

Programme

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung – Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the EU

“You are all brothers” – Political and religious implications of Pope Francis' visit to Iraq

Monday, March 15, 2021

18.00 – 19.30 h (CET)

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (European Office and Foreign Office Italy and Holy See),
Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the EU (COMECE)

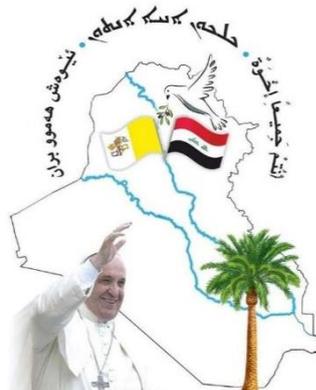
Online Event

Invitation

On the same Church Square in Mosul, where seven years ago the terrorist organisation "Islamic State" (IS) proclaimed its caliphate, Pope Francis was received on his journey to Iraq. That historic visit was not only dedicated to the Christians living in the war-torn and fragile country, but also to all three monotheistic religions. The first visit of a Pope to the original homeland of Abraham is officially themed “Siete tutti fratelli” (“You are all brothers”) – in reference to his [Encyclical](#) of 2020 and the [document on Human Fraternity](#) of 2019 that the Pope and Grand Imam Ahmad al-Tayyeb, a representative of Sunni Islam, jointly presented in Abu Dhabi.

Following the fall of dictator Saddam Hussein and the Islamic State's reign of terror, 1.5 million Christians have left Iraq. In Qaraqosh, once Iraq's largest Christian city, Pope Francis pursued his “pastoral visit”, delivering a speech before the Angelus prayer to remember the violence of the IS and to give hope to Christians in the country.

With the visit to the Shiite Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani in Najaf, the risky mission amidst the pandemic and security conditions is probably also one of the Pope's most important journeys so far.



You are all brothers (Matt 23:8)
Pope Francis' visit to Iraq
5-8 March 2021

We would like to take the Pope's visit to Iraq and its political implications for the Middle East and Europe, as well as the symbolic power of the interreligious dialogue as an opportunity to invite you to our online event with

Bishop Dr. Franz-Josef Overbeck, Father Jens Petzold and Stefan von Kempis
on March 15 at 18 h (CET).



Programme

18.00 h

Welcoming remarks

Michael Thielen

General Secretary of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

18.05 h

Inputs

Bishop Dr. Franz-Josef Overbeck

Vice-President of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE)

Father Jens Petzold

Monastery of the Virgin Mary (Deir Maryam al-Adhra) in Sulaymaniyah

Stefan von Kempis

Head of the German-speaking department of Vatican News

18.45 h

Panel discussion moderated by

Patricia Ehret

Advisor, Churches and Religious communities, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

19.25 h

Closing remarks

Dr. Nino Galetti

Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Foreign Office Italy and Holy See