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## Prince William to attend Pope's funeral with world leaders



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Prince William will represent the British royal family at the state funeral of Pope Francis, joining world leaders including U.S. President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron in Vatican City. The high-profile gathering is expected to draw dignitaries from across the globe, underscoring the Pope's global influence and legacy.

Buckingham Palace confirmed Prince William's attendance, describing it as a gesture of the royal family's deep respect for the late Pontiff, who passed away earlier this week after a prolonged illness. As the Prince of Wales, William's presence marks a rare solo representation at such a significant religious event.

President Donald Trump, now serving his second term in office, will be attending the funeral alongside other heads of state. The White House said Trump will also hold side meetings with several leaders during his brief visit to Rome.

French President Emmanuel Macron, known for his close relationship with the Vatican, expressed profound sorrow at the Pope's passing and praised his efforts for peace and interfaith dialogue.

The Vatican has announced tight security measures as tens of thousands of people are expected to attend the funeral at St. Peter's Basilica. A period of official mourning has been declared in several countries, with flags lowered and commemorative services held.

Pope Francis, the first Latin American pontiff, served over a decade in the role and was widely respected for his humility, social justice advocacy, and efforts to reform the Catholic Church.

Messages of condolence have poured in from religious leaders, political figures, and the public worldwide.

The funeral service, led by senior cardinals, will take place under strict Vatican protocol, followed by interment in the Vatican Grottoes.

The event will be broadcast globally, with millions expected to watch the proceedings live.