

Papal visit to Coventry – 19 September

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Cllr Ken Taylor, Leader of Coventry City Council, said: "This is an enormous honour for Coventry and the region and we are very proud to have been chosen to host the highlight of the Pope's state visit to the country in September; the beatification of Cardinal Newman.

As a city we're proud of our reputation as a city of peace and reconciliation. Our rich history as a city where diverse communities flourish alongside each other means we are the perfect place for this visit and we look forward to welcoming thousands of people from all over the world to our city on 19 September.

Many Coventry people will remember the visit of Pope John Paul to Coventry Airport in 1982 when a quarter of a million people visited the airport for an extraordinary day of celebration and prayer. The Pope's visit in September promises to be even more significant than 1982, as the beatification of Cardinal Newman is a very significant event for millions of Catholics around the world.

There is an enormous amount of work to do now to organise an event on this scale that everyone will be proud to be associated with. We are looking forward to working with a wide range of key people and organisations over the next few months to make this happen. At this stage we understand that people will be attending by invite only through local Catholic churches, but clearly there is still a lot of detail to be finalised. We know the people of Coventry will give a warm welcome to the visitors expected to our city over the weekend, and we'll be making sure that we do all we can to ensure a successful event that will make residents proud of their city.