

# Key events in Benedict XVI's papacy



■ **Apr 19, 2005:** Conclave of Cardinals elects **Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger** as 264th successor to St Peter and leader of world's 1.2 billion Catholics. 78-year-old takes name **Benedict XVI**

■ **Nov 2006:** Unprecedented security during trip to Turkey, where Benedict prays alongside **Grand Mufti Cagrici** in Istanbul's Blue Mosque

■ **May 2007:** First book in his **Jesus of Nazareth** trilogy published

■ **Oct:** Beatifies 498 martyrs from Spanish Civil War in ceremony at Vatican, setting all-time record

■ **Apr 2008:** Meets with sex abuse victims from Boston Archdiocese during official visit to U.S.

■ **Jul:** Visits Australia to participate in World Youth Day. Makes historic full apology for child sex abuse

■ **Dec:** In end of year message to **Roman Curia** Pope talks about gender distinctions between men and women and "asks that this order, set down by creation, be respected"

■ **Jan 2009:** Launches Vatican channel on YouTube

■ **Mar 2009:** Reignites controversy over church's stance on condom use during trip to Africa, saying condoms are not an answer in fight against HIV/AIDS

■ **May:** Visits Jordan, Israel and Palestinian Territories, where he condemns Holocaust denials and calls for cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis

■ **Nov:** Signs apostolic constitution **Anglicanorum Coetibus** which enables Anglicans to enter into full communion with Catholic Church

■ **Apr 2010:** Faces allegations that as cardinal, he was responsible for delaying Church action against convicted paedophile priest in 1985

■ **May 2012:** Pope's butler arrested for leaking Vatican documents exposing corruption. Pope Benedict later pardons him

■ **Dec:** During Christmas speech he reiterates that marriage should be defended from "every possible misrepresentation"

■ **Feb 11, 2013:** Pope Benedict XVI announces he is to resign on Feb 28