

# POPE FRANCIS

In the wake of Easter Monday, a symbol of peace, equality, and respect, passed away



The passing of Pope Francis left people in a state of shock and disbelief, following his recent public engagement on Easter Sunday, where he championed the notion of "celebration of life".

The former US president Joe Biden issued a statement after learning the passing of Pope Francis: "He made all feel welcome and seen by the Church. He promoted equity and an end to poverty and suffering across the globe. And above all, he was a Pope for everyone. He was the People's Pope—a light of faith, hope, and love."

Hundreds of thousands of mourners and world leaders from over 100 countries came together to pay their respects to Pope Francis.

"The late pontiff wanted bridges rather than walls," said Cardinal Giovanni Battista in his funeral homily.

Pope Francis sought to understand the needs of the people. He opened support for migrants and refugees and criticized politicians who undermine the rights of individuals, including the LGBTQ community.

The picture of Pope Francis with Vladimir Putin on the occasion of private audience (June, 2015 [AP News]) illustrated the pope's determination to advocate for rights in a diplomatic manner. They stood just a few centimeters apart, and the pope looked deeply into Putin's eyes.

"If politics must truly be at the service of the human person, it follows that it cannot be a slave to the economy and finance," Pope Francis declared in a joint

session of the United States Congress on September 24, 2015, becoming the first pontiff to do so.

The encyclical "Laudato si' (Praise Be to You)", published on 18 June 2015, described the tone of the Pope's "cautious and undogmatic, and he specifically calls for discussion and dialogue".

The Pope laments environmental degradation and global warming in Laudato Si, subtitled "on care for our common home." He also called on people throughout the world to take swift and unified action.

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"We must all engage in politics for the common good"

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Francesca Ambrogetti and Sergio Rubin, two Argentine journalists, interviewed the pope for the book "El Pastor".

The pope said "we must all engage in politics for the common good".

Days after his funeral, thousands of people still came to the Pope's burial place to pay their respects and to pray for him.

He was considered the "Pope of the People."

@AP photo | Gregorio Borgia

Real emotions, as Pope Francis consoles Serena Subania. She had lost her 5-year-old daughter the day before, when Pope Francis was leaving Agostino Gemelli University Hospital following bronchitis treatment (Source: AP News).

## Featured stories

### Strategic development for the growth of the pipeline

In 2025, GreenGO plans to have a 2.5 GW pipeline, 700 MW of new projects in northern Italy and MACSE auction preparations. Page 4

### How the WAR altered the ecology

The Russian-Ukrainian conflict threatens 44% of Ukraine's natural reserves and mined areas occupy a third of the country. Page 2

### In Memoriam Sue Mattheis

Known as "Sue in Copter Two," she was Missouri's first female on-air traffic reporter and KMOX's only female on-air personality. Page 3



# How the WAR altered the ecology

**Military actions in Ukraine endanger the loss of 14 Ramsar sites spanning 397.7 thousand hectares, 2.9 million hectares of the Emerald Network, and 44 % of Ukraine's natural reserves.**

SVIATOHIRSK is at the heart of the Holy Mountains National Nature Park, also known as "Donetsk Switzerland", a source of power, and a spiritual centre of Eastern Ukraine.

Along the riverbank, you can see the Chalk Mountains adorned with a pine-oak forest mosaic, as well as remnants of a Cretaceous pine forest, ravine woods, meadows, and oaks that are two hundred to three hundred years old.

This was before the Ukraine-Russia war broke out in February 2014, with Russia launching a full-scale invasion in February 2022.

The devastation of the environment is a form of warfare used to intimidate or force the government or citizens.

This is known as the "Warfare Ecology".

Thousands of shells, landmines, machine guns, fortifications, and soldier positions engulf the earth, shredding it in a grinding combat reminiscent of World War trench warfare.

There is a significant increase in deforestation (34%) and soil erosion (23%); armed conflicts also worsen poaching and contribute to the extinction of wildlife species, so the study "Ecological Impacts of Recreational Transformation and War on Bird Communities in the Siverskyi Donets River."

**The Russo-Ukrainian war will impact other nations because of its shared ecosystem.**

Experts warning that the Russo-Ukrainian conflict goes beyond and will influence other nations through he shared ecosystems and rivers.

They opined that it will disrupt global food supply chains and biodiversity loss.

Ukraine is considered the most mined area in the world. Everyday is for the Ukrainian a risk to die from mine explosions and cluster munitions; their wildlife population too.

The actual extent of the mined areas is unclear, but according to Ukrainian authorities, it represents about a third of the country, 174,000 km<sup>2</sup>, two-time size of Austria.

Affected farmland covers 25,000m<sup>2</sup>, people have lost their lives in the fields, and Ukraine's disruptions are driving up global grain prices and poverty.

Forest work has become a perilous occupation because mines and unexploded shells lurk in the ground.

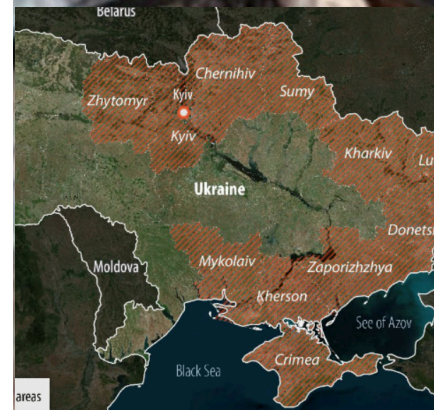
"I crawled back to the car, and drove home with one leg," Oleksandr Polovynko, a 39-year-old ranger, told Reuters in an interview following his near-fatal encounter stepping on a mine while tending the forest in 2023.

Sviati Hory National Park in the Donetsk Region, which is presently one of the locations that has suffered the most from war and is partly situated on the frontline.

Smoldering ruins of pine trees, blackened stumps; the air is filled with pungent smoke, a witness to a scorched nation.

"They're dead now," Serhiy Tsapok, the exhausted ranger, demonstrates to Reuters during the interview.

For nearly two decades, he cared for the trees with delight and enthusiasm, but the daily journey through the Ukrainian forests, due to military operations and concealed explosives, made the job a nightmare.



A boobytrap rigged using a grenade on a tree: this type of trap explodes when a person walks into an inconspicuous metal wire. Source: armyinform.com.ua; Small pc: Map of shaded areas potentially contaminated by mines. Source: Ukrainian government

Explosive objects, destroys landscapes and soil cover, results in the erosion and disruption of the hydrological regime in affected areas. The significant chemical contamination of soils comes.

Soil degradation and dangers to biodiversity must also be considered when rebuilding Ukraine's economic potential.

Pollution makes large areas unsuitable for agricultural use. Mine explosions can start spontaneous fires that are impossible to extinguish in mined regions, causing severe biodiversity loss.

The most dangerous are large-scale forest fires, which usually result in the complete destruction of ecosystems over enormous areas.



@Reuters

Reuters questioned experts who stated that "the process of repairing the damage to the forests would take decades and cost billions of dollars". Source: Reuters; Small image: Ukraine interactive map of military conflicts (May 2025) Source: liveuamap



# Sue Mathies:

## “I don’t see boundaries.”

“As I made my first radio report, I compared this liftoff to those of windler years,” reported Sue Mathies for the St. Louis Newspaper in 1979, after experiencing the balloon drop and landing into the Mississippi River.

Sue Mathies, known as ‘Sue in Copter Two’ was the first female air-traffic reporter for the KMOX radio station.

She had a premonition a week before the Great Forest Park Balloon Race for she has to broadcast on air-borne.

“My hot-air balloon would take a dip in the Mississippi River—or worse, a “drown”—with me in it,” stated Sue regarding her hunch.

As the contestants were all airborne, the balloon team prepared to land on the Missouri side of the Mississippi River. However, a strong wall pushed them back into the center of the River, where it took a long time to rebound.

“We are running out of gas,” Sue described the moments before the unavoidable occurred. The breeze was too strong to return to shore, so the pilot

conserved the remaining fuel to soften the landing in the water. It darkened, and the team could hear the splash of the water before dipping in. A boat who witnessed this moments rescued the balloon crew.

Sue’s passion for aviation began in the 1960s, when she acquired her pilot’s license despite having five children. In 1975, she fulfilled a long-held aim of obtaining an helicopter license. Sue was once again the first woman in Missouri to reach this milestone.

As a member of Ninety-Nines and Whirly-Girls International Female Helicopter Pilot, she helped to mentor other pilots.

She retired as a radio reporter in 1990 after 25 years of interviewing presidents, astronauts, and many more.

Sue Mathies last flew a plane on her 93rd birthday.

“I don’t see boundaries,” she remarked for the KSDK station, referring to what women can do.

“She was a true gem and an inspiration to so many. She was my personal inspiration when I became a helicopter pilot,” said a fellow Whirly-Girl member.

99-year-old Sue died on 09 Feb 2025.



Sue Mathies was often the first woman; she was the first helicopter pilot in Missouri and the first woman to serve as an air-traffic reporter. Source picture: Whirly-Girls

### Brief stories AVIATION

#### Vertical MRO Conference registration is now open

The Vertical rotorcraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) Conference presents a mix of interactive education sessions and panel discussions.

The Kelowna (BC) conference is at the KF Centre for Excellence from Oct. 7 to 9; the second conference will follow in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, from Nov. 10 to 12.

#### Rotortrade delivers AS350 B3e to Iceland’s Nordurflug

A key challenge was the need to source a replacement engine amid global supply shortages — a task successfully accomplished through strong collaboration between buyer and seller, stated Rotortrade. “This project truly showcased the value of trust, transparency, and follow-through,” said Jean-Noël de Précigout, Sales Director at Rotortrade.

#### Transport Canada approves Subaru Bell 412EPX

“We’re pleased the SUBARU Bell 412EPX has received TCCA certification and look forward to growing its presence globally,” said Danny Maldonado, chief commercial officer, Bell. “This aircraft offers superior operational performance and efficiency for our customers while maintaining its long-standing reputation for reliability.”

### Brief stories CONSERVATION

#### 2025 US State of the Birds report

It is estimated that one in three bird species in the United States are now considered high or moderate conservation concerns - including 112 species whose populations have diminished by half in the past 50 years alone.

#### Loss of seagrass leaves Thailand’s dugongs battling

Dugongs are rarely alive when they wash up on Thai beaches. Last year’s death toll reached 45 after a dead animal washed up in Krabi province on December 30. “We first noticed problems with the seagrass five years ago, but it became critical in 2023 and 2024,” said marine veterinarian Khumraksa.

#### The ‘great whale conveyor belt’

The humpback placenta is a small part of what scientists refer to as “the great whale conveyor belt,” a phenomena that could represent the world’s largest long-distance nutrient transfer. Their methodology estimates the quantity of nutrition transfer via placentas, adult and calf corpses, and, in particular, whale urine.



# Trump: "Catholics enjoyed his joke"

**Column by Renate Buchner**

"I'd like to be Pope," Trump remarked, holding up an AI-generated image of himself as the Pope, which shows him wearing a white cassock and pointed mitre. He wears a huge cross around his neck and has his finger up, with a solemn look.

As he was criticized, he continued that Catholics enjoyed this joke, which did not fully suit the truth. The timing of his choice of this AI-generated image was particularly problematic for many Catholics and the Vatican amid the conclave to elect the new pope.

I recall his attending Pope Benedict XVI's burial in 2022, when he was photographed with Pope Francis, his wife Melania, and daughter Ivanka. Except for Donald Trump, everyone seemed to be reflecting on the Pope's death and showing respect. Donald Trump smiled with all of his strength.

# Pope Francis wanted bridges rather than walls

To compare, the pope is the leader of over 2.4 billion people, and keeping them together is a monumental task. President Donald Trump is the leader of 334 million people. The changes he is imposing in government leave US citizens with an uncertain future, particularly Veterans who must find a new way to exist. Divided is not a goal a leader of a state should strive for. However, this is the current scenario in the United States, where I had many enjoyable years and experiences as a student back then.

Pope Francis stated that diplomacy and respect for others are the goal of building bridges rather than walls. The newly chosen Pope Leo, the first American to lead the church, faces a daunting assignment in following in the footsteps of the late Pope Francis and continuing the work he began.

President Donald Trump's understanding of democracy is questionable, as he continues to punish universities and cut funding for the sciences and tell them what they have to teach, how, and who. This is not democracy, this is the face of authoritarianism.

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## GreenGo Strategic development for the growth of the pipeline



GreenGo published news of the authorisation of two 80 MW BESS (Battery-Energy-Storage-System) plants in southern Italy.

With Alberto Piva joining the company as its Head of Business Development and M&A (mergers and acquisitions), GreenGo's industrial strategy to expand its pipeline is bolstered.

“After confirming its very high specialisation and efficiency in origination and permit, GreenGo considers pipeline growth a top priority.

“The integration of expertise in origination and M&A will allow us to take a highly competitive position in the market, optimising development time and rapidly increasing our ability to bring projects to the RTB stage,” said Piva referring of the current context of strong selection among operators.

According to GreenGo, the company has achieved 85 renewable projects to date across 11 regions, totaling 1.82 GW, with 800 MW at an advanced

stage of approval and a track record of more than 560 MW of approved/RTB (Ready-to-Build) projects, of which 40 MW are currently under construction.

GreenGo stated in their press release that it will launch additional initiatives in Northern Italy totaling over 700 MW in the following quarters to achieve a 2.5 GW pipeline by 2025.

The company prepares for the MACSE auctions. MACSE (Energy Storage Capacity Procurement Mechanism) is seen as a game changer for Italy's energy storage business. The first auctions to procure new storage capacity in Italy are expected in the second quarter of 2025.

Energy Storage Capacity Procurement Mechanism (MACSE) projects can expect internal rates of return greater than 9% in certain cases, providing a high level of revenue security, according to Aurora Energy Research.