

# Pope Leo XIV



A new Pope was chosen.

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, after just two days of voting in the Conclave, white smoke appeared from the chimney above the Sistine Chapel and the bells were rung, signalling to the thousands of people gathered in the square below that a new pope had been elected.

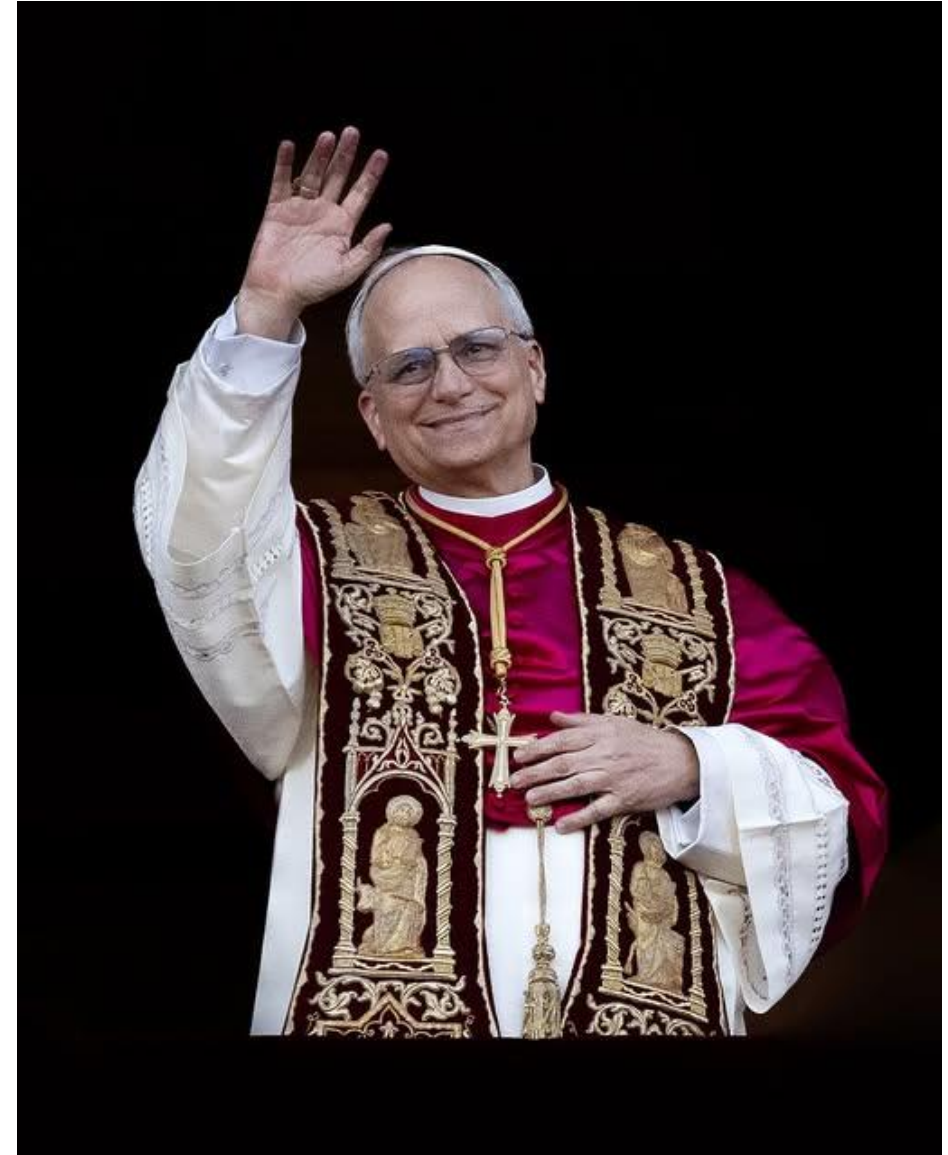
Thousands more people rushed to the square to await the announcement.



The new Pope is the 266<sup>th</sup> Pope after Saint Peter.

He is taking the name 'Pope Leo XIV'.

He is from North America .





The sight that greeted the new Pope – thousands of people in St Peter's Square – must have been both slightly daunting and also encouraging.

He knows that he has great support, not only from people there, but from Catholics all around the world.



He has chosen the name Leo. The last pope with this name was Pope Leo XIII, over one hundred years ago, whose work was the basis for Catholic Social Teaching.

As we celebrate this Year of Jubilee 2025 when we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope, we give thanks that Pope Leo XIV will continue to speak up for those who are poor or marginalised in our world.



In his first speech, Pope Leo said, 'We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs his light. Humanity needs Christ as a bridge to be reached by God and his love. Help us, and help each other, build bridges.'

Pope Leo speaks many languages – English, Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese – and he can also read Latin and German.



On the balcony, Pope Leo's first words were

'Peace be with all of you', echoing the words Jesus spoke to his disciples when he appeared to them after his Resurrection.

Let us listen to those words from John's Gospel.





Just as Class 1S told us in their assembly...

‘On the evening of that day, the first day of the week,  
the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews  
Jesus came and stood among them and said to them,  
‘Peace be with you.’

*John 20:19-2*



We pray that Pope Leo may lead the Church with wisdom and compassion and be a sign of God's love and mercy for all.

Lord, in your mercy. **All:** Hear our prayer.

We pray that Pope Leo may have the courage to speak the message of the Gospel, bringing hope to those who need it most.

Lord, in your mercy. **All:** Hear our prayer.

We pray that Pope Leo may bring people together where there is arguing and fighting

Lord, in your mercy. **All:** Hear our prayer.



We pray together as Jesus taught us:

Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us  
and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.



