

KEY FACTS

Official name: Stato della Città del Vaticano (Vatican City State). Santa Sede (The Holy See) – the head organisation of the Roman Catholic Church – operates from the territory of the Vatican City State.

Head of State: Pope Benedict XVI (inaugurated 24 Apr 2005)

Head of government: Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, President of the Pontifical Commission for the State of Vatican City (appointed 2006); Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone (appointed 2006), Secretary of State of The Holy See, handles diplomatic and political activity.

Area: 0 square km

Population: 460 (2010; census figure)

Capital: Vatican City

Official language: Latin; Italian is most commonly spoken.

Currency: Vatican City Lira and Euro (VCL and €)

Exchange rate: VCL and €0.75 per US\$ (Jul 2013); (the Vatican City State has its own currency which, by agreement with the Italian state, is also legal tender in Italy; its value is pegged to that of the euro).

Vatican City (The Holy See)

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1917 The Code of Canon Law was devised. The Law provides codified information and rules on the operations of the Catholic Church.

1922 Achilles Ratti became Pope Pius XI.

1929 The Pope was instrumental in defining the Vatican's position within Italy, which was confirmed by the signing of the Lateran Treaty, when the Vatican City State was formed as a separate state.

1939 When Pius XI died, Eugenio Pacelli became Pope Pius XII, the 261st Pope.

1958 After Pius XII died, Pope John XXIII was elected.

1963 Second Vatican Council assembled (the first council sat in 325 AD), to debate the role of the Church in the modern world, particularly regarding church administration, doctrine and discipline. Foremost in the 16 decrees issued were the reforms in the format of the mass and the liturgy, adoption of local languages instead of Latin for services, and the promotion of ecumenicalism within Christian churches.

1964 Paul VI, appointed Pope in 1963, made the first-ever papal visit to Israel.

1965 Paul VI made the first papal trip to the Western hemisphere, with a visit to the UN headquarters in New York. The Vatican published a document that proclaimed the Jews were not to blame for the death of Jesus Christ.

1967 The Apostolic Constitution was ratified.

1974 The Vatican intervened in Italian politics by urging voters to vote in favour of a referendum to repeal a recently passed law (1971) that made divorce legal. The referendum failed and divorce remained legal.

1978 John Paul I was elected Pope, but died one month later, which made his the shortest reign as Pope. A Polish national, Karol Jozef Wojtyła, succeeded him as John Paul II.

1981 There was an assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II. The Vatican intervened in Italian politics by urging voters to support a referendum to repeal a recently passed law that made abortion legal. The proposal was rejected by almost 68 per cent.

1983 A new and revised Code of Canon Law was introduced.

1993 The Vatican officially recognised Israel as an independent state.

1998 The commandant of the Pope's Swiss Guard, Alois Estermann, and his wife were murdered by a fellow Guardsman. It was the first murder case in the Holy See within living memory.

1999 The Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR) (the Institute for Religious Works, otherwise known as the Bank of the Holy See or the Vatican Bank) was sued in the US for helping to conceal in 1945 Nazi-era assets looted from Holocaust survivors and Nazi sympathisers from Croatia.

2000 Pope John Paul II apologised for anti-Semitism by Christians throughout the ages and called for the formation of an independent Palestinian state.

2001 Pope John Paul II appointed 44 new cardinals. The Pope issued a worldwide apology to victims of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests and other officers of the Church.

2003 The Vatican hosted a closed-door seminar of top officials and international medical experts on the problem of paedophilia within the Church

2004 The Vatican library, which housed nearly two million books and manuscripts, adopted radio frequency identification (RFID) tags.

2005 Pope John Paul II died aged 84. Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger was elected Pope and chose the name Benedictus XVI. The Pope intervened in Italian politics by successfully urging a boycott of a referendum on Italy's fertility laws. A diplomatic row between the Vatican and Israel broke out when Israel demanded to know why the Pope did not mention Israeli victims during a speech deploring terrorism. The Vatican published a new policy document on homosexuality and the clergy, sparking controversy among liberal and conservative Catholics alike.

2006 The Vatican joined the European Union Schengen area, whereby all travellers may cross borders without a passport or visa. The Vatican excommunicated two bishops consecrated by the breakaway Chinese Catholic Church in an act considered illegal by the authorities. In a speech given at the University of Regensburg in Germany, the Pope quoted a fourteenth century Byzantine emperor who seemed to say that the teachings of

the Prophet Mohammed were 'spread by the sword' and were 'evil and inhuman'. This caused a serious international storm of controversy among Muslims. It took a number of apologies by the Vatican and the Pope to lessen the tension, explaining that this was not necessarily the Pope's belief but was a quotation.

2007 A meeting was held between Pope Benedict and the monarch of Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah. The meeting was the first between the two leaders and concerned Middle East conflict and inter-faith dialogue.

2008 A three-day summit was held between 48 Christian and Muslim officials and scholars to develop an inter-faith, theological dialogue which could diffuse any future religious and political tensions.

2010 In March, in his Easter address, the Pope condemned media reporting of the child sexual abuse scandal and paedophile priests that had besmirched the reputation of the religious body and said he would not be intimidated by what he described as 'petty gossip'.

2011 A new law of citizenship was enacted on 1 March. The Vatican City now has five categories of inhabitant: the pope; cardinals residing in the city; active members of the Holy See's diplomatic corps; other directors of Vatican offices and services; and official Vatican 'residents' (those that live in the city but are not citizens). In a book published in March, Pope Benedict rejected the idea of Jewish 'collective guilt' for the death of Jesus Christ, arguing there was no basis in scripture for blame of the Jewish people. The Catholic Church had repudiated Jewish 'collective guilt' in 1965. The late Pope John Paul II was beatified (the last stage before sainthood) by Pope Benedict XVI on 1 May. In July the Vatican and Malaysia agreed to establish diplomatic ties. The Vatican's special envoy in Ireland, Papal Nuncio Giuseppe Leanza, was recalled on 25 July after a damning report on the Catholic Church's handling of child abuse by priests.

2012 The Vatican initiated an exceptional criminal investigation into unauthorised release of news items to the Italian media, described as 'grave acts of disloyalty'. The leaks described not only alleged mismanagement and internal conflicts among top officials but also corruption. The head of the Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Institute for Works of Religion), commonly known as the Vatican bank, Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, was sacked on 24 May for 'dereliction of duty'. His removal followed police investigations into alleged money-laundering at the bank. On 26 May the butler to the pontiff, Paolo Gabriele, was arrested for leaking private papers to Italian journalists. On 30 May

the Pope denounced the coverage of the scandals within the Holy See, saying they were 'exaggerated' and 'gratuitous'. On 31 August, Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini died and left an interview that was published posthumously, which called the Catholic Church 'old' and 'tired' and called for a 'radical transformation, beginning with the Pope and his bishops'. Cardinal Martini was a senior member of the establishment, a distinguished scholar, but dissenting voice within the church. On 6 October Gabriele was convicted and sentenced to 18 months in jail for theft and transmission of Vatican papers.

2013 On 11 Feb 2013 Pope Benedict announced his resignation, because of 'lack of strength of mind and body'. He will step down on 28 Feb becoming the first pope to resign since Pope Gregory XII in 1415. He is expected to become known as Pope Emeritus, and will continue to live in the Vatican compound, spending his life in prayer and contemplation. On 5 July the Vatican announced that Pope John Paul II (from 1978–2005) and Pope John XXIII (1958–63), are to become saints. The canonisations are expected to take place in late 2013. In August Pope Francis made what turned out to be a controversial appointment to the commission to enquire into the Vatican's financial administration. Francesca Chaouqui will be the only woman on the commission; she has been criticised for making a number of tweets including one that appeared to accuse a cardinal of corruption. In his first public comment since retiring the former Pope, Benedict XVI, denied having any role in covering up child sex abuse by priests. He made the comments in a letter to a prominent atheist in September. Also in September, Pope Francis gave an interview to the Jesuit magazine *Civiltà Cattolica* in which he seemed to suggest a less authoritarian Church government and tone at the Vatican in future and criticised 'small-minded' Catholic rules. On 1 October the Pope met for the first time with the group of eight cardinals (the G8) from around the world he has appointed to look into the administration of the Catholic Church. Also on 1 October the Institute for Religious Works (IOR) (the Vatican's bank) published its annual report for the first time; it showed a net profit in 2012 of €86.6 million (US\$115.5 million), €54.7 million (US\$73 million) of which was allocated to the Pope to use for the Church's mission abroad.

Political structure

The Vatican City and the Holy See are two different entities: the Vatican is the physical state, while the Holy See is a non-geographical sovereign entity. The Holy See

participates in a number of international organisations, such as the UN, as an observer. Italy is in charge of defending the city state, although the Pope's personal guards, the Swiss Guards, belong to the Vatican City.

The Vatican City State employs 1,534 people. It is a sovereign country recognised as a separate subject under international law. The Pope is its absolute monarch and chief of state, but its general administration is overseen by an executive called the Pontifical Commission, appointed by the Pope and headed by a president. The Pope plays little part in the Commission's administration. The Commission runs a police force and post office, has a railway station and issues car licence plates. The term 'Vatican' is commonly used to describe the residence of the Pope – the Apostolic Palace.

The Holy See is exclusively made up of ecclesiastical dignitaries, being the head organisation of the Roman Catholic Church and consisting of the Pope and the Roman Curia. It operates from the territory of the Vatican City State and constitutes a sovereign institution with the status of a subject of international law. The Curia is headed by the Secretariat of State which is presided over by a Cardinal who assumes the title of Secretary of State. The Cardinal Secretary of State is the person primarily responsible for the diplomatic and political activity of The Holy See, in some circumstances representing the person of the Supreme Pontiff himself.

Central offices of The Holy See are: Secretariat of State (two sections), nine congregations, three tribunals, 11 pontifical councils, the Apostolic Chamber, the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See (APSA) (sometimes referred to as the Vatican Bank), Prefecture of the Economic Affairs of The Holy See, Prefecture of the Papal Household, Office of the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff, The Holy See Press Office, Vatican Information Service, Central Office of Church Statistics, five pontifical commissions and committees, nine institutions linked to The Holy See, the Synod of Bishops and six pontifical academies. In addition to these central offices, there are 118 pontifical representations to nations and to international organisations. There are 2,674 people working in the Roman Curia: 755 ecclesiastics, 344 religious and 1,575 lay people. There are about 1,000 retired persons.

The Pope is elected for life by a Conclave composed of members of the College of Cardinals. Pope John Paul II changed the rules to make a simple majority sufficient to elect a Pope if no-one has the traditional two-thirds majority after 30 rounds of voting. The College of Cardinals

consists of 183 cardinals, of which 117 are electors. Suffrage is limited to cardinals less than 80 years old. After the Pope's death, the chamberlain becomes acting head of state. An official nine-day mourning period, known as the *novemdiales*, follows the death of the Pope. The Pope's body lies in state in St Peter's Basilica in the Clementine Chapel until the funeral, which takes place between four and six days following the Pope's death. A Conclave, consisting of all the Cardinals under 80 years, meets to elect the next pope no less than 15 days, and no more than 20 days, after the death of the Pope.

Constitution

In 2001, a new basic law, incorporating constitutional amendments adopted since the creation of the Vatican City State under the 1929 Lateran Treaty with Italy, entered into force. It replaced the 1967 document *Regimini Ecclesiae Universae* as the Vatican's constitutional text. It distinguishes between the legislative, executive and judicial branches, continuing to vest absolute authority over all three branches in the Pope as supreme pontiff and sovereign.

Form of state

Theocratic state, non-hereditary, elected monarchy (Bishop of Rome and Pope)

The executive

The Pope is the *ex officio* Head of the State and head of government of Vatican City. He has absolute monarchy powers with total control of legislative, executive and judicial power. He appoints his own advisors. The appointments include president of the Pontifical Commission for the State of Vatican City (head of government).

When a Pope is unable to perform his duties important decisions on the confirmation of bishops, doctrinal issues and the promulgation of laws within the Catholic Church are left in abeyance.

The Roman Curia is the administrative organisation that oversees the Roman Catholic Church, together with the Pope, providing the necessary organisation and objectives of the church.

Population

460 (2010; census figure)

A new law of citizenship was enacted on 1 March (2011). The Vatican City now has five categories of inhabitant: the pope; cardinals residing in the city; active members of the Holy See's diplomatic corps; other directors of Vatican offices and services; and official Vatican 'residents' (those that live in the city but are not citizens).

572 citizens (of which 220 were living in the city on 1 March 2011)

352 Holy See's diplomatic corps

Over 600 official Vatican 'residents'

Last census: 26 February 2010: 460

Population density: 1,595 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 100 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: -2.6 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

Predominantly Italian and Swiss.

Religions

Roman Catholic

Main cities

Vatican City (capital)

Languages spoken

Mainly Italian and Latin.

Official language/s

Latin; Italian is most commonly spoken.

Media

Quite apart from the hundreds of publications worldwide, which proclaim the policies and pronouncements of the Catholic Church, there are powerful transmitters that broadcast directly to a global audience.

Press

The only daily newspaper is *L'Osservatore Romano* (www.vatican.va see news services), with weekly editions published in several languages.

The official bulletin of the Holy See is *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*, which is published periodically and on papal pronouncements.

Broadcasting

Radio: Vatican Radio

(www.radiovaticana.org) broadcasts in over 40 languages, with modern facilities for podcasts and interactive blogs. It broadcasts from a centre at Santa Maria di Galeria, which has diplomatic privileges similar to a foreign embassy.

Vatican Radio began broadcasting advertising in July 2009, in an effort to offset rising annual costs of US\$30 million. Advertisements are vetted to ensure they are in keeping with the Catholic Church's moral standards and ethos.

Television: Centro Televisivo Vaticano (CTV) (www.vatican.va) provides live broadcasts of religious and papal matters, with footage for foreign news broadcasters; it acts as a press centre for broadcast journalists.

National news agency: Agenzia Internazionale Fides

Economy

The economy of Vatican City is separate from the Roman Catholic Church (The Holy See), which is a separate entity although headquartered in Vatican City. Vatican City produces very little and what is manufactured is typically for local consumption only and without commercial value (market gardening, artwork and manuscripts for church purposes and so forth), income is generated through trade

of tourist mementoes (made elsewhere) and services to tourists, plus the sale of postage stamps and publications, and fees for admission to museums as well as donations from its religious followers, all within its territory. The Vatican City posted a budget surplus of €21.8 million (US\$27 million) in 2011.

The Holy See is financed from real estate and an internationally diversified portfolio of stocks and bonds, plus donations from Catholic dioceses, institutions and individuals. However, in 2011 it sustained its largest budget deficit for ten years, due to the weakened global economy, which cut income as a whole and reversed its 2010 surplus of €9.8 million (US\$12.9 million) revenue.

The Holy See funds the ecclesiastical Roman Curia (bureaucracy, diplomatic missions and other international Catholic bodies). A fundraising collection, used and directed by the Pope for charitable purposes, is the annual *Obolo di San Pietro* (Peter's Pence), which was US\$69.7 million in 2011.

The Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR) (Institute for Works of Religion), commonly known as the Vatican bank collects money from residents. On 24 May 2012, the head of the IOR, Ettore Gotti Tedeschi was sacked for 'dereliction of duty'. His removal followed police investigations into alleged money-laundering at the bank. By 18 July 2012, the IOR had passed a key European financial transparency test (required by the Council of Europe), although it still received poor reviews of the effectiveness of its new financial watchdog agency and its ability to ensure that its customers and transactions were clean. The IOR announced it was endeavouring to comply with all banking regulations.

Tourism

Tourism and tourist numbers for the Vatican City are difficult to ascertain, as there is no practical border between it and Italy; however, it is estimated that there are some 18 million visitors each year. Around 100,000 people congregate in St Peter's Square to listen to the Pope's Christmas and Easter messages. The Vatican Museums alone typically attract over four million visitors each year.

Banking and insurance

The Vatican's banking sector has been embroiled in a number of trans-national controversies over the past three decades. The IOR acknowledged 'moral involvement' in the collapse of the Italian private bank, the Banco Ambrosiano, in 1982 and paid US\$241 million to creditors. Roberto Calvi, who headed the Banco Ambrosiano, fled Italy pending a trial for corruption and was found dead in London

in June 1982. Five people, all alleged to have Mafia ties, were charged in Rome with Calvi's murder in April 2005.

In 1999, survivors of Nazi-run concentration camps filed a law suit claiming that the IOR helped conceal assets looted from camp victims by the then pro-Nazi Croatian government.

Central bank

Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR) (Bank of The Holy See); European Central Bank (ECB).

Time

GMT plus one hour (daylight saving, late March to late October, GMT plus two hours)

Geography

The State of the Vatican City (The Holy See) is situated entirely within the city of Rome, Italy.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Mediterranean, with hot summers and mild winters. Temperatures range from 4–30 Celsius (C).

Dress codes

Dress should be modest — no shorts or sundresses. Lightweight clothing for summer; medium-weight and light topcoat for winter.

Entry requirements

No formal regulations exist, however visitors must adhere to Italian entry requirements before entry to the city.

Italy: no visa requirements for citizens of Europe, the Americas, Australasia and some Asian countries, visiting for up to 90 days. For a full list, and further information for those citizens not included on the list of visa-free travel, see

www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it and see consular services. A Schengen visa application (offered in several languages) can be downloaded from www.eurovisa.info/ApplicationForm.htm.

Currency advice/regulations

The euro is legal tender alongside the Vatican City Lira.

Health (for visitors)

As for Italy, where no special immunisations are needed.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 6 Jan (Epiphany), 25 April (Liberation Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 2 Jun (National Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 8 Dec (Immaculate Conception), 25–26 Dec (Christmas).

Variable dates

Easter Monday

Working hours

Business

Mon–Fri: 0830–1245 and 1630–2000.

Getting there

Air

A heliport is used by Vatican City officials and visiting dignitaries.

A low-cost charter airline was launched 27 August 2007 to carry pilgrims from Rome to Lourdes and other holy sites including the Holy Land, Santiago di Compostela, Fatima and places in Poland and Mexico.

International airport/s: Rome, served by Leonardo da Vinci (Fiumicino) (FCO), 35km from the Vatican City.

Surface

By road or rail through Rome. There is a speed limit of 30kph in the Vatican City.

Getting about

National transport

Rail: The Vatican City has its own small railway which runs into Italy. It covers 862 metres before leaving the City.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling (IDD) code for Vatican City is +39 followed by the area code 066982; this is complete in itself, giving access to a central switchboard/operator.

Banking

Central bank

Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR), 00120 Città del Vaticano, Rome (tel:

83-354; fax: 85-195); European Central Bank (ECB), Kaiserstrasse 29, D-60311 Frankfurt am Main, Germany (tel: +49(69)13-440; fax: +49(69)1344-6000).

Other useful addresses

American Embassy, Via Delle Terme Deciane 26, 00153 Rome (tel: 646-741; fax: 5730-0682; e-mail: Usinb.holysee@agora.it).

Annuario Pontificio, Palazzo Apostolico, 00120 Città del Vaticano (tel: 698-3064); Press Room, Via della Conciliazione, 54, 00193 Roma (tel: 698-3466).

Apostolic Nunciature (UK), 54 Parkside, Wimbledon, London SW19 5NE, UK (tel: (+44-20) 8946-1410; fax: (+44-20) 8947-2494; email: gbnuntius@eagle.net.co.uk).

Apostolic Nunciature (USA), 3339 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20008, (+1-202) 333-7121; fax: (+1-202) 337-4036).

British Embassy, Via dei Condotti 91, 00187 Rome (tel: 6992-3561; fax: 6994-0684).

Centro Televisivo Vaticano, Palazzo Belvedere, 00120 Vatican City (tel: 698-5467).

Prefecture of the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, Palazzo delle Congregazioni, Largo del Colonnato 3, 00193 Rome (tel: 84-263; fax: 85-011).

Radio Vaticana, Palazzo Pio, Piazza Pia 3, 00120 Roma (tel: 6988-3551; fax: 6988-3237).

Secretariat of State, Palazzo Apostolico, 00120 Vatican City (tel: 6982).

National news agency: Agenzia Internazionale Fides

Palazzo de Propaganda Fide, 00120 Città del Vaticano (tel: 6988-0115; fax: 6988-0107; email: fides@fides.va; internet: www.fides.org).

Internet sites

Vatican City: www.vatican.va

Vatican Facts: www.vaticanfacts.com