



THE VATICAN (ST. PETER'S) CRICKET TEAM



FOURTH LIGHT OF FAITH TOUR OF ENGLAND, 3rd - 15th JULY, 2018

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MISSION STATEMENT

Priests, deacons and seminarians of Rome, representing the Vatican (St. Peter's) Cricket Team, will embark on the 4th Light of Faith Tour (of England) this summer, from Tuesday 3rd to Sunday, 15th of July. Matches will be played against a Stonyhurst XI at Stonyhurst College (Manchester), against a Commonwealth XI at the Indian Gymkhana

Ground, with local teams at Walthamstow, against the Houses of Parliament XI at Chiswick House, and against the Royal Household Cricket Club at Windsor.

Of notable interest is the Inter-faith match at the Nursery Ground at Lord's, where The Vatican (St. Peter's) and the Archbishop of Canterbury's joint team will play an inter-faith team of Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, Buddhists and members of the Jewish faith.

The

Vatican (St. Peter's) XI will also be making informal visits to a Muslim Mosque, a Hindu

temple, a Sikh Gurdwara, and a Jewish synagogue, to underline the vital importance of authentic religious experience for society and also to emphasise the bonds among major religions.

The Vatican (St. Peter's) XI will also dedicate a day of their tour to visit one of Her Majesty's Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions and play a match there. The team will be received at 10 Downing St. on Friday, 13th July, at 2pm. The Vatican (St. Peter's) Team continues to build bridges between cultures and religions through the sport of cricket and, in a simple way, to give witness to their Catholic priesthood and to their Faith.

From July 3rd to 15th, The Vatican (St. Peter's) Cricket Team may be contacted at +44 73 42 84 99 28

St. Peter's CC was founded in 2013 by the former Ambassador of Australia to the Holy See, John McCarthy. The British Amassadors to the Holy See, Nigel Baker, and Sally Axworthy, are also supporters of the team and sit on its executive council.

The team is lead by;

Fr. Eamonn O'Higgins, LC, Professor of Political Philosophy at the Pontifical Atheneum *Regina Apostolorum* and Spiritual Director at the Pontifical College *Maria Mater Ecclesiae*, serves as the manager of the team.

Fr. Sameer Advani, LC, Professor of Phenomology and Philosopher of Religion, and Director of the *Christianity and Culture* program at *Regina Apostolorum*, serves as Director of Operations and Development for St. Peter's.

OUR OBJECTIVES

The team's objectives are to increase the awareness of the importance of religion for society, promote ecumenical, inter-religious, and inter-cultural dialogue, spread the Christian Gospel, and draw attention to important social issues. Cricket matches thus serve as platforms to bring different religious and ethnic-cultural communities together and promote what Pope Francis has called the 'culture of encounter and dialogue'. In this way the team seeks to engage and challenge leaders in the areas of religion, politics, sport, media, and culture to work together for the common good.

INTERNATIONAL TOURS

As a means to these ends, St. Peter's has played several high-profile matches in its short history, engaging in three 'Light of Faith Tours'. In 2014 and 2016 they toured England playing matches against Anglican, Muslim, and Hindu-Sikh teams at some of the most iconic grounds in the country; Headingley in Yorkshire, Edgbaston in Birmingham, and the Kent Spitfires Ground in Canterbury. Visits to Canterbury Cathedral, York Minster, Leeds Cathedral, the Queen's Ecumenical College in Birmingham, and the Batley Mosque were also part of these tours, as was areception by the MCC at Lord's Cricket Ground, the birth-place of cricket.

St. Peter's has also played against The Royal Household Cricket Club of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at Windsor Castle, and is due to return there in 2018. In 2017 it travelled to Portugal and played Muslim, Hindu and Jewish teams in preparation for Pope Francis' trip to the country for the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Fatima.

The team's tours have been covered by a vast network of media channels like The Times of England, the New York Times, The Guardian, The Hindustan Times, Al Jazeera, Gulf News, The Times of Israel, Dawn (from Pakistan), The Jamaica Observer, Vatican Radio, and L'Osservatore Romano.





CARDINAL'S MESSAGE



Members of Saint Peter's Cricket Club

On the occasion of Saint Peter's Cricket Club's fourth Light of Faith Tour, His Holiness Pope Francis sends prayerful best wishes to all the players and those present at the cricket matches taking place at Lord's Cricket Ground and at Windsor Castle. He prays that these events will contribute to the promotion of peace and concord, "because the language of sports is universal; it extends across borders, language, race, religion and ideology; it possesses the capacity to unite people, together, by fostering dialogue and acceptance" (Address to the European Olympic Committee, 23 November, 2013). Commending all taking part to the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham, as a pledge of peace and joy Pope Francis willingly invokes an abundance of Almighty God's blessings.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin

Secretary of State

The Vatican (St Peter's) Cricket Team

Father Eamonn O'Higgins, LC
Father Sameer Advani, LC
Father Elliott Wright
Father Jinse Meppurathu
Father Noby Varkey
Father Paulson Antony
Father Shehan Fernando
Deacon Davidson Jestus
Deacon Jomcy Mathew
Deacon Kapila Manjula
Deacon Vipin Thomas
Jose Ettolil
Kiran Markose
Libin James
Shine Manjaly
Sinoj Mathew

The Vatican (St Peter's) Cricket Team is composed of priests and seminarians studying and working in Rome and is affiliated with the Vatican's *Pontifical Council for Culture and Sport*.

The team's objectives are to promote inter-religious, ecumenical, and inter-cultural dialogue, and increase the awareness of the importance of religion for society. Cricket matches thus serve as platforms to bring different religious, social, and cultural communities together and promote what Pope Francis has called the 'culture of dialogue'.

The team thus seeks to engage and challenge leaders in the areas of religion, sport, media, and culture to work together for the common good.

Fr Eamonn O'Higgins, LC, Professor of Political Philosophy at the *Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum* and Spiritual Director at the *Pontifical Seminary Maria Mater Ecclesiae*, is the manager of the team. Fr Sameer Advani, LC, Professor of Philosophy of Religion at *Regina Apostolorum* is its co-manager.





WELCOME MESSAGES

I believe that sport has the ability to break down boundaries and bring communities together. Cricket, particularly with its rich and diverse history, is a great example of this.

As a lifelong cricket fan and a member of the ECB, I am pleased that cricket has been a catalyst to bring these communities together. I wish to pay special thanks to Ganador Sports who, through their community arm have sponsored this historic tour of the St.Peter's cricket team, to spend a week in the UK playing and engaging in a series of games and events that will aim to unite people from all faiths, cultures, ethnicities and generations through the wonderful game we all love.



Lord Kamlesh Patel of Bradford OBE
Independent Director at the ECB

Muslim Aid



Muslim Aid
Serving Humanity

Muslim Aid is delighted to welcome the esteemed guests from Vatican St Peter's and extends warm wishes to all other players; to the Archbishop of Canterbury's XI team and to our Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Sikh friends.



Jehangir Malik OBE, CEO of Muslim Aid, plays football
with Syrian refugee children on the Turkish Border

Muslim Aid's CEO Jehangir Malik OBE, who will be participating in the inter-faith team said:

"If you look back in history sport has played an enormous role in changing society and bringing communities together. We are therefore delighted that Muslim Aid has worked with Abdul Ravat of the Mount Cricket Club (MCC) and is taking part in the Light of Faith Tour; an important and symbolic cricket event.

Jehangir continued: "Muslim Aid's mission is to serve humanity, so we hope that the world will hear this message of co-operation loud and clear and that it will be an instrument for uniting all faiths and promoting peace."

ITINERARY

FEDERAZIONE CRICKET ITALIANA

- Tuesday 3rd** Arrival to Manchester
- Wednesday 4th** Stonyhurst College vs Vatican (St. Peter's) Cricket XI at Stonyhurst College
- Friday 6th** Visit to St. John's Wood Synagogue, Vatican (St. Peter's) and Church of England XI vs Inter-faith team at Lord's (Nursery Ground).
Launch of the 'Peace at the Crease' Commonwealth Initiative.
- Saturday 7th** Visit to Ganador Sports. Visit to BAPS Shri Swaminaryan Hindu Temple and Sikh Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha
- Sunday 8th** Her Majesty's Prison and Young Offenders Institution vs Vatican (St. Peter's) Cricket XI
- Monday 9th** Commonwealth XI vs Vatican (St. Peter's) Cricket XI for the Commonwealth Community Cup at Indian Gymkhana Ground
- Tuesday 10th** Sir John Major Friendship Cup at Walthamstow Cricket Ground - Mount CC, East London Multi-faith Team and Vatican (St. Peter's) Cricket XI. Visit to Regents Park Mosque
- Wednesday 11th** Pilgrimage Day
Holy Mass at Westminster Cathedral
- Thursday 12th** Houses of Parliament XI vs Vatican (St. Peter's) Cricket XI at Chiswick House and Gardens Cricket Ground
- Friday 13th** Visit to 10 Downing Street
- Saturday 14th** Royal Household CC vs Vatican (St. Peter's) Cricket XI at Windsor Castle
- Sunday 15th** Departure for Rome



ST. PETER'S CRICK

FOURTH LIGHT OF FAITH TOUR



KET TEAM, ROME

OF ENGLAND, 3RD - 15TH JULY, 2018





MESSAGE FROM GANADOR

Cricket is a unique sport that is inclusive of all nationalities and cultures, without discrimination or boundaries. These are the main values that the Vatican Tour embodies, bringing all players to take part alongside each other, as one.

Last year I was fortunate enough to be present on behalf of Ganador Sports for the tour to the Vatican to play against St. Peter's Cricket Club. The trip to Rome showed me how fast Cricket is expanding in Italy and how much of an impact this tour has made since it started.

We at Ganador Sports are extremely proud of our association with this tour, and are humbled by the opportunity to be supporting it. It has been an absolute privilege to be involved. Wishing everyone on this year's Vatican Tour all the best.



Khush Nandra
Managing Director
Ganador Sports Worldwide

It is a great honour for us at Ganador Sport to be associated with this historic tour of the UK by the St. Peter's (Vatican) Cricket team. Our ethos as a company revolves around the participation and inclusion of all in this great game of cricket, regardless of cultural background, race, gender or religion, which makes the partnership between us, and this Vatican tour, such a good fit.



Kamal Prabhakar
Vice President
Ganador Sports Worldwide

We are especially excited to host the inaugural 'Commonwealth Cup' at the Indian Gymkhana Ground - where we are privileged to promote the 'Peace at the Crease' initiative, which has been introduced by the Commonwealth Secretary, the Rt. Honourable Baroness Patricia Scotland QC. It will feature a match between a Commonwealth XI and St. Peter's Cricket team, and we hope it will become a recurring fixture, and a celebration of cricket, diversity and fair play.

We hope that everybody on this tour has a fantastic time, and that their lives are enriched by all of the experiences the tour brings, both on and off the cricket field.

National Asian Cricket Council

It is a great honour for the National Asian Cricket Council in association with Ganador Sports to be able to support this historical cricket tour by St Peter's CC -The Vatican cricket team. This wonderful game has a unique and special way of embracing people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds from around the world and I am sure that with all the games and events that are planned that this will be a very special and memorable tour for all involved. We sincerely wish the touring side a most enjoyable trip on and off the pitch.



Gulfraz Riaz
Chairman - NACC



Capital Kids Cricket

The sport of cricket has a large, enthusiastic following around the globe with games and clubs popping up in many different and wonderful places – none more so than the Vatican.

St Peter's XI, was established in 2013 to help encourage inter-faith dialogue with fellow cricket lovers and consists of Rome-based priests and seminarians.

The team is currently undertaking a 10-day "Light of Faith" tour of England where they face a number of sides, all playing against the backdrop of cross-cultural and interfaith understanding including a Commonwealth XI at Indian Gymkhana Ground, Osterley, London supported by Ganador Sports and Capital Kids Cricket (CKC).



Md. Shahidul Alam Ratan
CEO - Capital Kids Cricket



The key objective of CKC is to promote community cohesion, and we are one of the pioneers of multi faith cricket programmes which featured multi faith cricket festivals within Middlesex and Essex areas of London. Capital Kids Cricket is delighted to assist in this tour by working alongside Ganador Sports. The tour and players' messages of tolerance, understanding and shared interests have impressed not only those involved but many in the wider cricket world.

The common denominator is cricket, and through cricket, communities and faiths are coming together. When there are so many things happening on the back of religion and humanity – in a small, humble but very sincere way we are also showing that good can come out of faith coming together.





2017 TOUR BLOG

I had the great privilege of being the womens' ambassador for cricket on the Essex Multi faith tour to the Vatican in Rome in 2017. The tour was sponsored by Ganador Sports and was the first of its kind to tour abroad from the UK. Many faiths and ethnic backgrounds were represented to show that cricket is a sport which is all inclusive and no matter what your background, you can come together with different people to strive for success as a team.

Being the only female in the East London Multi faith team, it was an enlightening experience to play against the Pope's own cricket team! Their team consisted of many young men from different parts of the world who have come to Rome to become priests.

On the first night we had a reception at the British High Commission which has a breathtaking view of the Vatican. There we met with some of the players from Campanelle CC and we discussed how they train and the challenges they face playing cricket in Italy. It was encouraging to see their commitment and what they were prepared to do to play the game they all love so much.

The next day we had our first T20 game against Campanelle CC. It was a great experience to play cricket in Italy and nice to see everyone play in the MCC spirit of cricket, ensuring the game is always played in a truly sportsmanlike manner.

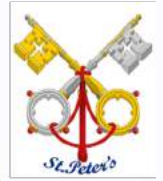
Our second game was the much anticipated T20 fixture against Saint Peter's XI. This unique game was a great way to bring people together of various backgrounds to show unity, and to inspire others to play the game. The day concluded with a visit to the Pontificio Collegio, where young aspiring priests come to train.

It was the perfect tour to show unity and a brilliant way to inspire many to get involved with the game. I was honoured to represent women and girls to show that cricket has no boundaries. Thank you to Ganador Sports and Essex Cricket for making this memorable tour happen.

Saba Nasim BEM Women's Ambassador
for Cricket in East London and Ganador
Sports Brand Ambassador



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Muslim Aid supports Light of Faith Tour

Muslim Aid is one of the top 20 UK relief and development agencies and covers 70 countries, working with all communities irrespective of faith, ethnic origin or political system. The charity was set up in the UK in 1985 to provide humanitarian assistance to disaster affected countries and to help poor communities overcome poverty. Muslim Aid also has some UK programmes and partnerships including with Crisis at Christmas.

To find out more please visit www.muslimaid.org

