



Pope Francis waves at the milling crowds



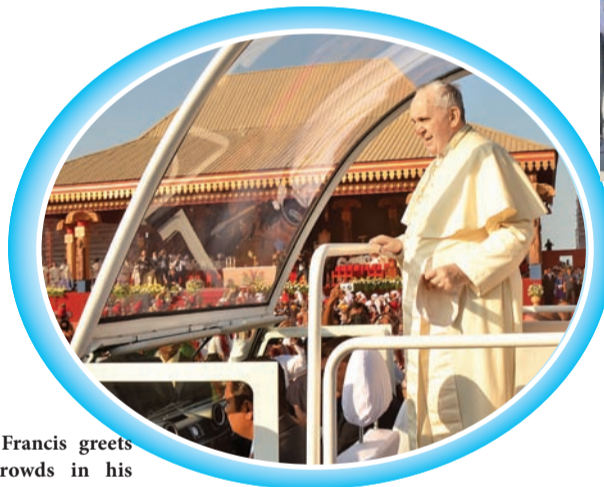
Pope Francis being garlanded on his arrival



Pope Francis being accorded a red carpet welcome at the Bandaranaike International Airport.



Choirs from various schools sing the welcome song for Pope Francis.



Pope Francis greets the crowds in his mobile chariot at the Galle Face Green.



Pope Francis being greeted by Chief of the Mahabodhi Society Ven. Banagala Uppatissa Thera.



President Maithripala Sirisena presents Pope Francis a photo album covering his visit to Sri Lanka.



Pope Francis prays for a differently-abled girl at the Galle Face Green.



The Pontiff greets a Hindu kurukkal



Pope Francis and President Maithripala Sirisena stand to attention for the national anthem.



The Holy Father being welcomed by Bishop of Chilaw the Rt. Rev. Dr. Valence Mendis.



President Maithripala Sirisena and First Lady Jayanthi Sirisena welcome the Holy Father.



Pope Francis signs the Visitors Book on arrival at the airport.



Pope Francis at the Madhu Shrine in Mannar.



A large number of devotees gather at the Galle Face Green for the canonisation of Joseph Vaz.

# Pope Francis's landmark visit to Lanka

Pope Francis the 'People's Pope' was on a three-day pastoral visit to Sri Lanka primarily for the canonisation of the country's first Saint Joseph Vaz, a revered missionary from Goa, India. Catholics and devotees of other faiths flocked in large numbers along the Negombo Road and the Galle Face Green to have a glimpse of the Pontiff who is hailed for his simplicity and love for the poor.



Crowds thronged the Galle Face Green on Wednesday.

Pix: Sulochana Gamage, Sudath Nishantha, Sudath Silva and Wimal Karunatileke