

Pope visits Israel amid Catholic-Jewish tensions

Benedict XVI's visit – the third by a pope to the Holy Land since the establishment of the state of Israel – comes after a period of heightened tension between Israel and the Vatican

KEY EVENTS IN ISRAEL-VATICAN RELATIONS

■ **1964: Pope Paul VI** never uses name of Israel during first papal visit to Jewish state, not then recognised by Vatican

■ **1965: Second Vatican Council** repudiates notion of collective Jewish guilt for death of **Jesus Christ**

■ **1986: John Paul II** becomes first pope since days of early Church to visit a synagogue

■ **1994:** Vatican establishes diplomatic relations with Israel

■ **1998:** Vatican apologizes for its failure to speak out against murder of Jews by Nazi Germany, but defends wartime **Pope Pius XII** from accusations he ignored Holocaust

■ **2000:** Pope John Paul visits Israel and **Yad Vashem** Holocaust memorial

■ **2005:** Newly-elected **Benedict XVI** visits Cologne synagogue – head of city's Jewish community urges Vatican to open World War II archives

■ **2008:** Pope Benedict pays tribute to Pius XII, but delays moves to make him a saint

■ **Jan 2009:** Israel criticizes Vatican justice minister, **Cardinal Renato Martino**, after he condemns Israeli offensive in Gaza, calling it a "big concentration camp"

Pope lifts excommunication of four traditionalist bishops, including Holocaust denier **Richard Williamson** (left)

■ **Feb:** German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** calls on Pope to make clear he does not tolerate any denial of Holocaust

Vatican orders Williamson to publicly recant his views if he wants to serve as prelate in Church

World Jewish leaders tell Vatican that denying Holocaust is "not an opinion but a crime"

■ **May 11: Pope visits Israel in trip billed as "Bridge for Peace"**

