





CONCLAVE Under lock and key

Papal Conclave
FAITH – T r u s t i n g G o d t o G u i d e H i s
C h u r c h

CONCLAVE

Under lock and key



It is in great hope and thanks giving we turn to the Lord today. We start our prayer by inviting everyone to join together making the sign of the Cross

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
Amen

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Today we are going to think about faith—trusting in God, especially when we don't know what's going to happen next.

We are also remembering someone very special: Pope Francis, who loved and served Jesus with all his heart. Now, the Church is getting ready to choose a new Pope. The cardinals from around the world are meeting in Rome, and they are praying for God to guide them.

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What is a Cardinal?

A Cardinal is the highest ranking Priest below the Pope, serving as an advisor to the Pope and a member of the College of Cardinals. Cardinals are chosen by the Pope and typically hold the title for life. They are also responsible for electing a new Pope.



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Conclave is a meeting of all the Cardinals to decide on the next Pope. They meet in the Sistine Chapel, Vatican City, but they are not allowed to communicate with the outside world. The term conclave comes from the Latin phrase cum clave, meaning “with a key.”

CONCLAVE

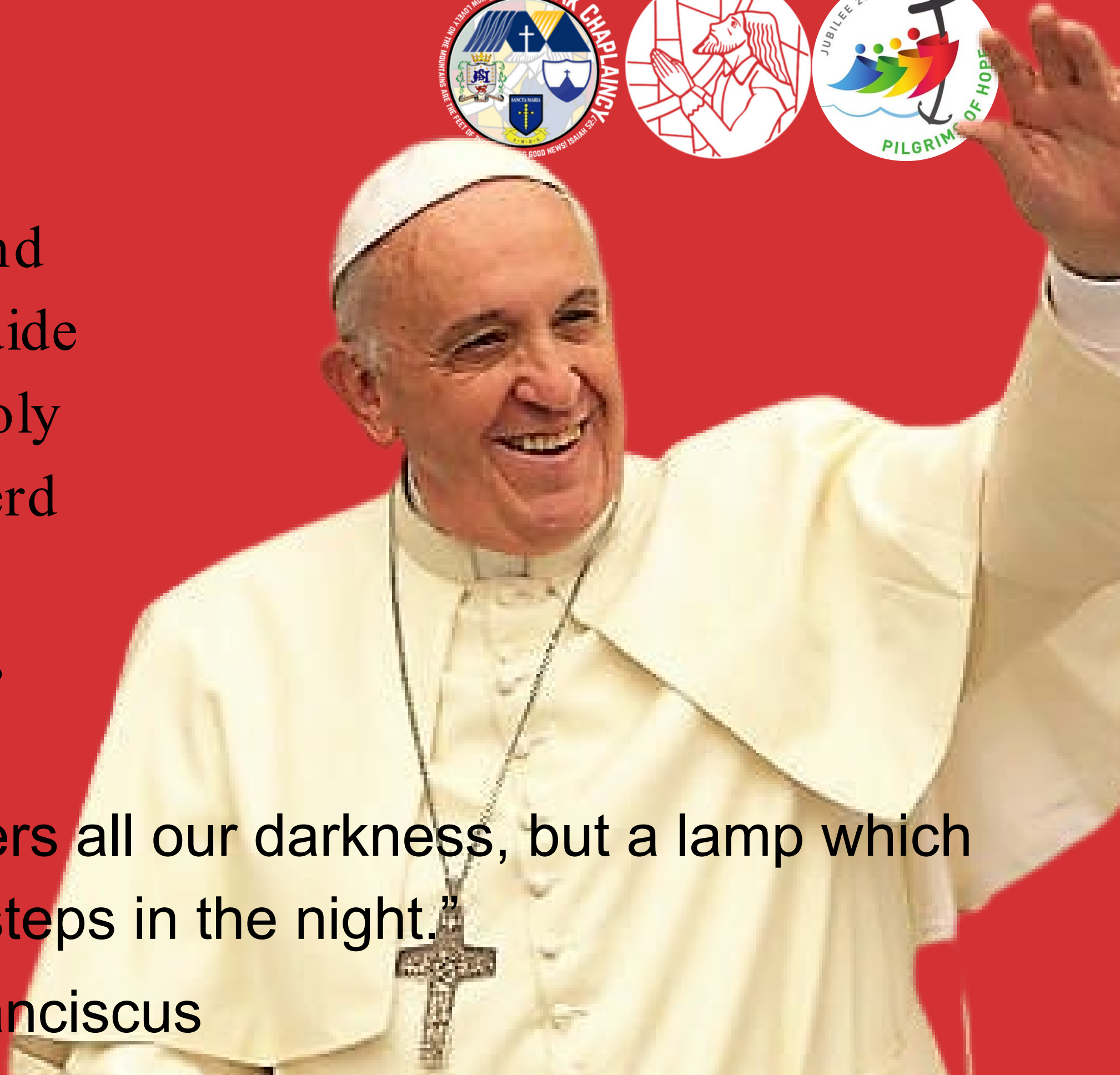
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Today, we gather in prayer and solidarity as the Catholic Church and the world pray to Holy Spirit to guide the Cardinals as they elect a new Holy Father. We pray for a new shepherd for the global flock.

The word of the week this week is
FAITH.

“Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night.”

Franciscus



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Loving God,
Thank You for Pope Francis and the love he shared.
Help the cardinals as they choose a new pope.
Fill them with Your wisdom and peace.
Help us to trust You, even when we feel unsure.
Make our hearts strong with faith.
Amen.

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A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Glory to you O' Lord

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

“Some say John the Baptist,” they answered. “Others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet.”

“What about you?” he asked them. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

“Good for you, Simon son of John!” answered Jesus. “For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

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Let's think about what happened in that Bible story.

Jesus asked a big question: "Who do you think I am?"

Peter didn't just guess. He believed. He had faith that Jesus was the Son of God.

And do you know what Jesus said? "Peter, you are the rock. And on this rock, I will build my Church."

Jesus didn't choose Peter because he was perfect. He chose him because Peter believed and trusted Him.

Now, the cardinals are asking the same question in their hearts: "Who will help us lead the Church?" They are praying, listening to God, and asking the Holy Spirit to guide them —just like Jesus guided Peter.

We can have faith, too. Even when we don't know who the next pope will be, we believe that God is in charge. We trust that He will give the Church a loving and wise leader.

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We are reminded that faith is not about knowing all the answers. It's about trusting God when we don't.

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Let us bring our prayers before God.

We pray for the soul of Pope Francis – may he rest in peace, and may his life continue to inspire the world. Lord, in your mercy...Hear our prayer.

We pray for the cardinals in Conclave – that they listen to the Holy Spirit in choosing a new pope. Lord, in your mercy...Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church throughout the world – that our faith may be strong, united, and hopeful. Lord, in your mercy...Hear our prayer.

We pray for all leaders – that they may lead with humility, love, and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy...Hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves – that we may grow in faith and courage in our daily lives. Lord, in your mercy...Hear our prayer.

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Loving God,

Thank You for being with us today.

Thank You for the life and love of Pope Francis.

Please guide the cardinals with Your Holy Spirit as they choose the next Pope.

Help us to be faithful, like Peter—full of courage, trust, and love.
May we be rocks of faith in our school, our families, and our world.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son.

Amen.

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After each vote the votes are announced to the college of Cardinals, if there is not a two thirds majority for one Cardinal the votes are burnt and black smoke tell the world that there has been a vote but no decision has been made. They will continue to vote until someone has enough votes. This can take days.

If when they vote there is a Cardinal with over a two thirds majority, we have a new Pope, the votes are burnt and white smoke comes out of the chimney of the Sistine Chapel to tell the world that we have a new Pope.



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We pray that when we see the white smoke rising above St Peter's Basilica in the coming days that the Holy Spirit guides our new Holy Father to lead with mercy, compassion and love. We send up all our prayer to God the Father through the intercession of Mary by praying together the Hail Mary...

St Peter the first Pope. Pray for us

St Pope John Paul II. Pray for us

