

## Reflection Friday Week 29 St Pope John Paul II 2021

Karol Józef Wojtyła was born in 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. After ordination and theological studies in Rome, he returned home and resumed various pastoral and academic works. After consecration as an auxiliary bishop, in 1964 he became Archbishop of Kraków and took part in the Second Vatican Council. On 16<sup>th</sup> October 1978 he was elected pope, taking the name John Paul II. His exceptional apostolic zeal, for families, young people and the sick, inspired numerous pastoral visits throughout the world. He left the Church a rich Magisterium, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Code of Canon Law for the Latin Church and for the Eastern Churches. He died in Rome on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2005, the eve of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday). He was canonized by Pope Francis on 27<sup>th</sup> April, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 2014.

Unlike the people Jesus was talking to, we are completely unable to forecast the weather as the earth slowly crumbles away beneath our feet and climate changes become more and more extreme. Paul bravely exposed his weaknesses before God and before the people. In recognising his failures, he recognised that any good he was able to do came from God and how important God's power was. But his failures spurred him into action. Our true failures before God are best summarised in what we have done in slowly destroying the life of the earth. We must work all the harder to help restore that life so that it can develop and grow. This will be a great struggle but Paul is an excellent example to follow. We will never see the effects of our efforts but our children's children and their children will thank us for it!

Let's say every day:

***We love the Earth; it is our planet! We love the Earth; it is our home! We love the Earth; it speaks to us of God!***