

Deceased John Paul II seen on TV (Mon 4 Apr, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about Pope John Paul II / the Vatican / the Catholic Church / the crucifix / Poland / world religions. Change topics / partners frequently.

JOHN PAUL II BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down the different words you associate with John Paul II. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

LAST MESSAGE: Look at and think about the last message John Paul II prepared for the world. In pairs / groups, discuss how true these words are:

"To all humanity, which today seems so lost and dominated by the power of evil, selfishness and fear, our resurrected Lord gives us his love which forgives, reconciles and reopens the soul to hope"

Change partners / groups and share what you discussed. With your new partner / group, agree on two examples in the world today of the following:

the world being lost / evil / selfishness / fear / hope

Return to your original partner / group and compare what you wrote. Discuss whether these are evidence that John Paul II's words are true.

JOHN PAUL'S LEGACY: Talk about this list of the legacies / achievements of the Pope.

- a. In Damascus, Syria, in 2001, he became the first pope ever to set foot in a Muslim mosque.
- b. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said the collapse of communism in the 1980s and early '90s would have been impossible without "the presence of this pope".
- c. John Paul visited his would-be assassin in prison and forgave him.
- d. He believed motherhood should be the goal of all women.
- e. He changed the style of being pope from one of staying in Europe to traveling around the world (120 countries) to see his people.
- f. He was the first pope ever to pray in a Jewish synagogue. "This pope has probably done more to strengthen Catholic-Jewish relations than any other in history."
- g. He placed a high value on human life and condemned abortion, euthanasia and the death penalty as part of a "culture of death" that is everywhere in the modern world. He said capital punishment was "cruel and unnecessary".
- h. The Pope opposed same-sex marriage saying it is part of "a new ideology of evil" that is menacing society.
- i. He was strongly opposed to both wars in Iraq and sent peace messengers to talk to Presidents George and George W. Bush.
- j. He criticized the inequities of capitalism and the materialistic values of modern society that fail to value human dignity. He said consumerism was "a struggle against God".
- k. He passionately opposed contraception.

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'modern' and 'times'.

TRUE FALSE: Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. TV cameras showed the last seconds of Pope John Paul II's life. T / F
- b. The Pope was one of most influential world leaders of modern times. T / F
- c. There were religious symbols from many religions laid next to him. T / F
- d. In the Vatican streets more than 1,000,000 mourners gathered for a mass. T / F
- e. The Turkish gunman who tried to assassinate the Pope in 1981 is in mourning. T / F
- f. There will be no football played in Poland until after the Pope's funeral. T / F
- g. The Taliban sent a message of condolence over the Pope's death. T / F
- h. The Pope was a reconciler of religions. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| (a) deceased | VIPs |
| (b) influential | sympathy |
| (c) crucifix | fairness |
| (d) dignitaries | cross |
| (e) mourners | ultimately |
| (f) condolence | grievers |
| (g) quarters | dead |
| (h) postponed | places |
| (i) moderation | delayed |
| (j) above all | inspiring |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| (a) laid in | times |
| (b) one of most influential | health |
| (c) modern | all |
| (d) pay their last | for peace |
| (e) 100,000 mourners | mourning |
| (f) after years of poor | state |
| (g) acts of | gathered |
| (h) in | world leaders |
| (i) voice | condolence |
| (j) above | respects |

GAP FILL

Deceased John Paul II seen on TV

BNE: Pictures of the _____ body of Pope John Paul II laid in state were shown live on Italian television for the first time earlier today, fifteen hours after his _____. Millions of TV viewers worldwide were able to see the last pictures of one of most influential world leaders of modern times and perhaps the most _____ and loved. He was dressed in red and white robes and a white mitre was placed on his head. In his hands were wooden rosary beads and next to him was a crucifix. Among the first dignitaries to _____ their last respects was the Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. In the streets outside the Pope's Vatican palace more than 100,000 mourners gathered for a mass in _____ of their pontiff. His body will be moved to St. Peter's Basilica for public viewing at 5 PM (1500 GMT) today.

death
memory
pay
recognized
deceased

The Pope died Saturday evening, aged 84, after years of poor health. Messages and acts of _____ and respect from around the world have been announced in the world's press, many from unusual _____. Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who tried to assassinate the Pope in 1981, is in mourning in a Turkish prison over the death of his one-time target. Poland's football federation has postponed its entire fixture list until John Paul's funeral _____ respect for their fellow countryman. In Afghanistan, a Taliban spokesman said: "The Pope's moderation and his _____ for peace is noticeable", but went on to say: "the other followers of the Roman Catholic religion are enemies of Islam." Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh described the Pope as a "_____ of religions" and that "he was, above all, a humanist".

out of
reconciler
condolence
voice
quarters

HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on how the next pope will be chosen. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. OBITUARY:** Write your own obituary for Pope John Paul II.
- 4. BIOGRAPHY:** Create an information poster on the life of John Paul II.

DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Were you surprised by anything in this article?
- c. What are your memories of John Paul II?
- d. Do you think he was a great man?
- e. Was he an influential world leader?
- f. Was he a good representative of the Catholic Church?
- g. Do you disagree with any of his beliefs?
- h. Was he a “reconciler of religions”?
- i. From which country / continent should the next pope come?
- j. Is his face the most recognized in the world?
- k. How do you mourn?
- l. Could you visit and forgive someone who tried to kill you?
- m. Why do you think the Taliban expressed their condolences over the Pope’s death?
- n. Did you like this discussion?
- o. Teacher / Student additional questions.

TEXT

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The Pope died Saturday evening, aged 84, after years of poor health. Messages and acts of **condolence** and respect from around the world have been announced in the world’s press, many from unusual **quarters**. Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who tried to assassinate the Pope in 1981, is in mourning in a Turkish prison over the death of his one-time target. Poland’s football federation has postponed its entire fixture list until John Paul’s funeral **out of** respect for their fellow countryman. In Afghanistan, a Taliban spokesman said: “The Pope's moderation and his **voice** for peace is noticeable”, but went on to say: “the other followers of the Roman Catholic religion are enemies of Islam.” Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh described the Pope as a “**reconciler** of religions” and that “he was, above all, a humanist”.