# Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy meet at Vatican funeral to discuss Ukraine peace



At the Vatican on Saturday, a significant meeting took place between former US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during the funeral of Pope Francis. This marked their first face-to-face encounter since a highly publicised disagreement earlier in the year. The meeting occurred within the grand setting of St Peter's Basilica, where the two leaders sat opposite each other at a close distance, an image that was widely circulated.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Trump expressed doubts about Russian President Vladimir Putin's willingness to end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Posting on his Truth Social platform, Mr Trump remarked: "There was no reason for the Russian president to be shooting missiles into civilian areas, cities and towns, over the last few days." He added, "It makes me think that maybe he doesn't want to stop the war, he's just tapping me along, and has to be dealt with differently, through 'Banking' or 'Secondary Sanctions?' Too many people are dying!!!” Mr Trump’s comments suggest a shift towards a more sceptical stance regarding Mr Putin’s intentions.

Mr Zelenskyy described the encounter as positive and potentially "historic." He said their discussion centred on the defence of the Ukrainian people, an unconditional ceasefire, and establishing a durable and lasting peace that would prevent future conflict. The talks lasted approximately 15 minutes, and Mr Zelenskyy's office conveyed that both leaders agreed to continue discussions later on Saturday. However, no subsequent meeting occurred, as Mr Trump departed Rome soon after the funeral aboard Air Force One.

Other political figures present at the Vatican engaged briefly in discussions with Mr Zelenskyy as well. Sir Keir Starmer, leader of the UK Labour Party, and French President Emmanuel Macron were among those attending parts of the talks. The French presidency described the interactions as positive, with President Macron taking to social media to affirm that "Ukraine is ready for an unconditional ceasefire." He also noted that a coalition led by the UK and France remains committed to working towards a lasting peace.

The event drew attention from diplomatic observers. Sir Tony Brenton, former British ambassador to Russia, suggested on Sky News that the meeting might serve as a diplomatic opening for further peace initiatives, calling it "an important step" towards starting peace talks between Russia and Ukraine. Similarly, Professor Father Francesco Giordano described the meeting as a remarkable occurrence, referring to it as "Pope Francis's miracle" due to the many unexpected developments of the day.

This bilateral meeting followed reports that Mr Trump's peace negotiator, Steve Witkoff, had discussions with President Putin at the Kremlin concerning the potential resumption of direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine. According to Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov, the talks focused on this possibility, though Russia and Ukraine have not engaged in direct talks since the early stages of the conflict that began in February 2022.

Mr Trump has recently emphasised that a peace deal is "very close" and encouraged Mr Zelenskyy to "get it done" via his Truth Social platform. Previously, he had warned that efforts to broker peace would end if both sides did not come to an agreement soon.

In a related development, the Polish armed forces reported that a Russian military helicopter violated Poland’s airspace over the Baltic Sea on Friday evening. They noted the incident possibly represented a test of Poland’s air defence readiness.

The meeting between Mr Trump and Mr Zelenskyy at the Vatican funeral highlights ongoing international engagement over the conflict in Ukraine, set against the solemn backdrop of mourning for Pope Francis.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ITWb-iuju8> - This video captures the meeting between President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the Vatican on the sidelines of Pope Francis' funeral, marking a significant diplomatic encounter amidst the ongoing Ukraine conflict.
2. <https://news.sky.com/story/trump-met-with-zelenskyy-ahead-of-popes-funeral-13355783> - The article provides details of the meeting, including the presence of other leaders like Sir Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron, and reports Trump's skepticism about Putin's willingness to end the war.
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuEf-VcM5c8> - This video discusses Trump and Zelenskyy's conversation at Pope Francis' funeral, highlighting efforts to address the Ukraine conflict.
4. <https://www.ncronline.org/vatican/vatican-news/trump-pivots-russia-after-meeting-zelenskyy-st-peters-basilica> - The article explains Trump's shift in stance towards Russia following his meeting with Zelenskyy, including his expressed doubts about Putin's intentions to end the war.
5. <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/26/trump-zelenskyy-meeting-pope-francis-00311686> - POLITICO reports on the productive discussion between Trump and Zelenskyy, noting the significance of their meeting in the context of Pope Francis' diplomatic legacy and ongoing efforts to resolve the Ukraine conflict.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides additional context on the meeting between Trump and Zelenskyy, including the broader diplomatic landscape and the potential for future peace negotiations.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMi4wFBVV95cUxOQV80T1JYREp0RnB6WXltY09UQ3o5bEktVnhzUmZqNG9SdDZ5R3NjXzlnZnM0a0ZBZ2lvX2E5YkVVWXBNWXNFM3VsVGRtUXpCMHJSQ0hIV2hYWWFrWXNxT0M0bkZmSUV4UlZ2MXZKT3pFblJDcWRZTDlCcXdXOGJUYVhpTWVTYTBvTW9QenlucTVrdTVoNDk5Y25vc0FOemlQd3RrdUlqNHFPQWpTdm9SUUtmdTNGUVJIcTRiT2d2TFFGaUVNTDhKVDNnanlsUHlxVkZFLWNWQU1qRTMwUnFkMEJvQQ?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data