

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLIS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 180826e

Sunday 26.08.2018

Apostolic Trip of His Holiness Francis in Ireland for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin (25-26 August 2018) – Farewell to Ireland, Telegram to the President of the Republic of Ireland and Telegrams to Heads of State

Farewell Ceremony

Telegram to the President of the Republic of Ireland

Telegrams to Heads of State during flight from Dublin to Rome

Farewell Ceremony

This afternoon, at 18.15 local time (19.15 in Rome), the official farewell ceremony concluding the Holy Father's apostolic trip to Ireland took place in Dublin International Airport.

Upon arrival the Holy Father Francis was received, at the foot of the aircraft, by the *Taoiseach* (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar. Also present were Cardinal Kevin Joseph Farrell, president of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life; H.E. Msgr. Eamon Martin, president of the Episcopal Conference of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland; H.E. Diarmuid Martin, archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland; H.E. Msgr. Michael Neary, archbishop of Tuam; H.E. Msgr. Kieran O'Reilly, S.M.A., archbishop of Cashel and Emlly; and the local entourage.

The aircraft (an *Aer Lingus* A321) carrying the Pope on the return flight following his trip to the Republic of Ireland took off at 18.45 local time (19.45 in Rome) and landed at Rome-Ciampino Airport at 22.30.

Telegram to the President of the Republic of Ireland

Immediately after departure, the Holy Father Francis sent the following telegram to the President of the Republic of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins:

HIS EXCELLENCY MICHAEL D. HIGGINS
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND
DUBLIN

AS I LEAVE IRELAND, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BELOVED PEOPLE OF IRELAND FOR THE WARM WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY I HAVE RECEIVED. WITH THE ASSURANCE OF MY PRAYERS, I INVOKE UPON ALL OF YOU ALMIGHTY GOD'S BLESSINGS OF PEACE, FRATERNITY and PROSPERITY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Telegrams to Heads of State during flight from Dublin to Rome

During the flight from Dublin to Rome, when flying through the airspace of the United Kingdom, France and Switzerland, and finally entering Italy, the Pope sent the following telegrams to the respective Heads of State:

Overflight United Kingdom

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
LONDON

ON MY RETURN JOURNEY TO ROME, I SEND GREETINGS TO YOUR MAJESTY, THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. ENTRUSTING THE NATION TO THE PROVIDENCE OF ALMIGHTY GOD, I WILLINGLY INVOKE UPON ALL OF YOU THE DIVINE BLESSINGS OF JOY AND PEACE.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Overflight France

HIS EXCELLENCY EMMANUEL MACRON
PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC
PARIS

FLYING ONCE MORE THROUGH FRENCH AIRSPACE, ON MY RETURN JOURNEY TO ROME, I CORDIALLY RENEW MY PRAYERS FOR YOU AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS THAT YOU ALL MAY ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF ALMIGHTY GOD.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Overflight Switzerland

HIS EXCELLENCY ALAIN BERSSET
PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION
BERN

RETURNING TO ROME AT THE CONCLUSION OF MY PASTORAL VISIT TO IRELAND, I ONCE AGAIN EXPRESS MY CORDIAL BEST WISHES TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE PEOPLE OF SWITZERLAND. WITH THE ASSURANCE OF MY PRAYERS, I GLADLY INVOKE UPON ALL OF YOU ALMIGHTY GOD'S BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND JOY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Return to Italy

HIS EXCELLENCY
HON. SERGIO MATTARELLA
PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
PALAZZO DEL QUIRINALE
00187 ROME

UPON RETURNING FROM MY APOSTOLIC TRIP TO IRELAND, WHERE I WAS ABLE TO ENCOUNTER MANY FAITHFUL AND FAMILIES FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES, INCLUDING A SUBSTANTIAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE DEAR ITALIAN ECCLESIAL COMMUNITY, I EXPRESS TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MY CORDIAL GREETING. AS I THINK WITH APPRECIATION OF THOSE WHO IN ITALY TOO, WITH GENEROSITY AND A SPIRIT OF SERVICE, WORK TO DEFEND AND PROMOTE THE INSTITUTION OF THE FAMILY, THE CELL OF SOCIETY, I ASSURE A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE GOOD AND THE HARMONY OF THE ITALIAN NATION, UPON WHICH I INVOKE THE LORD'S BLESSING.

FRANCISCUS PP.
