampedusa to denounce "globalisation of indifference" to plight of migrants

■ **May 2015:** Issues **Laudato Si'** – influential encyclical calling for action on climate change and environmental protection

■ **Sep:** Visits U.S., becoming first pope to address Congress (right)



■ **Feb 2016:** Meets **Kirill I** (below) in first-ever meeting between leaders of Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches



■ **Apr:** In document on family life, Francis urges clergy to be more accepting of homosexuals, single parents and divorced

■ **Sep 2018:** Announces first-ever agreement between China and Holy See over bishop appointments

■ **Feb 2019:** Visits Abu Dhabi for first-ever papal trip to Arabian peninsula and signs declaration of fraternity with Sunni Islam's highest authority, **Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb** (above)

■ Francis convenes Vatican landmark summit on combatting child sex abuse within the Catholic church



■ **Mar 2020:** Performs **Urbi et Orbi** blessing in deserted St. Peter's Square to pray for end to Covid-19 pandemic

■ **Mar 2021:** Makes first ever visit by pontiff to Iraq and meets **Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani**, spiritual leader of millions of Shia Muslims

■ **Jul:** Limits use of Latin in celebration of mass, provoking anger of conservative Catholics

■ **May 2022:** Knee problems result in Pope requiring use of wheelchair

■ **Jul:** Makes "penitential trip" to Canada to apologise to Indigenous survivors of abuse and for attempts at forced assimilation at church-run residential schools



■ **Jan 2023:** Presides over funeral of **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**

■ **Jun:** Undergoes hernia operation, but carries on with trips to Portugal and first ever papal visit to Mongolia later in the year

■ **Oct:** Allows women to vote at Synod of Bishops for first time

■ **Dec:** Permits priests to bless same-sex couples under condition that blessings not be administered during rituals or liturgies

■ **Sep 2024:** Makes longest trip of his tenure to Asia Pacific, visiting Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore



■ **Jan 2025:** Francis appoints **Sister Simona Brambilla** (right) to head Vatican department overseeing religious orders – first woman to lead an office of Holy See

■ Releases **"Hope"** – first ever memoir by sitting pope

■ **Feb 14:** Admitted to hospital for bronchitis that develops into double pneumonia. He is discharged after five weeks



■ **Apr 21:** Pope Francis, 88, dies one day after appearing in St. Peter's Square to wish "Happy Easter" to thousands of worshippers