



The News

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by Emma Phillips

The selection process to choose the next pope is now underway as 133 cardinals from around the world have now shut themselves away in the Sistine Chapel in Rome to form the conclave. The first round of votes to choose who will succeed Pope Francis will be taking place this afternoon. The process is expected to take several days, with black smoke appearing through the chimney every day until white smoke will mean that the final choice has been made.

Emmanuel Macron today announced the creation of a joint defence and security council between France and Germany. The President stated that the joint program would lead to the “disruptive innovations that are necessary for the warfare of tomorrow”. The new German Chancellor, Friedrich Merz was at the Elysée for the occasion on his first official trip abroad.

Algeria has issued two international arrest warrants for the French-Algerian writer Kamel Daoud. The lawyer representing the 2024 Goncourt Prize winner has said that there are “political motivations” behind the warrants and has confirmed that she will be filing an appeal with Interpol.

A book has been published today on the inner workings of the political party, La France Insoumise. “La Muete”, written by journalists Charlotte Belaïch and Olivier Pérou pieces together 200 eyewitness accounts to build a picture of a party that the book asserts has been built around the authority and personality of leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon.

The committee on town and country planning in the Senate adopted a bill today that may see construction work on the A69 motorway get underway again. The decision to stop work on the motorway came from an administrative court in Toulouse. The court of appeal in Toulouse will be considering an initial appeal against that decision on May 21st. The bill that was approved today that could circumvent that decision will be put to a public session next Thursday.

And finally, as a lot of the country will be enjoying a long weekend as of this evening as tomorrow’s public holiday falling on a Thursday means that a “pont” weekend is possible, as usual, there will be more traffic on the roads. Traffic website the Bison Futé has traffic

at red levels for departures in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region whereas the rest of the country is at amber level.