

## TODAY

Today is Monday, March 8, the 67th day of 2021. There are 298 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On **March 8, 2014**, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 with 239 people on board, vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, setting off a massive and ultimately unsuccessful search.

In **1618**, German astronomer Johannes Kepler devised his third law of planetary motion.

In **1817**, the New York Stock & Exchange Board, which had its beginnings in 1792, was formally organized; it later became known as the New York Stock Exchange.

In **1930**, the 27th president of the United States, William Howard Taft, died in Washington at age 72.

In **1948**, the Supreme Court, in *McCullum v. Board of Education*, struck down voluntary religious education classes in Champaign, Illinois, public schools, saying the program violated separation of church and state.

In **1960**, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon won the New Hampshire presidential primary.

In **1965**, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines arrived to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In **1979**, technology firm Philips demonstrated a prototype compact disc player during a press conference in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

In **1983**, in a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals convention in Orlando, Florida, President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire."

In **1988**, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, collided in mid-flight.

In **1999**, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio died in Hollywood, Florida, at age 84.

In **2004**, Iraq's Governing Council signed a landmark interim constitution.

In **2008**, President George W. Bush vetoed a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected terrorists.

**Ten years ago:** Voters in Bell, California, went to the polls in huge numbers and threw out the entire City Council after most of its members had been charged with fraud. (Residents were infuriated to find out that former City Manager Robert Rizzo had been receiving an annual salary of \$1.5 million, and that four of the five City Council members had paid themselves \$100,000 a year to meet about once a month.)

**Five years ago:** Democrat Bernie Sanders breathed new life into his longshot White House bid with a crucial win in Michigan's primary while Hillary Clinton breezed to an easy victory in Mississippi; Republican Donald Trump swept to victory in Michigan, Mississippi and Hawaii, while Ted Cruz carried Idaho. Sir George Martin, the Beatles' urbane producer who guided the band's swift, historic transformation from rowdy club act to musical and cultural revolutionaries, died at age 90.

**One year ago:** Italy's prime minister announced a sweeping quarantine restricting the movements of about a quarter of the country's population. Two members of Congress, Sen. Ted Cruz and Rep. Paul Gosar, said they were isolating themselves after determining that they'd had contact at the Conservative Political Action Conference with a man who later tested positive for the coronavirus. The U.S. State Department issued an advisory against travel on cruise ships. Actor Max von Sydow, who played the priest in the horror classic "The Exorcist," died at the age of 90.

**Today's Birthdays:** Jazz musician George Coleman is 86. Actor Sue Ane Langdon is 85. College Football Hall of Famer Pete Dawkins is 83. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 77. Actor-director Micky Dolenz (The Monkees) is 76. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 75. Pop singer Peggy March is 73. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Rice is 68. Jazz musician Billy Childs is 64. Singer Gary Numan is 63. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 62. Actor Aidan Quinn is 62. Actor Camryn Manheim is 60. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 45. Actor James Van Der Beek is 44. Rock singer Tom Chaplin (Keane) is 42. Rock musician Andy Ross (OK Go) is 42. Actor Jessica Collins is 38. R&B singer Kristinia DeBarge is 31.

— Associated Press



Jessica Hill/AP

Kindergarten school teacher Christina Kibby receives the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine by pharmacist Madeline Acquilano in Hartford, Connecticut, on Wednesday.

## Teachers

## Continued from A1

Portland Public Schools, the state's largest district where learning remains largely remote, is not keeping track either as it works toward launching a hybrid model for elementary schools by April. No states are publicly reporting the percentage of teachers and school staff that have been vaccinated, according to a Johns Hopkins University analysis published Thursday.

Education leaders are missing out on an opportunity to address hesitancy about when it's safe to go back, said Megan Collins, co-director of the Johns Hopkins Consortium for School-Based Health Solutions. Increased transparency could influence back-to-school decision making, she said, and would likely make teachers and students more willing to return to classrooms.

"We're seeing a substantial disconnect. There are states not prioritizing teachers for vaccine that are fully open for in-person instruction, and others that are prioritizing teachers for vaccines, but aren't open at all," Collins said. "If states are going to use teacher vaccinations as a part of the process for safely returning to classrooms, it's very important then to be able to communicate that information so people know that teachers are actually getting vaccines."

Over a dozen states had yet to prioritize teachers for vaccines before President Joe Biden directed all state governments this week to administer at least one coronavirus vaccination to every teacher, school employee and child-care worker by the end of March. Biden has promised to have most K-8 schools open for classroom instruction by the end of his first 100 days in office, or the end of April.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did not include vaccinating teachers in its guidelines for schools to consider when to bring

students back to classrooms. But vaccines have been a sticking point in reopening debates.

A push for statewide vaccine data is under way in at least one state, New York, where Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he would direct districts to report weekly how many staff members have been vaccinated. The more teachers that have been vaccinated, he said, the better others will feel about returning to classrooms.

Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest in the country after New York City, lets teachers register for vaccine appointments offered by the school system through an app designed with Microsoft. But district spokesperson Shannon Huber said the district is not tracking who has gotten vaccinated. A reopening date for Los Angeles schools is still undetermined and depends in part on all school staff being offered vaccines, a demand of the district's teachers union.

At Jefferson County Public Schools, the Kentucky district including Louisville, all staff wanting to receive COVID-19 vaccines got shots in arms by mid-February, and the district is now gearing up to reopen schools. A district spokesperson said vaccination figures were not available.

Vaccinations are not mandated in Kentucky, but Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear does require vaccinated teachers who were working remotely to return to their school buildings whenever in-person classes resume. Exceptions can be made with an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, or if the employee qualifies as a high-risk employee.

Beshear has called for districts statewide to reopen, saying the state "didn't vaccinate our educators for nothing."

Vaccines were a contentious part of the fight to reopen schools in Chicago, which narrowly avoided a teachers strike last month over COVID-19 safety plans. Vaccinations began in mid-February, but it's

unknown how many of the nearly 40,000 Chicago Public Schools employees have been vaccinated.

Chicago school system officials say they have some data from appointments that were allocated to school staffers, but medical privacy laws limit their ability to publicize a firm count. A plan that recently cleared the school board will require school employees to disclose their vaccination status and, eventually, require vaccinations.

Even after vaccines are widely available to teachers, that may not be enough to leave behind distance learning.

In Philadelphia, where schools are preparing to launch hybrid learning for students in PreK-2, a dispute with the teachers union over the state of school infrastructure has remained a stumbling block in returning to in-person instruction.

In Detroit, teacher distrust in health care has made the district slow to reopen, Superintendent Nikolai Vitti said. With a community population that is 78% Black, the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 have sowed fear about receiving vaccine, as well as a reluctance from teachers to inform the district that they've been inoculated.

Though \$750 in hazard pay is being offered to teachers as an incentive to return to school buildings, Vitti said Detroit will need different outreach from other school districts to encourage vaccinations and in-person returns.

"What I'm fearful of is what usually happens in this country," Vitti said. "Based on what the majority is doing — the majority in this case being white suburban rural districts coming back — the understanding is, 'Well, everyone's back, why wouldn't we be back?' There needs to be a differentiated, unique intentionality about the communication and effort to bring back our students and other students like ours throughout the country."

## Where Islamic State ruled, pope calls on Christians to forgive, rebuild

BY NICOLE WINFIELD AND SAMYA KULLAB

Associated Press

**QARAQOSH, Iraq** — Pope Francis urged Iraq's Christians on Sunday to forgive the injustices against them by Muslim extremists and to rebuild as he visited the wrecked shells of churches and met ecstatic crowds in the community's historic heartland, which was nearly erased by the Islamic State group's horrific reign.

"Fraternity is more durable than fratricide, hope is more powerful than hatred, peace more powerful than war," the pontiff said during prayers for the dead in the city of Mosul, with the call for tolerance that has been the central message of his four-day visit to Iraq.

At each stop in northern Iraq, the remnants of its Christian population turned out, jubilant, ululating and decked out in colorful dress. Heavy security prevented Francis from plunging into the crowd as he would normally. Nonetheless, they simply seemed overjoyed that he had come and that they had not been forgotten.

It was a sign of the desperation for support among an ancient community uncertain



Andrew Medichini/AP

Women wait outside the Chaldean Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Baghdad on Saturday. Pope Francis, depicted on a giant poster at their back, is visiting Iraq.

whether it can hold on. The traditionally Christian towns dotting the Nineveh Plains of the north emptied out in 2014 as Christians — as well as many Muslims — fled the Islamic State group's onslaught. Only a few have returned to their homes since the defeat of IS in Iraq was declared four years ago.

Iraq's Christian population, which has existed here since the time of Christ, has dwindled from around 1.5 million before the 2003 U.S.-led inva-

sion that plunged the country into chaos to just a few hundred thousand today.

The pope's visit, on its last day Sunday, aimed to encourage them to stay, rebuild and restore what he called Iraq's "intricately designed carpet" of faiths and ethnic groups.

Throughout his visit, Francis has delivered a message of interreligious tolerance to Muslim leaders, including in a historic meeting Saturday with Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

## DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** My girlfriend and I call each other horrible, disparaging names as a form of "love." Recently, I asked her to stop calling me names like that because it was fun at first, but now not so much. For me, it was just too negative.

I love her, and I want to show it by my actions. I want us to be a positive couple. I now call her "Bebe." Well, she got mad and accused me of not letting her be herself. Am I wrong for asking her not to call me ugly, gender-based names? I know she loves me, and I just want her to tone down the name-calling. Is that too much to ask?

— *No Dumb-A\*\* in California*

**Dear No D-A:** No, it is not too much to ask. Jokes can get old and stale, and the name-calling stopped being cute or fun for you a while ago. People who love each other are sensitive to the other person's feelings and don't do what your girlfriend is doing. If she persists, it may be time to step back and re-evaluate this relationship because her "just being herself" WILL become a turnoff.

**Dear Abby:** My husband of 34 years has really bad table manners. He smacks when he chews, makes gulping noises when he drinks liquids and stuffs huge amounts of food in his mouth. He once swallowed a whole hard-boiled egg all at once and almost choked. It's gross.

I love him, but his lack of manners is embarrassing, especially when we are invited out or are over at a friend's

house. What can I do?

— *Rolling My Eyes in Tennessee*

**Dear Rolling:** Have you talked to him about this? If you have, sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. Hand him a mirror or record a video of him eating so he can see for himself how unappealing he looks when he does this. If that doesn't persuade him to slow down and take smaller bites, consider putting less food on his plate before serving it. I can't guarantee this will work, but it's worth a try.

P.S. A whole egg? OUCH!

**Dear Abby:** After recently having gone through a divorce, my brother has now decided to start a family. He claims he loves her, but I'm afraid she's taking advantage of him. They are both in their mid-30s and blinded by lust. They plan on marrying "maybe a year from now."

I don't know what to think. On the one hand, I'm happy he has moved on and found a new life. On the other hand, I'm afraid for him, knowing he's vulnerable. How do I cope?

— *Bewildered Sis in Vermont*

**Dear Sis:** Your brother is talking about getting married a year from now. Unless he's putting the cart before the horse by starting a family before the wedding, he seems to be handling things quite well and not rushing into a commitment he can't get out of. Calm yourself. Let this play out and get to know his girlfriend. If you do, you may find you like her.

## YOUR HOROSCOPE

By Madalyn Aslan

## Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021:** Magnetic, psychic and nonconformist, you are a generous iconoclast. Your inner life is stormy at times, but your work in the public is powerful. This year, you do a project completely your way and it's very successful. If single, you are irresistible and have many suitors but can still feel lonely. You meet your soul mate in June 2022. If attached, you practically hypnotize your partner. PISCES is under your spell.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Today brings pleasant opportunities to combine business with pleasure. Ask co-workers for ideas and assistance. Others have plans in mind that involve you. Maintain goodwill by cooperating and consulting. Tonight: Your source of income goes through a shift. Be adaptable and economize.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Today turns your attention toward distant shores and imported items. You'll tire of all that has become comfortable and familiar. A blockage that has hampered your progress melts away. A goal is about to materialize. Tonight: Catch up with friends who are far away.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today emphasizes your casual friendships and career prospects. Deep roots related to old times are stirring. Make the best of the situation and enjoy the moment. Postpone taking on new projects, as they could overwhelm you. Tonight: Intimacy in a relationship — pleasure or business — deepens.

## CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Teamwork, compromise and flexibility are important today. Partners have strong feelings concerning plans and ideas they wish to discuss with you. You make an important commitment. A sense of completion and freedom surrounds you. Tonight: Listen to some of your very favorite music.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Listen carefully. Casual conversations or broadcasts about health overheard coincidentally offer useful information. Keep up with regular medical checkups. Make an appointment today if there is something overdue. Tonight: Decisions might fall on you. Let others run the show.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Today emphasizes a nurturing and meaningful relationship. Share time outdoors with the one you covet. This promises twists and turns for the better in your relationship. Sudden meetings and partings also play a part in today's drama. Tonight: A relaxing soak in an herbal bath.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Today accents your home and family. Discussions revolve around home improvements and decisions about your residence. Visitors suggest interesting ideas and offer valuable insights during casual conversation. Tonight: Prepare a house blessing and do a sage smudge with a family member.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ The pace is fast and somewhat hectic today and promises an interesting schedule punctuated by numerous messages and outings. The secret to juggling several ongoing projects successfully is organization. Tonight: Stay informed. Different news will provide valuable perspectives and insights.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Prepare for a financial roller coaster ride. Family members will require help and extra assistance. Look for ways to reduce expenses related to housing. Don't overextend yourself financially. Set funds aside to cover an unexpected expense. Tonight: Financial brainstorming sessions.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ This is a great day to plan a journey, either for business or for pleasure. Your career prospects are brighter. Heed suggestions offered by others. Communication with loved ones is pleasant and easy. You're the center of attention now. Tonight: All eyes are on you.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ You will relish peace and privacy today. Examine the past if you would know the future. During meditation you might be inspired to pursue charitable work and a volunteer opportunity. Satisfaction comes from helping those in need. Tonight: An early night's sleep.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Today brings supportive friendships your way. Seek a mentor to help you select worthwhile goals. You are seeking guidance for practical help in resolving problems. You receive an invitation to join a prestigious club or organization. Tonight: Discussion with old colleagues.

■ Looking for local events or want to add your own? Go to [bendbulletin.com/events](http://bendbulletin.com/events)

■ Questions? Call 541-383-0304 or email go to [bendbulletin.com](mailto:bendbulletin.com).