

## St Malachy Prophecies

### From the Catholic Encyclopedia 1913 edition

The most famous and best known prophecies about the popes are those attributed to St. Malachy. In 1139 he went to Rome to give an account of the affairs of his diocese to the pope, Innocent II, who promised him two palliums for the metropolitan Sees of Armagh and Cashel. While at Rome, he received (according to the Abbé Cucherat) the strange vision of the future wherein was unfolded before his mind the long list of illustrious pontiffs who were to rule the Church until the end of time. The same author tells us that St. Malachy gave his manuscript to Innocent II to console him in the midst of his tribulations, and that the document remained unknown in the Roman Archives until its discovery in 1590 (Cucherat, "Proph. de la succession des papes", ch. xv). They were first published by Arnold de Wyon, and ever since there has been much discussion as to whether they are genuine predictions of St. Malachy or forgeries. The silence of 400 years on the part of so many learned authors who had written about the popes, and the silence of St. Bernard especially, who wrote the "Life of St. Malachy", is a strong argument against their authenticity, but it is not conclusive if we adopt Cucherat's theory that they were hidden in the Archives during those 400 years.

These short prophetic announcements, in number 112, indicate some noticeable trait of all future popes from Celestine II, who was elected in the year 1130, until the end of the world. They are enunciated under mystical titles. Those who have undertaken to interpret and explain these symbolical prophecies have succeeded in discovering some trait, allusion, point, or similitude in their application to the individual popes, either as to their country, their name, their coat of arms or insignia, their birth-place, their talent or learning, the title of their cardinalate, the dignities which they held etc. For example, the prophecy concerning Urban VIII is *Lilium et Rosa* (the lily and the rose); he was a native of Florence and on the arms of Florence figured a *fleur-de-lis*; he had three bees emblazoned on his escutcheon, and the bees gather honey from the lilies and roses. Again, the name accords often with some remarkable and rare circumstance in the pope's career; thus *Peregrinus apostolicus* (pilgrim pope), which designates Pius VI, appears to be verified by his journey when pope into Germany, by his long career as pope, and by his expatriation from Rome at the end of his pontificate. Those who have lived and followed the course of events in an intelligent manner during the pontificates of Pius IX, Leo XIII, and Pius X cannot fail to be impressed with the titles given to each by the prophecies of St. Malachy and their wonderful appropriateness: *Crux de Cruce* (Cross from a Cross) Pius IX; *Lumen in caelo* (Light in the Sky) Leo XIII; *Ignis ardens* (Burning Fire) Pius X. There is something more than coincidence in the designations given to these three popes so many hundred years before their time. We need not have recourse either to the family names, armorial bearings or cardinalatial titles, to see the fitness of their designations as given in the prophecies. The afflictions and crosses of Pius IX were more than fell to the lot of his predecessors; and the more aggravating of these crosses were brought on by the House of Savoy whose emblem was a cross. Leo XIII was a veritable luminary of the papacy. The present pope is truly a burning fire of zeal for the restoration of all things to Christ.

The last of these prophecies concerns the end of the world and is as follows: "In the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church there will reign Peter the Roman, who will feed his flock amid many tribulations, after which the seven-hilled city will be destroyed and the dreadful Judge will judge the people. The End." It has been noticed concerning *Petrus Romanus*, who according to St. Malachy's list is to be the last pope, that the prophecy does not say that no popes will intervene between him and his predecessor designated *Gloria olivæ*. It merely says that he is to be the last, so that we may suppose as many popes as we please before "Peter the Roman". Cornelius a Lapidè refers to this prophecy in his commentary "On the Gospel of St. John" (C. xvi) and "On the Apocalypse" (cc. xvii-xx), and he endeavours to calculate according to it the remaining years of time.

## Notes

Note: The Pope numbers given are from a previous work, and do not accord with the official counting of the Vatican. Our current pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI is the 265th Pope. I am unable to explain this discrepancy.

Note: The commentaries below are only brief and selective. A commentary on every motto is given in Peter Bander's book: [The Prophecies of St Malachy](#).

## The Prophecies

Pope No.	Name (Reign)	Motto No.	Motto (and explanation)
167	Celestine II (1143-1144)	1	<i>Ex castro Tyberis</i> (from a castle on the Tiber) Hist.: Celestin II was born in Citta di Castello, Tuscany, on the shores of the Tiber
168	Lucius II (1144-1145)	2	<i>Inimicus expulsus</i>
169	Eugene III (1145-1153)	3	<i>Ex magnitudine montis</i> (Of the greatness of the mount) Hist.: Born in the castle of Grammont (latin: mons magnus), his family name was Montemagno
170	Anastasius IV (1153-1154)	4	<i>Abbas Suburranus</i>
171	Adrian IV (1154-1159)	5	<i>De rure albo</i> (field of Albe) Hist.: Born in the town of Saint-Alban
Antipope	Victor IV (1159-1164)	6	<i>Ex tetro carcere</i>
Antipope	Paschal III (1164-1168)	7	<i>Via trans-Tyberina</i>
Antipope	Calistus III (1168-1178)	8	<i>De Pannonia Tusciae</i>
172	Alexander III (1159-1181)	9	<i>Ex ansere custode</i>
173	Lucius III (1181-1185)	10	<i>Lux in ostio</i>
174	Urban III (1185-1187)	11	<i>Sus in cribo</i>
175	Gregory VIII (1187)	12	<i>Ensis Laurentii</i>
176	Clement III (1187-1191)	13	<i>De schola exiet</i>
177	Celestine III (1191-1198)	14	<i>De rure bovensi</i>
178	Innocent III (1198-1216)	15	<i>Comes signatus</i> (signed Count) Hist.: descendant of the noble Signy, later called Segni family
179	Honorius III (1216-1227)	16	<i>Canonicus de latere</i>
180	Gregory IX (1227-1241)	17	<i>Avis Ostiensis</i> (Bird of Ostia) Hist.: before his election he was Cardinal of Ostia
181	Celestine IV (1241)	18	<i>Leo Sabinus</i>
182	Innocent IV (1243-1254)	19	<i>Comes Laurentius</i>

183	Alexander IV (1254-1261)	20	<i>Signum Ostiense</i>
184	Urban IV (1261-1264)	21	<i>Hierusalem Campaniæ</i> (Jerusalem of Champagne) Hist.: native of Troyes, Champagne, later patriarch of Jerusalem
185	Clement IV (1265-1268)	22	<i>Draca depressus</i>
186	Gregory X (1271-1276)	23	<i>Anguinus vir</i>
187	Innocent V (1276)	24	<i>Concionatur Gallus</i>
188	Adrian V (1276)	25	<i>Bonus Comes</i>
189	John XXI (1276-1277)	26	<i>Piscator Tuscus</i>
190	Nicholas III (1277-1280)	27	<i>Rosa composita</i>
191	Martin IV (1281-1285)	28	<i>Ex teloneo liliacei Martini</i>
192	Honorius IV (1285-1287)	29	<i>Ex rosa leonina</i>
193	Nicholas IV (1288-1292)	30	<i>Picus inter escas</i>
194	Nicholas IV (1288-1292)	31	<i>Ex eremo celsus</i> (elevated from a hermit) Hist.: prior to his election he was a hermit in the monastery of Pouilles
195	Boniface VIII (1294-1303)	32	<i>Ex undarum benedictione</i>
196	Benedict XI (1303-1304)	33	<i>Concionator patereus</i>
197	Clement V (1305-1314)	34	<i>De fessis Aquitanicis</i> (ribbon of Aquitaine) Hist.: was archbishop of Bordeaux in Aquitaine
198	John XXII (1316-1334)	35	<i>De sutore osseo</i> (of the cobbler of Osseo) Hist.: Family name Ossa, son of a shoe-maker
Antipope	Nicholas V (1328-1330)	36	<i>Corvus schismaticus</i> (the schismatic crow) Note the reference to the schism, the only antipope at this period
199	Benedict XII (1334-1342)	37	<i>Frigidus Abbas</i> (cold friar) Hist.: he was a priest in the monastery of Frontfroid (coldfront)
200	Clement VI (1342-1352)	38	<i>De rosa Attrebatensi</i>
201	Innocent VI (1352-1362)	39	<i>De montibus Pammachii</i>
202	Urban V (1362-1370)	40	<i>Gallus Vice-comes</i>
203	Gregory XI (1370-1378)	41	<i>Novus de Virgine forti</i> (novel of the virgin fort) Hist.: count of Beaufort, later Cardinal of Ste-Marie La Neuve
Antipope	Clement VII (1378-1394)	42	<i>De cruce Apostilica</i>
Antipope	Benedict XIII (1394-1423)	43	<i>Luna Cosmedina</i>
Antipope	Clement VIII (1423-1429)	44	<i>Schisma Barcinonicum</i>
204	Urban VI (1378-1389)	45	<i>De Inferno pregnani</i> (From the hell of Pregnani) Hist.: He was a town called Inferno in the region of Pregnani.

205	Boniface IX (1389-1404)	46	<i>Cubus de mixtione</i>
206	Innocent VII (1404-1406)	47	<i>De meliore sydere</i>
207	Gregory XII (1406-1415)	48	<i>Nauta de ponte nigro</i>
Antipope	Alexander V (1409-1410)	49	<i>Flagellum Solis</i>
Antipope	John XXIII (1410-1415)	50	<i>Cervus Sirenæ</i>
208	Martin V (1417-1431)	51	<i>Corona veli aurei</i>
209	Eugene IV (1431-1447)	52	<i>Lupa cælestina</i>
Antipope	Felix V (1439-1449)	53	<i>Amator crucis</i>
210	Nicholas V (1447-1455)	54	<i>De modicitate lunæ</i>
211	Callistus III (1455-1458)	55	<i>Bos pascens</i> (grazing ox) Hist.: Alphonse Borgia's arms sported a golden grazing ox
212	Pius II (1458-1464)	56	<i>De capra et Albergo</i>
213	Paul II (1464-1471)	57	<i>De cervo et Leone</i>
214	Sixtus IV (1471-1484)	58	<i>Piscator Minorita</i>
215	Innocent VIII (1484-1492)	59	<i>Præcursor Siciliae</i>
216	Alexander VI (1492-1503)	60	<i>Bos Albanus in portu</i>
217	Pius III (1503)	61	<i>De parvo homine</i>
218	Julius II (1503-1513)	62	<i>Fructus jovis juvabit</i>
219	Leo X (1513-1521)	63	<i>De craticula Politiana</i>
220	Adrian VI (1522-1523)	64	<i>Leo Florentius</i>
221	Clement VII (1523-1534)	65	<i>Flos pilæi ægri</i>
222	Paul III (1534-1549)	66	<i>Hiacynthus medicorum</i>
223	Julius III (1550-1555)	67	<i>De corona Montana</i>
224	Marcellus II (1555)	68	<i>Frumentum floccidum</i>
225	Paul IV (1555-1559)	69	<i>De fide Petri</i>
226	Pius IV (1559-1565)	70	<i>Æsculapii pharmacum</i>
227	St. Pius V (1566-1572)	71	<i>Angelus nemorosus</i>
228	Gregory XIII (1572-1585)	72	<i>Medium corpus pilarum</i>
229	Sixtus V (1585-1590)	73	<i>Axis in medietate signi</i>
230	Urban VII (1590)	74	<i>De rore cæli</i>
231	Gregory XIV (1590-1591)	75	<i>De antiquitate Urbis</i>
232	Innocent IX (1591)	76	<i>Pia civitas in bello</i>
233	Clement VIII (1592-1605)	77	<i>Crux Romulea</i>
234	Leo XI (1605)	78	<i>Undosus Vir</i>
235	Paul V (1605-1621)	79	<i>Gens perversa</i>
236	Gregory XV (1621-1623)	80	<i>In tribulatione pacis</i>

237	Urban VIII (1623-1644)	81	<i>Lilium et rosa</i>
238	Innocent X (1644-1655)	82	<i>Jucunditas crucis</i>
239	Alexander VII (1655-1667)	83	<i>Montium custos</i>
240	Clement IX (1667-1669)	84	<i>Sydrus Olorum</i> (constellation of swans) Hist.: upon his election, he was apparently the occupant of the Chamber of Swans in the Vatican.
241	Clement X (1670-1676)	85	<i>De flumine magno</i>
242	Innocent XI (1676-1689)	86	<i>Bellua insatiabilis</i>
243	Alexander VIII (1689-1691)	87	<i>Pœnitentia gloriosa</i>
244	Innocent XII (1691-1700)	88	<i>Rastrum in porta</i>
245	Clement XI (1700-1721)	89	<i>Flores circumdati</i>
246	Innocent XIII (1721-1724)	90	<i>De bona Religione</i>
247	Benedict XIII (1724-1730)	91	<i>Miles in bello</i>
248	Clement XII (1730-1740)	92	<i>Columna excelsa</i>
249	Benedict XIV (1740-1758)	93	<i>Animal rurale</i>
250	Clement XIII (1758-1769)	94	<i>Rosa Umbriæ</i>
251	Clement XIV (1769-1774)	95	<i>Ursus velox</i>
252	Pius VI (1775-1799)	96	<i>Peregrinus Apostolicus</i>
253	Pius VII (1800-1823)	97	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
254	Leo XII (1823-1829)	98	<i>Canis et coluber</i>
255	Pius VIII (1829-1830)	99	<i>Vir religiosus</i>
256	Gregory XVI (1831-1846)	100	<i>De balneis heururiæ</i> (bath of Etruria) Hist.: prior to his election he was member of an order founded by Saint Romuald, at Balneo, in Etruria, present day Tuscany.
257	Pius IX (1846-1878)	101	<i>Crux de cruce</i> (Cross of Crosses) Hist.: Pius XI was the last Pope to reign over the Papal States (the middle third of what is today Italy). He ended up being a prisoner of the Vatican, never venturing outside Vatican City. A much heavier burden than his predecessors.
258	Leo XIII (1878-1903)	102	<i>Lumen in cælo</i> (Light in the Heavens) Hist.: Leo XIII wrote encyclicals on Catholic social teaching that were still being digested 100 years later. He added considerably to theology.
259	St. Pius X (1903-1914)	103	<i>Ignis ardens</i> (ardent fire) Hist.: The Pope had great personal piety and achieved a number of important reforms in the devotional and liturgical life of priests and laypeople.
260	Benedict XV (1914-1922)	104	<i>Religio depopulata</i> (Religion laid waste)

			Hist.: This Pope reigned during the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia which starts the establishment of Communism.
261	Pius XI (1922-1939)	105	<i>Fides intrepida</i> (Intrepid faith) Hist.: This Pope stood up to Fascist and Communist forces lining up against him in the lead up to World War II.
262	Pius XII (1939-1958)	106	<i>Pastor angelicus</i> (Angelic Shepherd) Hist.: This Pope was very mystical, and is believed to have received visions. People would kneel when they received telephone calls from him. His encyclicals add enormously to the understanding of Catholic beliefs (even if they are now overlooked because of focus on the Second Vatican Council, which occurred so soon after his reign).
263	John XXIII (1958-1963)	107	<i>Pastor et Nauta</i> (pastor and marine) Hist.: prior to his election he was patriarch of Venice, a marine city, home of the gondolas
264	Paul VI (1963-1978)	108	<i>Flos florum</i> (flower of flowers) Hist.: his arms displayed three lilies.
265	John Paul I (1978)	109	<i>De medietate Lunæ</i> (of the half of the moon) Hist.: Albino Luciani, born in Canale d'Agardo, diocese of Belluno, (beautiful moon) Elected pope on August 26, his reign lasted about a month, from half a moon to the next half...
266	John Paul II (1978-2005)	110	<i>De labore Solis</i> (of the eclipse of the sun, or from the labour of the sun) Hist.: Karol Wojtyla was born on May 18, 1920 during a solar eclipse. He also comes from behind the former Iron Curtain (the East, where the Sun rises). He might also be seen to be the fruit of the intercession of the Woman Clothed with the Sun labouring in Revelation 12 (because of his devotion to the Virgin Mary). His Funeral occurred on 8 April, 2005 when there was a solar eclipse visible in the Americas.
267	Benedict XVI (2005-)	111	<i>Gloria olivæ</i> The Benedictine order traditionally said this Pope would come from their order, since a branch of the Benedictine order is called the Olivetans. St Benedict is said to have prophesied that before the end of the world, a member of his order would be Pope and would triumphantly lead the Church in its fight against evil. While the Holy Father chose the name "Benedict", this does not seem enough to fulfil the prophecy. Nor is it clear how Benedict XVI (a Bavarian) is "Glorv of the Olives". Since he is said

267	Benedict XVI (2005-)	111	to have remarked in the Conclave after saying he would take the name Benedict that it was partly to honour Benedict XV, a pope of peace and reconciliation, perhaps Benedict XVI will be a peacemaker in the Church or in the World, and thus carry the olive branch.
	The Last Pope	112	In persecutione extrema S.R.E. sedebit Petrus Romanus, qui pascet oves in multis tribulationibus: quibus transactis civitas septicollis diruetur, & Judex tremêdus judicabit populum suum. Finis. (In extreme persecution, the seat of the Holy Roman Church will be occupied by Peter the Roman, who will feed the sheep through many tribulations, at the term of which the city of seven hills will be destroyed, and the formidable Judge will judge his people. The End.)