

François Fillon profile



■ Fillon, 62, was prime minister during **Nicolas Sarkozy's** presidency from 2007-12. Noted for defying street protests and championing rise in retirement age

■ Conservative Catholic who claims to stand for Christian family values. Opposed same-sex marriage and is against adoption of children by gay couples

■ Admirer of British Prime Minister **Margaret Thatcher**, advocates pro-business reforms, including cutting 500,000 public sector jobs in next five years and scrapping 35-hour work week

■ Has published book on fight against radical Islam and wants to strip French citizenship from those who embark on jihad. Calls for rapprochement with Russia's President Vladimir Putin on Syria

■ Welsh-born wife, **Penelope Clarke**, five children. Lives in 12th-century chateau, loves driving classic cars at nearby Le Mans race track