

## **Classroom resources for Good Shepherd Sunday 2010.**

These are a few ideas on preparing for the visit of Pope Benedict to these shores this coming September.

1. Design a colourful badge that the child can wear when Pope Benedict visits this country, it may be with the papal colours, may be a picture of the Pope, or of St Peter's Basilica. Encourage colour and something that stands out, there could even be a competition for the best badge in the class or school.
  
2. Design a poster (for all classes) which can be displayed in the school foyer at the time of Pope Benedict's visit to this country in September. Why not get the best from each class and display them in the foyer, or even in the Parish Church, in agreement with the Parish Priest.
  
3. So that the children know something about Pope Benedict here are some questions that they can try to find the information on:
  - Where was Joseph Ratzinger born, what were the names of his parents, does he have brothers and sisters
  - Can you find out about his family, what jobs did his mother and father have?
  - What subjects did he enjoy at School
  - What are his hobbies, does he like music?
  - The two brothers went to seminary together, when were they ordained to the Priesthood
  - Pope John Paul II died on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2005. Seventeen days later, on 19<sup>th</sup> April, Joseph Ratzinger was elected Pope, and adopted the name Benedict. Why did he choose this name?
  - Pope Benedict the 16<sup>th</sup> wishes to be a Pope of peace and reconciliation. Can you write a prayer that brings these two aspects together.

### **The answers are :**

- Born on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1927 in the village of Marktl am Inn, Bavaria, Germany, he was the third child of Joseph and Maria Ratzinger.
- His father, born in 1877, was a country policeman, and his mother, born in 1884, sometimes worked as a cook. Their eldest child, Maria, was born in 1921 and the

second, Georg, in 1924. Joseph Ratzinger was born on Holy Saturday that year, and he was the first person to be baptized with the water newly blessed for Easter.

- In 1929, when Joseph was two, the family moved to Tittmoning, on the border with Austria. Tittmoning remained his childhood land of dreams. Every Christmas the family would build their own Nativity scene, gathering pine cones, moss and branches for it from the surrounding countryside. He enjoyed studying Latin, Greek, mathematics and above all, literature.
- He loves music, can play piano and explores the history of literature.
- Georg and Joseph went to Freising seminary, and were ordained on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1951, the feast of St Peter and St Paul at Freising Cathedral. It was a radiant summer day, and Joseph was always to remember it as the high point of his life.
- He chose this name, he said: “ideally as a link to the venerated Pontiff, Benedict XV, who guided the Church through the turbulent times of the First World War. He was a true and courageous prophet of peace who struggled strenuously and bravely, first to avoid the drama of war and then to limit its terrible consequences. In his footsteps I place my ministry, in the service of reconciliation and harmony between peoples, profoundly convinced that the great good of peace is above all a gift of God, a fragile and precious gift to be invoked, safeguarded and constructed, day after day and with everyone’s contribution.”