

John Paul II takes step to sainthood

The late pope's beatification comes just over six years after John Paul's death and is the fastest on record, beating that of Mother Teresa, in 2003, by two weeks. **Beatification, or declaring a person "blessed", is the necessary prelude to full sainthood**

■ **Apr 2005:** Pope John Paul II dies. Banners proclaiming ***Santo Subito – Sainthood Now*** – displayed at funeral Mass in St Peter's Square

■ **May:** ***Pope Benedict XVI*** puts predecessor on fast track to possible sainthood by dispensing with Church rules that impose five-year waiting period after candidate's death before beatification process can start

John Paul is also credited with playing key role in collapse of communism in Eastern Europe

Source: Vatican



■ **Jun:** Sister ***Marie Simon-Pierre Normand***, a French nun, says her prayers to late pope

cured her of Parkinson's disease – same malady that afflicted John Paul in his later years

After examining evidence, Vatican-appointed panels of doctors and theologians, cardinals and bishops, conclude that Sister Marie's cure was a miracle due to John Paul's posthumous intercession

■ **Jan 2011:** Benedict formally declares Normand case a miracle

■ **May 1:** John Paul II beatified in St Peter's Square in ceremony expected to attract up to two million

Coffin to be moved into St Peter's Basilica from Vatican crypt in accordance with tradition

Second miracle must be verified after beatification for John Paul to be canonised as a saint

