

Papal conclave – electing the new Pope

The conclave to elect Pope Benedict XVI's successor will take place under electoral law – *Universi Dominici Gregis* – introduced by John Paul II in 1996 and modified by Benedict in 2007

Feb 28: Pope Benedict XVI will end his papal reign



- ① Conclave, day one:** College of Cardinals convenes in Sistine Chapel following special mass. First vote takes place

ELIGO IN SUMMUM PONTIFICEM

- ② Under inscription “I elect as Supreme Pontiff”** each eligible cardinal – currently 117 cardinals under age of 80 – writes name of his preferred papal candidate on ballot



- ③ Names read aloud by Camerlengo** – chamberlain. Ballots then strung together by needle and thread. Pope is elected by two-thirds majority plus one

- ④ Ballots burned.** If no Pope has been chosen, chemical is added to generate black smoke. White smoke indicates new Pope has been elected

- ⑤ Cardinals have no communication with outside world during vote**

- ⑥ Day two onwards:** Voting takes place twice daily on each subsequent morning and afternoon

- ⑦ If no decision is reached after 34 ballots,** field of competitors is restricted to two candidates who won most preferences in final vote.

New Pope is then chosen by simple majority

Cardinals' lodging
St Peter's Basilica

Sistine Chapel
Smoke signals election result

St Peter's Square

Habemus Papam: Announcement made in Latin: “We have a Pope”. Newly-elected Pope delivers blessing from balcony