



## ROYAL COMMUNICATIONS

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### **THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN UNDERTAKE STATE VISITS TO THE HOLY SEE AND THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY**

Their Majesties The King and Queen will undertake State Visits to the Holy See and the Republic of Italy in early April 2025.

During Their Majesties' State visit to the Holy See, The King and Queen will join His Holiness Pope Francis in celebrating the 2025 Jubilee Year. Traditionally held once every 25 years, the Jubilee is a special year for the Catholic Church; a year of walking together as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

During Their Majesties' State Visit to the Republic of Italy, The King and Queen will undertake engagements in Rome and Ravenna, celebrating the strong bilateral relationship between Italy and the United Kingdom.

***Further details of Their Majesties' programmes in the Holy See and Republic of Italy will be announced in due course.***

#### **Previous Royal visits to the Holy See and the Italian Republic:**

His Majesty The King, as Prince of Wales, has visited the Holy See on five occasions: April 1985, April 2005 for the funeral of Pope John Paul II, April 2009, April 2017 and October 2019 for the Canonisation of Cardinal John Henry Newman. Her Majesty The Queen, as Duchess of Cornwall, joined His Majesty for the visits in April 2009 and April 2017.

As Prince of Wales, His Majesty was received in Audience by Pope Benedict XVI during the 2009 visit and Pope Francis during his visits in 2017 and 2019. In 1982, His Majesty also met Pope John Paul II in Canterbury during the first ever visit of a Pope on British soil.

The King has officially visited the Republic of Italy seventeen times, with his first visit in 1984 and most recent in October 2021 for the G20 Summit in Rome. The Queen joined His Majesty on two of these visits, in 2009 and 2017.

Queen Elizabeth II visited the Holy See and the Republic of Italy four times, each time accompanied by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. This included in October 2000 for the Great Jubilee of Year 2000.

#### **Social media**

X: @RoyalFamily / @UKinHolySee/ @UKinItaly

Instagram: @theroyalfamily

Facebook: TheBritishMonarchy / ukinitaly

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