

# Conclave – election of the next Pope

## Conclave

**Monday, 4:30pm:** Cardinal electors gather in **Sistine Chapel**. 117 of 183 living cardinals – those under age 80 – eligible to vote but two unable to participate due to poor health

## Universi Dominici Gregis

**Cardinals take oath to observe new rules for selection of Pontiff.** In 1996 **John Paul II** stated election must be by secret ballot alone. He prohibited other traditional methods – **inspiration**, whereby any voter could declare **Holy Spirit** indicated specific candidate, and **committee**, appointed in event of deadlock. **If no one has two-thirds majority after 30 ballots, simple majority will now suffice**

## Extra omnes

**1** After oath, everyone not connected with conclave is ordered out by **Master of Ceremonies**. Sistine Chapel is then sealed by **Camerlengo**, who will preside over ballot

## Meditation

**2** Cardinals are called to act for good of universal church with words “**solum Deum prae oculis habentes**” – **having only God before your eyes**. Cardinals immediately begin election process

## ELIGO IN SUMMUM PONTIFICEM

**3** Under inscription “**I elect as Supreme Pontiff**” each cardinal writes name of his preferred papal candidate

## Voting

**4** Each cardinal elector approaches altar with folded ballot held up in clear view. **After kneeling in prayer, ballot is placed in bronze urn, which replaces traditional chalice**

## Scrutineers

**5** Ballots counted before being unfolded. **If number matches number of electors, scrutineers begin counting votes**

## The count

**6** Names read aloud by Camerlengo and his three scrutineers, and tallied. Ballots then bound together by needle and thread

## Result

**7** If no cardinal wins vote, ballots are burned to produce black smoke. White smoke indicates Pope has been chosen. Bells will also be rung at **St Peter's Basilica**

**Stove:** Chemicals used to produce black or white smoke

## Announcement

Around one hour later, new Pope is introduced by senior Cardinal-Deacon from balcony overlooking St Peter's Square

