



BISSCHOPPENCONFERENTIE VAN BELGIË
Guimardstraat 1 – B-1040 Brussel

+32 (0)2 507 05 93 • ce.belgica@interdio.be

CONFÉRENCE DES ÉVÊQUES DE BELGIQUE
rue Guimard 1 – B-1040 Bruxelles

WELCOME TO POPE FRANCIS!

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BELGIUM IS HIGHLY ENTHUSIASTIC
ABOUT THE POPE'S EXCEPTIONAL VISIT TO OUR COUNTRY**

20/05/2024 – Today, the Vatican officially confirmed that Pope Francis will visit Belgium this autumn, from the evening of Thursday 26 September until Sunday 29 September. The Catholic Church in Belgium is very grateful to Pope Francis for this exceptional visit. Like many others in Belgium and abroad, the Church is very much looking forward to this visit.

In an interview last autumn, Pope Francis himself announced that he wished to accept the invitation from our country's civil and ecclesiastical authorities to visit Belgium on the occasion of the six-hundredth anniversary of the Catholic universities of Louvain and Louvain-la-Neuve.

“His heart spoke”

Archbishop Luc Terlinden, a former student at both universities, described the visit as a particularly pleasant surprise and a source of great joy.

Archbishop Terlinden added: “One must bear in mind that the Pope does not frequently visit European countries, especially Western European countries. For that reason, we weren't really expecting the visit to take place. That said, however, I think that Pope Francis had wanted to come to Belgium for a long time. One of the reasons for this is that he got to know a few Belgians in his early years in Argentina. I think it was above all his heart that spoke when taking this decision”.

“But above all, let's not forget that this visit is part of the celebration of the six-hundredth anniversary of the universities in Louvain and Louvain-la-Neuve. It is therefore a very special occasion, since the Pope will also meet the intellectual and scientific communities of our country and, by extension, various actors in Belgian society as a whole.”

www.Popevisit.be

The full programme for the visit is currently determined. The Belgian Bishops' Conference set up a national committee to ensure an excellent preparation for the visit. It is headed by honorary ambassador Alexis Brouhns, who is liaising with the various partners (Bishops' Conference, Nunciature, Foreign Affairs, and the two universities). Ambassador Brouhns is also coordinating the organisation's specific sub-committees, namely the logistical preparations led by former episcopal delegate Patrick du Bois, the liturgical component led by Vicar General Eric de Beukelaer, and communications led by spokesperson Geert De Kerpel.

As soon as the programme has been finalised, it will be published on the website www.Popevisit.be. The general public will also be able to make reservations for the closing Eucharist on Sunday morning.

For the Dutch version of this press release: [click here](#)

For the French version of this press release: [click here](#)

For the German version of this press release: [click here](#)

SERVICE D'INFORMATION ET DE PRESSE DE LA CONFERENCE DES EVEQUES DE BELGIQUE