Dear Padre,

What does it mean to call the pope infallible?

Jesus established the Church, gave Peter a special place in it, and promised that the powers of evil would never overcome the Church (see Matthew 16:13–19). This promise indicates that Jesus would not allow the Church to be misled in essential matters of faith or morals. In these matters, Jesus grants the gift of infallibility...not only to the pope, but to the bishops and the faithful in union with the pope.



The pope speaks infallibly when he teaches ex cathedra ("from the chair") as the leader of the whole Church, expressly defining doctrine as a matter of faith or morals (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, 891). The pope has done this only once in the past one hundred years, when he declared the dogma of the Assumption of Mary.

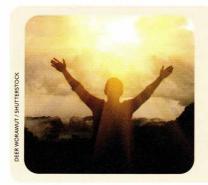
The Church's understanding of infallibility reflects our Catholic belief that God will not allow evil to lead the Church astray. It helps us to distinguish what is essential from what is not. A clear understanding of infallibility and its limits may be seen as a safeguard against the misuse of authority. Understood in this manner, infallibility is another gift the Lord gave to the Church.

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
July 22	July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27	July 28
St. Mary	Weekday	Weekday	St. James,	Sts. Joachim and	Weekday	Seventeenth
Magdalene	Mi 7:14-15,	Jer 1:1, 4-10	Apostle	Anne, Parents	Jer 7:1-11	Sunday in
Sg 3:1-4b or	18-20	Mt 13:1-9	2 Cor 4:7-15	of the Blessed	Mt 13:24-30	Ordinary Time
2 Cor 5:14-17	Mt 12:46-50		Mt 20:20-28	Virgin Mary		2 Kgs 4:42-44
Jn 20:1-2,				Jer 3:14-17		Eph 4:1-6
11-18				Mt 13:18-23		Jn 6:1–15



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus'] tender invitation—rest a while—should accompany us. Let us beware...of efficiency, let us put a halt to the frantic running around dictated by our agendas. Let us learn how to take a break, to turn off the mobile phone, to contemplate nature, to regenerate ourselves in dialogue with God.

ANGELUS, ROME, JULY 18, 2021

