

PRESS RELEASE

Shroud and Jubilee in Turin

The 'Tent of the Holy Shroud' in the heart of Turin from 28th April to 5th May: booking is highly recommended - The celebrations in the year of the Jubilee and the gathering of young people - Local authorities and Piedmontese companies as partners of the initiative

What is 'Avvolti' (Shrouded)? It is a tent, in the heart of Turin; it is a table that lights up, and a gallery of images; moreover it is a place to meet. 'Avvolti' is the initiative that the Church of Turin is proposing, in the days of the Holy Shroud celebrations, to the people of Turin and Piedmont, and to all those who will be in the city from 28th April to 5th May. Since no public exposition of the Shroud is scheduled in 2025, the Custodian has decided to implement the initiative 'Avvolti' to offer an opportunity for reflection and knowledge of the Shroud within the Jubilee: icon of the Lord's Passion but also cultural heritage of Turin and Piedmont.

Card. Repole

Cardinal Roberto Repole presented 'Avvolti' - which is not an exposition of the Shroud - this morning in the Aula Magna of the Turin Theological Centre, in connection with the Holy See Press Office, too.

'In this Jubilee year,' he said, among other things, 'we have sought a new approach to the Shroud, focusing on new digital technologies. The face and body imprinted on the Shroud are those of a man defeated by history. So many women and men are defeated today, because they live in war, are sick, unemployed or elderly who feel alone and abandoned. And no matter what, whether we want it or not, we are all defeated by death. The Jubilee year is devoted to hope and hence we focus precisely on these situations, which seem to have no hope.

But that very Shroud is an invitation to live life with hope, because I would say that it is also a cast of the Resurrection, someone who is no longer dead - the Sepulchre is empty. On the horizon of eternity, the defeats of history are not the final word. We are often in danger of confusing hope with illusion and optimism; hope, on the other hand, is there precisely where you experience the abandonment and drama of life, but especially death, but despite this you continue having faith. In the Christian tradition, hope is God and looking at the face on the Shroud with a new eye may also represent hope: it is also the cast of the Resurrection, which shows us that God can intervene'.

The Tent

In the Tent at Piazza Castello, which will be open from 28th April to 5th May, visitors will be able to enjoy an innovative digital experience: 'getting to know' the Shroud up close, as has never been possible until now. A table of the same dimensions as the Shroud reproduces the virtual image of the Linen, and will offer the possibility to explore and 'touch' the details of the image.

A 'global' experience

The interactive table and the virtual close-up reading of the Shroud will not only last for eight days: after the Tent closes, it will be possible to have an interactive reading experience by connecting from smartphones, tablets and PCs, anywhere in the world. Social media are also active on Instagram and Facebook (@avvolti), as well as exclusive content on www.avvolti.org, where you can book your visit.

The reading programme is carried out by Reply, a company specialised in digital and technology consulting, founded in Turin and now active all over the world. The Tent and related works involved several specialised Italian companies, coordinated by Eventum based in Turin.

The exhibition 'volti nel Volto' (faces in the Face)

In the Tent, visitors will also find the exhibition 'volti nel Volto' (faces in the Face), curated by the Carlo Acutis Foundation (<https://www.fondazionecarloacutis.org/progetto/volti-nel-volto/>).

Meetings

There will also be a dedicated space for meetings, conferences and debates. In particular, a meeting is scheduled on Msgr. Giuseppe Ghiberti, the biblical scholar who passed away in 2023 and who led the preparation of the Shroud expositions from 1998 to 2010 and was the first consultant of the Custodian Archbishops.

Other meetings will be dedicated to some of the 'saints' related to the Shroud or included in the current events of the Church of Turin in these months. In particular: Carlo Acutis (28th April), Giuseppe Allamano (30th April), Pier Giorgio Frassati (2nd May). A meeting will focus on Blessed Sebastiano Valfrè, who was among the protagonists of the Siege of Turin in 1706, and who had a special veneration for the Shroud.

The full programme can be found at www.avvolti.org and www.sindone.org (the official Shroud website).

Mass for the Shroud

On Sunday 4th May at 10.30 a.m. the Pontifical Custodian of the Shroud Card. Roberto Repole, Archbishop of Turin and Bishop of Susa, will preside the Eucharistic celebration in the Cathedral - on the day of the liturgical celebration of the Shroud. It will be broadcast live on the official website www.sindone.org and the diocese website www.diocesi.torino.it.

Youth and the Jubilee

On Saturday 3rd May, young people from the dioceses of Turin and Susa will meet at the Tent and then visit the saint places in Turin. Divided into groups, they will stop at the Cottolengo and Sermig; and also at Maria Ausiliatrice and the Barolo Social District, in the church of Santa Maria di Piazza and other places, to learn more about the events and history related to the 'social saints'. The young people who have taken part in the meetings with the archbishop will also pass by the cathedral for a meditation in front of the Shroud.

Who supports 'Avvolti'

The Tent and related initiatives are promoted by the Turin diocese and have received contributions from the Piedmont Region, the City of Turin, the Turin Chamber of Commerce and the Carlo Acutis Foundation.

The initiative, which promotes the integration and active participation of people with disabilities, has also sought the patronage of the Ministry for Disability. In the Tent there will be a 'model' of the Shroud, made of special materials, which enables the visually impaired to tactually explore the figure and its features, offering a sensory experience that helps them better understand the details and position of the body. The 'model' can be visited throughout the year at the Shroud Museum in Via San Domenico 28 in Turin (www.sindone.it). Furthermore, the site, as a digital experience, focuses also on accessibility and inclusion: it starts with the font, Atkinson Hyperlegible, developed by the Braille Institute to improve readability, especially for people with visual impairment or low vision.

Reply, which produces the digital products, is also partner in the diocese's initiative, and contributes to enhance the cultural and spiritual heritage of the Piedmont region (<https://www.reply.com/it>).

'Officina della comunicazione', a digital enterprise specialising in the documentation of Catholic audiovisual materials, made the series of films on the Shroud that you can find in the video section of www.avvolti.org. In addition you can visit its site here: <https://www.officinadellacomunicazione.com/wp/>.

The communication company 'Eventum' has taking care of the organisation and promotion of 'Avvolti' and is media partner, too.

The Tent will be open in Piazza Castello from 28th April to 5th May, from 9 am to 8 pm. The visit is free, but booking on the 'Avvolti' website is highly recommended

www.avvolti.org