Pope Leo crowns Sagrada Família skyline

On June 10 in Barcelona, Pope Leo will inaugurate the soaring central tower of the famed Sagrada Família basilica to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí, who designed what is now the world's tallest church



CROSS: Four-armed cross designed as symbol of Christ's universal presence

17m

13.5m

Exterior: Clad in white glazed ceramic and glass, reflects sunlight by day and glows at night

Weight: 200 tonnes

Cross based on double twist geometry – transitioning from square base to octagonal shape

TOWER OF JESUS CHRIST
Finished in February, brings Sagrada Família to its maximum height of 172.5 meters

Viewing platform: Holds up to 11 visitors at a time, offering panoramic views of Barcelona

Access to viewing platform through lift and spiral staircase

Finished
Not finished

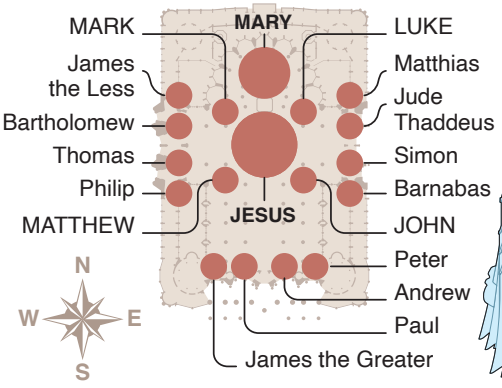
St Barnabas Tower: *Only tower Gaudí would see completed*

Towers of Evangelists (4) 135m

Tower of Mary 138m

Towers of Apostles (12) 98.5-135m

SYMBOLIC TOWERS: Church's 18 towers represent Christianity's most important figures



GRAND FAÇADES: Each of three façades depicts an event in life of Christ; Nativity (east), Passion (west) and Glory (south)

GLORY FAÇADE Temple's main entrance

Central nave

NATIVITY FAÇADE

Sacristies (2)

Crypt: Gaudí burial site

MILESTONES

1882: Construction begins in neo-Gothic style

1883: Gaudí takes over project, radically reimagining design

1926: Gaudí dies after being struck by tram

1936-39: Spanish Civil War; Many of Gaudí's plaster models destroyed

1950s: Work resumes, guided by surviving models

1976: Towers on Passion façade completed

1992: Barcelona hosts Olympic Games, boosting tourism and church revenue

2010: Central nave's vaulting completed; ***Pope Benedict XVI*** consecrates basilica

2020: Construction pauses briefly due to Covid-19 pandemic

2021-23: Tower of Virgin Mary and four towers of Evangelists, inaugurated

Jun 10, 2026: Pope Leo blesses Tower of Jesus

Source: Sagradafamilia.org

Picture: Getty Images

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