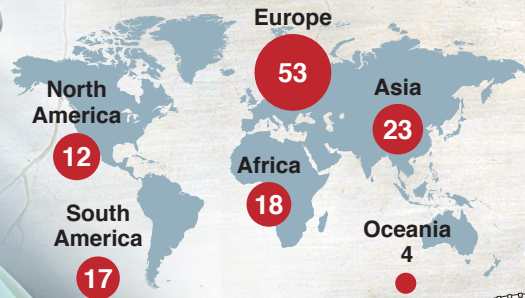


Conclave: Electing a new pope

Following Pope Francis' death, cardinals are summoned to Rome for a papal conclave—an elaborate and highly secretive ballot process to elect the new spiritual leader for the world's 1.4 billion Catholics

WHO CAN VOTE? Of 252 members of College of Cardinals, 135 are under age of 80, which makes them eligible to vote



During conclave, cardinals reside within Vatican and are not permitted any contact with outside world

Saint Peter's Basilica

Cardinals walk every day to Sistine Chapel to vote

Domus Sanctae Marthae: Lodgings for cardinals taking part in conclave

Balcony

St. Peter's Square

SISTINE CHAPEL

1492 Conclave first to be held here. Site of all conclaves since 1878

Ceiling frescos by Michelangelo, completed in 1508-12, depict scenes from Bible's Old and New Testaments, including "The Creation of Adam" (above)

Door to access Room of Tears

ACCEPTANCE

Having given his consent, new pope goes to adjacent **Room of Tears**, where he changes into papal vestments before receiving pledges of obedience from fellow cardinals

HABEMUS PAPAM!

Announcement made in Latin: "We have a Pope". Newly-elected pontiff delivers blessing from balcony of St Peter's Basilica

Screen, or transenna

False floor: Jamming devices hidden under floor prevent cell phones from working

VOTING PROCEEDINGS

- Day One:** Cardinals celebrate Mass before walking in procession to **Sistine Chapel**
- After entering chapel, Cardinals place hand on Gospel and swear oath of secrecy under penalty of excommunication
- Latin command "**Extra Omnes**" instructs everyone not taking part in election to leave – Sistine Chapel sealed by Camerlengo and first ballot begins
- Under inscription in Latin "**I elect as Supreme Pontiff**" each cardinal-elect writes name of his preferred papal candidate on ballot
- Each elector approaches altar with folded ballot held up in clear view. After kneeling in prayer, ballot is placed in bronze urn

- Ballots tallied by three Scrutineers, and names read aloud. Ballots then bound together by needle and thread, each pierced through word "Eligo"

Smoke signals vote outcome

Electric air pump: Ensures smoke exits through chimney

Stove: Chemicals used to produce black or white smoke

REACHING A DECISION

Pope is elected by two-thirds majority plus one. If no cardinal wins vote, ballots are burned to produce black smoke. **White smoke and ringing of bell indicate Pope has been chosen**

Day Two onwards:

Two votes held each morning and two each afternoon. 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**