

How John Paul II's successor will be announced to the world



The electors: The *Sacred College of Cardinals*, the papal advisory body appointed by the pope, has had sole responsibility for the election since 1059

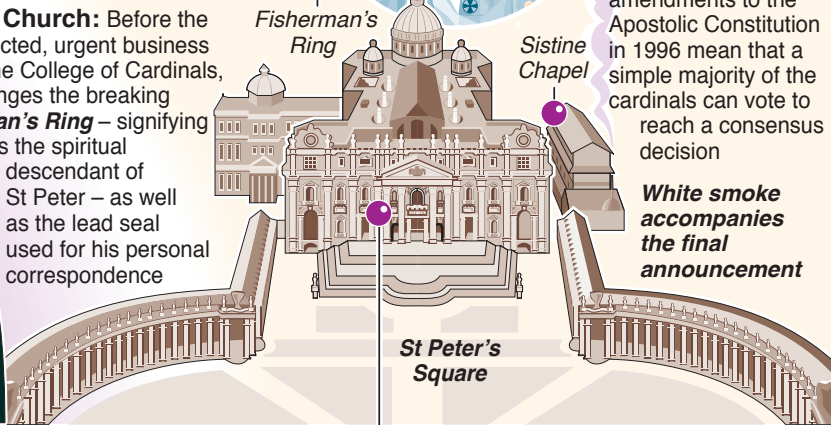
Pope's death announced: The *Vicar General of Rome* informs the populace of the death of their bishop. Papal apartments are sealed until a new pope is elected

Running the Church: Before the new pope is elected, urgent business is handled by the College of Cardinals, which also arranges the breaking of the *Fisherman's Ring* – signifying that the pontiff is the spiritual descendant of St Peter – as well as the lead seal used for his personal correspondence



The election: The conclave meets in the *Sistine Chapel* 15-20 days after the pope's death. A two-thirds majority plus one ensures victory for a candidate. Failing that, *John Paul II's* amendments to the Apostolic Constitution in 1996 mean that a simple majority of the cardinals can vote to reach a consensus decision

White smoke accompanies the final announcement



Habemus Papam: The traditional announcement is made in Latin: "We have a Pope," and the identity of the chosen cardinal is revealed. The newly-elected pope then appears on the balcony of St Peter's Church

Thousands of pilgrims wait in St Peter's Square to greet the new pope