

Maximum security area

Security measures are going to be implemented by the Italian National Police on the occasion of the canonization of blessed Popes John XXIII and John Paul II which will take place at 10.00 a.m., Sunday April 27, in Saint Peter's Square.

In view of the global reach of this event, which besides the highest ecclesiastical authorities will be attended by heads of state, sovereigns, heads of government and foreign affairs ministers as well as several thousands of faithful, security measures will envisage pervasive checks and also allow for the maximum visibility and largest participation in the event.

Starting from April 26 accurate inspections and clearances will be carried out in this area, including underground checks. Police vessels and divers will patrol the Tiber River along the stretch to the Vatican City, from Ponte Sisto to Ponte Umberto I.

St. Peter's Square will be divided into sections so as to host the many foreign delegations and ecclesiastical authorities on the parvis of St. Peter's Basilica and the thousands of faithful in further sections of the square.

For the purpose of maximum security and so as to allow the authorities and the faithful to orderly arrive and leave, outside the Vatican City a "MAXIMUM SECURITY AREA" will be established within the perimeter outlined below:

- piazza della Città Leonina;
- via dei Corridori;
- Borgo Sant'Angelo;
- piazza Pia (lato Vaticano);
- largo Giovanni XXIII (lato Vaticano);
- Lungotevere Vaticano (tra largo Giovanni XXIII e Ponte Vittorio Emanuele II);
- borgo Santo Spirito;
- largo Alicorni;
- via Paolo VI;
- piazza S. Uffizio.

From 7 p.m. on Saturday April 26 and until no longer needed on Sunday April 27, the Maximum Security Area will be pedestrianized and adequately marked with mobile crush barriers giving access only to police and rescue vehicles and to those with a SCV or CD plate number.

Close to the area, cordoned-off entrances will be set up staffed by police officers and volunteers. In particular, worshippers will access the Maximum Security Area through three points: via della Conciliazione (between via Traspontina and largo Giovanni XXIII), via Traspontina (at the junction with via della Conciliazione), via San Pio X. Access to St. Peter's Square will only be allowed from 5.30 a.m.

As many of the faithful will arrive by bus, dedicated parking areas have been identified – mainly at park-and-ride facilities and at other areas with connections to public transport – which will be operational starting from April 26.

At highway tolls and in proximity of entrance ramps to the GRA (Rome ring road), as well as along major roads leading to Rome, police forces will provide guidance to drivers on how to reach

dedicated parking areas.

Visitors are also expected to arrive by national and international special trains, by approximately 60 charter flights for pilgrims at the Ciampino and Fiumicino airports, as well as by ship.

Finally, the Municipality of Rome will provide for medical emergency services, large video screens will be set up at different points of the city, and on April 26 and 27 the public transport company ATAC will run A and B metro lines round the clock and will boost bus services to the Vatican City with shuttle buses.