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Trump attacks Pope

The US president has rebuked the pontiff over his criticism of the Iran war

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Pope Leo XIV leads a prayer vigil for peace at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, April 11, 2026. © Antonio Masiello / Getty Images

US President Donald Trump has hit back at Pope Leo XIV, calling him *“weak”* and suggesting he should be *“grateful”* for becoming head of the Catholic Church, after the pontiff publicly criticised his policies.

The clash comes as Pope Leo has emerged as a vocal critic of the US-Israeli military campaign against Iran, launched in late February. He described Trump's threat to destroy Iranian civilization as *“truly unacceptable,”* warning it amounted to *“a threat against an entire people.”*

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The pontiff has also broadened his criticism to domestic US policy, calling for *“deep reflection”* on the treatment of migrants.

Trump responded in a post on Truth Social on Sunday night, accusing the Pope of being *“WEAK on CRIME, and terrible for Foreign Policy,”* and saying he would prefer his *“all MAGA”* brother Louis Prevost, who is US-based and known for his pro-Trump views.

“Don’t want a Pope who criticizes the President of the United States because I’m doing exactly what I was elected, IN A LANDSLIDE, to do, setting Record Low Numbers in Crime, and creating the Greatest Stock Market in History,” Trump wrote.

He added that *“Leo should be thankful because, as everyone knows, he was a shocking surprise,”* claiming that he was chosen solely for being American



and was perceived **Read more:** Russian Orthodox as *“the best way to Christian leader sends warning deal with President from Earth to space (VIDEO) Donald J. Trump.”*

Later on Sunday, speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump repeated his criticism, calling the Pope *“a liberal person”* who does not believe in *“stopping crime,”* adding: *“I don’t think he’s doing a very good job... I’m not a big fan of Pope Leo.”*

The Pope has intensified his calls for peace and a return to diplomacy. He pushed back against Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, who urged Americans to pray for victory *“in the name of Jesus Christ,”* saying God *“does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war.”*

On Friday, Leo wrote on X that *“God does not bless any conflict”* and that *“no cause can justify the*

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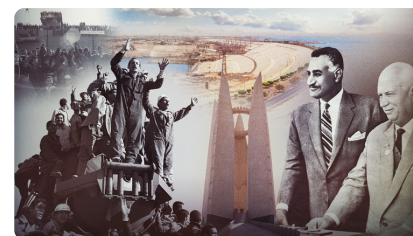
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shedding of innocent blood." He repeated the appeal a day later at a Vatican vigil, calling for prayers to "break the demonic cycle of evil."

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File photo of the Chagos Islands situated about 310 miles south of the Maldives archipelago. The largest island is Diego Garcia, the site of a joint military facility of the United Kingdom and the United States. © Getty Images / History/Universal Images Group



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