



BENCHMARK

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Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, talks about the historic nature of Pope Benedict's visit:

‘I think it will be seen in some of the iconic moments and images – the Pope standing side by side with the Queen, the Pope entering Lambeth Palace, the Pope speaking in Westminster Hall – where St Thomas More was condemned to death – the Pope going to Westminster Abbey and praying with the Archbishop of Canterbury at the tomb of St Edward the Confessor, monarch of this land.

‘The Holy Father is really profoundly looking forward to these few days. He is enthusiastic but also very aware

of the magnitude of this visit. He, so elegantly representing a long tradition of Catholic faith, is coming to engage in a modern world-leading country.

‘He is open to all aspects of our human endeavour. His last teaching document, *Caritas in Veritate*, addressed the financial crisis, education, issues of globalisation and the environment. He does all of these things speaking of the enduring values of Christianity, values that still underpin our society. He approaches this visit as an exercise of meeting, of dialogue and inviting consideration and response.’

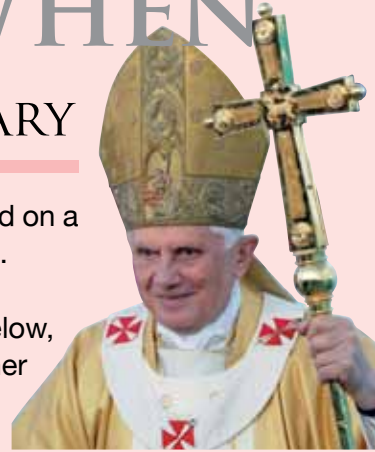


WHERE & WHEN

THE PAPAL VISIT ITINERARY

Pope Benedict XVI will visit England and Scotland on a four-day Papal visit from 16-19 September 2010.

In addition to the detailed event information below, there will be opportunities to see the Holy Father in Edinburgh and London travelling the streets in the Popemobile.



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THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

SCOTLAND

When Pope Benedict arrives in the UK, he will visit Scotland where he will be received by Her Majesty The Queen, members of the Royal Family and people representing British society in the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Having met the Queen, the Pope will travel to Glasgow where he will celebrate an open-air Mass at Bellahouston Park in the evening and then he will fly from Glasgow to London. The Holy Father will then be based in London for the remainder of the visit.



FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

LONDON

On the second day of the visit, Pope Benedict is going to St Mary's University College, Twickenham, where there will be three aspects to his visit. The first is that he begins the day praying with representatives of religious congregations - particularly those who have a charism for education and a history of education.

He will then go and meet 3,000 young people - schoolchildren, students - to celebrate Catholic education. From there he will then meet with religious leaders and people of religious faith in the Waldegrave Drawing Room and Walpole House. He will discuss with them religion and belief in our society.

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Later in the day, the Pope is scheduled to meet with the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace in the presence of the Anglican diocesan bishops and the Catholic diocesan bishops of England and Wales.

He has then been invited, as part of the State visit, to address British society. Representatives of British society will be invited to Westminster Hall to hear the Pope's address.

He will finish off the day with the Archbishop of Canterbury and Christian leaders at Westminster Abbey to celebrate Evening Prayer. The Holy Father will also pray at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior and also at the Shrine of St Edward the Confessor.



SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

LONDON

On the third day of the visit, Pope Benedict will celebrate Mass in Westminster Cathedral where he will also, from there, greet the people of Wales.

Later in the day he will visit a home for older people, giving the Pope an opportunity to go to those who cannot meet with him, and then be present at an open air Vigil of prayer in London's Hyde Park.



SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

BIRMINGHAM

The final day of the visit is focused very much on the beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman, and the Pope will celebrate that beatification in Cofton Park in Birmingham - adjacent, fittingly, to Rednal where Cardinal Newman was buried and the place where

Newman and his community came for rest and recreation in the Lickey Hills.

Pope Benedict will conclude the day by meeting with the bishops of England, Scotland and Wales in Oscott College before returning to Rome from Birmingham Airport.



POPE BENEDICT'S ITINERARY

16th-19th September 2010

SEPTEMBER

16

ROME - EDINBURGH - GLASGOW – LONDON

MORNING

- Departure by air from Rome Ciampino to Edinburgh
- Arrival at Edinburgh International Airport
- GREETING CEREMONY
- Arrival at the Palace of Holyroodhouse

AFTERNOON

- Arrival at Archbishop's House Edinburgh in Popemobile
- Arrival at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow
- Journey through the gathering in the Popemobile

EVENING

- Arrival in the Sacristy
- Celebration of Mass
- Return to the Sacristy
- Arrival at Glasgow International Airport
- Departure by air to London Heathrow Airport
- Arrival at London Heathrow Airport
- Arrival at the Apostolic Nunciature

SEPTEMBER

17

LONDON

MORNING

- Private Celebration of Mass in the Chapel of the Apostolic Nunciature
- Arrive at St Mary's University College, Twickenham
- Education Meeting
- Meeting with religious leaders and people of faith





SEPTEMBER

17

AFTERNOON

- Arrival at the Apostolic Nunciature
- Fraternal visit to the Archbishop of Canterbury
- Transfer to Parliament Sq by Popemobile

EVENING

- Address to civil society in Westminster Hall
- Transfer to Westminster Abbey by Popemobile
- Celebration of evening prayer
- Return to the Apostolic Nunciature

SEPTEMBER

18

LONDON

MORNING

- Arrival at Archbishop's House, Westminster
- Courtesy call from the Prime Minister
- Courtesy call from the Deputy Prime Minister
- Courtesy call from the acting leader of HM opposition
- Celebration of Mass

AFTERNOON

- Greet young people on the Piazza
- Return to the Apostolic Nunciature

EVENING

- Visit to a residence for older people, South London
- Prayer Vigil on the eve of the beatification
- of Cardinal John Henry Newman
- Return to the Apostolic Nunciature



SEPTEMBER

19

LONDON - BIRMINGHAM - ROME

MORNING

- Farewell to the Apostolic Nunciature
- Arrival at Wimbledon park and immediate boarding of helicopters
- Arrival by helicopter in Birmingham
- Immediate transfer by Popemobile to Cofton Park
- Arrival in the Sacristy
- Celebration of Mass with the Beatification of the Venerable Cardinal John Henry Newman

AFTERNOON

- Private visit to the Oratory of St Philip Neri, Birmingham
- Arrival at Oscott College
- Lunch with the Bishops of England, Scotland and Wales and the Papal Entourage

EVENING

- Meeting with the Bishops of England, Scotland and Wales
- Departure ceremony at Birmingham Airport
- Arrival at Rome Ciampino Airport



HOME MISSION SUNDAY

Now is the time: Shine as to be a light to others



Clare Ward, Home Mission Advisor for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, explains how the Papal Visit presents an unprecedented home mission opportunity in which we all have a part to play. She also draws attention to the new resources for parishes that are now available on the Papal website.

Cardinal Newman prayed to 'shine as to be a light to others' and this month three events in the life of the Church invite us to do precisely that in a historic and powerful way.

September 19th 2010 is Home Mission Sunday. This is a day of prayer for Home Mission and the spread of the Gospel in our countries. On this day every member of the Catholic Community is invited to pray for the mission of the Church in a special way and also to reflect on their own role in it. The call to mission is not just for a selected few to respond to,

but as we read in an important document written by Pope Paul VI titled *Evangelii Nuntiandi*: 'The command to the Twelve to go out and proclaim the Good News is also valid for all Christians... Those who have received the Good News and who have been gathered by it into the community of salvation can and must communicate and spread it' (13) There are no exceptions.

The importance of Home Mission Sunday and the Church's need to engage in a new evangelistic impetus was most recently highlighted when Pope Benedict XVI announced the creation of a new





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Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation. Speaking on the Feast of Ss Peter and Paul on 29th June, he said that the new Council has: ‘..the specific task of promoting a renewed evangelisation in countries where the first proclamation of the faith already resounded’.

He spoke of the reality in some countries of: ‘...a sort of “eclipse of the sense of God,” which constitutes a challenge to find the appropriate means to propose again the perennial truth of the Gospel of Christ.’

Events in the life of the Church in England and Wales signpost us to a historic time of witness

It’s this reality which will no doubt be on the Holy Father’s mind as he visits the United Kingdom.

Events in the life of the Church in England and Wales signpost us to a historic time of witness. The visit of the Holy Father presents us all with an opportunity to, with God’s grace, ‘shine as to be a light to others’. Jesus only has our hands, our feet and our mouths, our hearts, our ‘yes’ and it is for each one of us to consider how and when we will share the joy of our faith. How our individual witness finds expression will differ according to God’s plan for us. For some we will witness through being seen at a public event, joining thousands of others in prayer, with the possibility of a television appearance, our photograph being taken or giving an impromptu media interview.

For others it might be through attending a gathering with neighbours and friends in a local parish, school or some other venue. There may also be the opportunity to speak about faith over the garden fence or to witness through an act of



charity. It is important to be attentive to the opportunities that present themselves, always acting and speaking in a respectful and loving way. Our individual and joint witness will go some way to shape the legacy of this occasion.

Consider the use of visible signs and technology. Papal flags and bunting are accessible from suppliers so that our joy can be seen in our local communities.

In Pope Benedict XVI's World Communications Day message this year he said: 'God's loving care for all people in Christ must be expressed in the digital world not simply as an artefact from the past, or a learned theory, but as something concrete'. He added that in this way we can

Our individual and joint witness will go some way to shape the legacy of this occasion

show people, 'that God is near; that in Christ we all belong to one another' (16 May 2010). Do visit and use the social networking resources created for the Papal Visit - Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo, Flickr - linked from the Papal Visit website: www.thepapalvisit.org.uk.

A selection of the bishops of England and Wales have recorded short faith testimonies on video. These can be viewed on the Papal Visit website. It is hoped that these videos will encourage every member of the Catholic Community to reflect on their faith journey and identify a moment when God has spoken to them heart-to-heart. In this way we will help to bring alive for others the meaning of the theme of the



Papal Visit, signposting them to a life-changing encounter with God.

The third event of great importance is the beatification of Cardinal Newman who had a profound understanding that his life had a purpose and a mission. He firmly believed that all who are baptised are called to ‘radiate the presence of Christ’, to ‘shine as to be a light to others’. He was also convicted of the role of the laity in Catholic Mission and wrote about it long before Pope John Paul II’s, Post-Synodical Apostolic Exhortation, *Christifideles Laici*. In a particular way on this year’s Home Mission Sunday, Newman is offered to us as a role model of Christian witness.

The second collection taken on Home Mission Sunday supports the work of the Home Mission Desk at the Bishops’ Conference. During the past year donations have funded substantial work in supporting the Papal Visit. During the year ahead, they will support the organisation of a series of events such as a day conference to develop skills to reach out to non churchgoing



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Catholics and the creation of post Papal Visit materials. The collection also helps to maintain the Catholic Enquiry Office as a national point of contact for faith enquirers; see www.life4seekers.co.uk.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and support. For more information about Home Mission Sunday please see www.thecatholicchurch.org.uk.

Newman wrote at a pivotal moment on his journey of life: ‘God has still some work for me to do’. The three-fold celebrations of Home Mission Sunday, the Papal Visit and the beatification this month, clearly herald not the climax of the life of the Catholic Community in England and Wales, but mark the start of a new mission. ‘Go therefore, make disciples’ (Matthew 28: 19).

