

Reflection Saturday Week 29 St John Paul II 2022

Karol Józef Wojtyła was born in 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. After ordination and theological studies in Rome, he returned to Poland. He became first auxiliary bishop and, in 1964, Archbishop of Kraków and took part in the Second Vatican Council. On 16th October 1978 he was elected pope and took the name John Paul II. His exceptional apostolic zeal for families, young people and the sick, led him to numerous pastoral visits throughout the world. His heritage to the Church is a rich Magisterium, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Code of Canon Law for the Latin and Eastern Churches. In Rome on 2nd April 2005, the eve of the Second Sunday of Easter (or of Divine Mercy), he departed peacefully in the Lord. He was canonized by Pope Francis on 27th April, the Second Sunday of Easter 2014.

From his inauguration homily:

Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, the carpenter's Son (as he was thought to be), the Son of the living God (as confessed by Peter), came to make us all "a kingdom of priests".

The Second Vatican Council reminded us of the mystery of this power and that Christ's mission as Priest, Prophet-Teacher and King continues in the Church. Everyone, the whole People of God, shares in this threefold mission. Perhaps in the past the tiara, that triple crown, was placed on the Pope's head to signify that the Lord's plan for his Church, namely that all the hierarchical order of Christ's Church, all "sacred power" exercised in the Church, is nothing other than service, service with a single purpose: to ensure that the whole People of God shares in this threefold mission of Christ and always remains under the power of the Lord; a power that has its source not in the powers of this world, but in the mystery of the Cross and the Resurrection.

So often today, man does not know that which is in him, in the depths of his mind and heart. So often he is uncertain about the meaning of his life on this earth. He is assailed by doubt, a doubt which turns into despair. We ask you, therefore, we beg you with humility and with trust, let Christ speak to man. He alone has words of life, of life eternal.