



Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir

LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF IZMIR
The Visit of Pope Leo XIV — 27 to 30 November

The visit of Pope Leo XIV to Turkey has been officially announced. His Holiness will visit the Christian communities in Turkey from 27 to 30 November, after which he will continue on to Lebanon.

He will begin his visit by meeting with the President of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Following this, he will devote his time to the Christian communities present in Türkiye. For all of us, and for our Church, this is a significant event—one that will deepen our faith and renew our sense of communion and belonging to the Church, founded by Christ and rooted in the Paschal Mystery as the sacrament of salvation.

The primary purpose of Pope Leo's visit is to meet with His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew and to continue the ecumenical efforts initiated by his predecessors. In accordance with the wishes of the late Pope Francis, he will also visit Nicaea with Patriarch Bartholomew to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea. The Holy Father comes to us as a pastor to share his message. Let us receive his words of comfort and hope with open hearts. May we be receptive to his encouragement so that we may live more fully according to the values of the Gospel and the principles that guide the followers of Jesus Christ.

In his addresses, the Pope will also emphasize the importance of dialogue with Islam and reflect on the urgent need for peace in the world—especially in Palestine and throughout the Middle East. Pope Leo comes as a pilgrim of hope. His visit is intended to share the message of Christianity with all people of goodwill, expressing the Church's care and solidarity with the poor and those who are marginalized.

Let us prepare ourselves for this visit through prayer and a renewed deepening of our faith. May we see it as a profound sign of the Father's love for all of us. May God bless Pope Leo and grant him the light and strength to guide us, and all God's people, on the path of salvation. May the Virgin Mary receive our intentions into her Immaculate Heart and present our prayers to Jesus, her Son—our Lord and Savior.

With sincere wishes I greet you in Jesus Christ, our only hope.

Fatima 10.10. 2025

+ Martin Kmetec

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