

CHRONOLOGY, 1958–1966

1 January 1958	European Economic Community founded
9 October 1958	Death of Pope Pius XII
28 October 1958	Election of Pope John XXIII
25 January 1959	John XXIII announces the Second Vatican Council
17 May 1959	Ante-Preparatory Commission set up
30 June 1959	Pope John's first meeting with the Ante-Preparatory Commission
5 June 1960	Preparatory Commission set up
2 December 1960	Archbishop Fisher visits Pope John in Rome
13 April 1961	Bernard and Margaret Pawley arrive in Rome
5 May 1961	State visit by the Queen to the Vatican City
20 June 1961	John XXIII addresses the Central Commission, affirming that the purpose of the Council is an <i>aggiornamento</i> of the Church
19 November–5 December 1961	Third General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in New Delhi
17 January 1961	Archbishop Fisher announces his retirement
31 May 1961	Arthur Michael Ramsey becomes Archbishop of Canterbury
3 January 1962	John XXIII excommunicates Fidel Castro
25 May 1962	Consecration of Coventry Cathedral
11 October 1962	Second Vatican Council opens, inaugurated by Pope John's <i>Gaudet Mater Ecclesia</i>
14–28 October 1962	Cuban missile crisis
22 October 1962	John XXIII makes the Secretariat for Christian Unity into a Commission
6 December 1962	John XXIII announces the creation of a Co-ordinating Commission
8 December 1962	Close of the first session of the Council
March 1963	John XXIII sets up the Papal Commission on Birth Control
3 June 1963	Death of Pope John XXIII
21 June 1963	Election of Archbishop Montini as Pope; he becomes Paul VI
29 September 1963	Opening of the second session of the Council
4 December 1963	Close of the second session of the Council

- 14 September 1964 Opening of the third session of the Council
21 November 1964 Close of the third session of the Council
14 September 1965 Opening of the fourth session of the Council
4 December 1965 Paul VI leads a service for the Council Observers
and guests at St Paul's-Outside-the-Walls
7 December 1965 Closing ceremonies of the Council
8 December 1965 Second Vatican Council closes
23/24 March 1966 Archbishop Ramsey visits Pope Paul VI in Rome
and dedicates the new Anglican Centre there