



## **Saint Pope John Paul II 1920 – 2005**

Bill C-266, recognizing Saint John Paul II as a champion of human dignity and freedom, has now become Canadian law. The new Act designates **April 2** annually as “Pope John Paul II Day”. After the Bill was adopted last year by the House of Commons on June 12, 2013, it received third and final reading in the Senate on December 16, 2014, following which it received Royal Assent the same day. The complete English and French texts of the Act are provided at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=6836563&File=244> .

### **Resources included here:**

- Morning prayer – elementary
- Morning prayer – secondary
- Short biography – written at junior level
- List of quotes from Saint Pope John Paul II
- Resources available through Catholic Resource Centre
- List of video clip links

### **Attached separately:**

- Stations of the Cross – elementary
- Stations of the Cross – secondary

## **Elementary Morning Prayer – April 2 – Saint Pope John Paul II**

Today the Church celebrates the very first Feast Day of Saint Pope John Paul II. The Church canonized him in 2014, and the Canadian government felt that he was such an important champion of human dignity and freedom that April 2<sup>nd</sup> is now officially Pope John Paul II Day.

He was born in Poland in 1920, and became pope in 1978. He was our pope for over 27 years. During his lifetime he made many important contributions to the world. He spoke out for freedom and human rights everywhere, but especially for his people in Poland. He respected all other religions, and encouraged peace everywhere. In fact, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

He loved to be with young people, and started World Youth Days in 1984 so that young people from around the world could gather to celebrate their faith.

Pope John Paul II's favourite saying was "Be not afraid". He wanted people to trust in God and not to be afraid to stand up for their faith.

Dear God,

Today especially we thank you for the life of Saint Pope John Paul II, who taught us so much about love and forgiveness. May we honour his example by trusting in you and sharing your love with everyone.

Amen.

Saint Pope John Paul II – pray for us.

Saint Pope John Paul II – pray for us.

## **Secondary Morning Prayer – April 2 – Saint Pope John Paul II**

Today the Church celebrates the very first Feast Day of Saint Pope John Paul II. The Church canonized him in 2014, and the Canadian government felt that he was such an important champion of human dignity and freedom that April 2<sup>nd</sup> is now officially Pope John Paul II Day.

Born in Poland in 1920, Cardinal Wojtyla was elected pope in 1978, taking the name Pope John Paul II. He was our pope for over 27 years, and during his lifetime he made many important contributions to the world. He spoke out for freedom and human rights everywhere, but especially for his people in Poland, and was considered a great influence resulting in the fall of Communism in Poland.

He respected all other religions, and encouraged peace everywhere. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

In 1981 he was in St. Peter's Square to address a huge crowd when he was shot and critically wounded by an angry young man from Turkey. John Paul II required surgery and nearly died, the young man was sentenced to life in prison, but John Paul II modeled true forgiveness and reconciliation for us when he visited the young man in prison and spent several hours with him.

He loved to be with young people, and started World Youth Days in 1984 so that young people from around the world could gather to celebrate their faith. John Paul II was convinced that in Christ you have the ability to make this world a better place. Through your friendships, your family, your work, your school, and your athletic, artistic and intellectual talents, you can spread the Good News of God's love in ways that only a young person can. His greeting to young people was always "My dear young friends!"

Pope John Paul II encouraged everyone by saying "Be not afraid" –trust in God and don't be afraid to stand up for your faith.

Dear God,

Today especially we thank you for the life of Saint Pope John Paul II, who taught us so much about tolerance, love and forgiveness. May we honour his example by trusting in you and sharing your love with everyone.

Amen.

Saint Pope John Paul II – pray for us.

## Pope John Paul II

Pope John Paul II was born in Poland on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1920. He was made Pope in October 1978, and held this position for 27 years, making him the second-longest serving Pope of modern times. He is the only Polish pope we have ever had, and was the first non-Italian pope in over 450 years! He died on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005, when he was 84; and although everyone was sad that a person as lovely as the Pope had died, many people used his funeral as a chance to celebrate all the wonderful things he had done in his life, rather than a chance to be sad. In fact, millions of people travelled to Rome to pay their respects to him, and to celebrate all the good he had done: his funeral had over 2 million mourners, and was said to be the most largely attended of all time. Here are just some of the things that could have been celebrated at his funeral mass:

-Pope John Paul II was known by many as "the Pilgrim pope", because he visited over 100 countries during his time as pope. He did this because he knew that there were many people all over the world who would have liked to see him, but wouldn't get the chance to travel to the Vatican in Rome.

-He was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2004; and so many people have called for him to be made a saint that his successor Pope Benedict XVI, has even gotten rid of the five year waiting period that there used to have to be between the death of someone and their canonization (making them a saint).

-He had to do military service in Poland in 1938, when he was 18, but he refused to hold and fire a gun because he did not believe in war.

-He was ordained as a priest in 1946, and was made Bishop of Krakow only twelve years later, in 1958. This made him the youngest bishop in Poland!

-In May 1981, when he entered St. Peter's Square in Rome to address a huge audience that had turned up to hear him speak, he was shot and critically wounded by a Turkish gunman. He needed five hours of surgery to save his life, and he very nearly died. The man who shot him was sentenced to life in prison. Two years after this, just after Christmas in 1983, John Paul II visited the man who had shot him in his prison cell and sat and talked to him privately for a few hours. He said that he had forgiven this man - even though he had tried to kill him - and said that he

considered him his "brother". This shows us what a forgiving man Pope John Paul II must have been.

-When the Pope was nearing death, tens of thousands of people flocked to St. Peter's Square so they could keep a vigil for him, and pray for him. The Pope was having very bad trouble breathing at this point, and talking was very painful for him. But all the same, when he heard what all those people had done for him, he managed to bless them, and say: "I have searched for you, and now you have come to me, and I thank you".

-He was brave enough to speak out against the government of his home country of Poland in 1979. This was very brave of him, because lots of other people who were speaking out against the government at this time were being persecuted. He called for freedom and basic human rights for the Polish people.

-Pope John Paul II was very tolerant of other people's religions. He was the first pope to ever pray in an Islamic mosque, which he did when he visited Syria. This, and the fact that he kissed a copy of the Quran (the Muslim holy book) meant that he was very popular amongst Muslims. He was also the first Pope to visit a Jewish synagogue, and did a lot to improve relations between Christians and Jews. In fact, after he died, a powerful Jewish group issued a statement saying: "More change for the better took place in his 27 year Papacy than in nearly 2,000 years before".

-He believed that the people of many different religions should find common ground in what they believed in, so they could work together for peace. He asked Muslims and Christians to both ask for forgiveness for all the times they had offended or upset one another; and the foreign dignitary who visited him the most in the Vatican (eight times in all) was the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of the Buddhist religion.

-He felt that the youth were very important; and set up World Youth Day in 1984, so young Catholics from all over the world could come together to celebrate their faith.

-He was named Time Magazine's 'Person of the Year' in 1994.

<https://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resource/Pope-John-Paul-II-biography-6015081>

## **Quotes from Saint John Paul II:**

To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others.

The truth is not always the same as the majority decision.

The question confronting the Church today is not any longer whether the man in the street can grasp a religious message, but how to employ the communications media so as to let him have the full impact of the Gospel message.

The great danger for family life, in the midst of any society whose idols are pleasure, comfort and independence, lies in the fact that people close their hearts and become selfish.

The future starts today, not tomorrow.

God endowed [the human race] with capacity to attain to the inaccessible and invisible Supreme Good and behold it face to face.

As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.

Anything done for another is done for oneself.

An excuse is worse and more terrible than a lie, for an excuse is a lie guarded.

As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that I am with you, therefore no harm can befall you; all is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence.

Humanity should question itself, once more, about the absurd and always unfair phenomenon of war, on whose stage of death and pain only remain standing the negotiating table that could and should have prevented it.

I have a sweet tooth for song and music. This is my Polish sin.

I hope to have communion with the people, that is the most important thing.

Modern Society will find no solution to the ecological problem unless it takes a serious look at its lifestyles.

Science can purify religion from error and superstition. Religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes.

Social justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create.

The fear of making permanent commitments can change the mutual love of husband and wife into two loves of self-two loves existing side by side, until they end in separation.

The great danger for family life, in the midst of any society whose idols are pleasure, comfort and independence, lies in the fact that people close their hearts and become selfish.

To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others.

Violence and arms can never resolve the problems of men.

War is a defeat for humanity.

Wars generally do not resolve the problems for which they are fought and therefore... prove ultimately futile.

When you wonder about the mystery of yourself, look to Christ, who gives you the meaning of life. When you wonder what it means to be a mature person, look to Christ, who is the fulfillment of humanity. And when you wonder about your role in the future of the world look to Christ.

Work bears a particular mark of man and of humanity, the mark of a person operating within a community of persons.

## **Resources available at the Catholic Resource Centre:**

**Titles: 1 - 17 of 17**

- His Holiness Pope John Paul II.** **1 of 1 available**  
[ Book ] Call #: 282.092 OSU O'Sullivan, Timothy.  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 1982
- Rise, let us be on our way** **1 of 1 available**  
[ Book ] Call #: 282.092 JOH John Paul II, Pope, 1920-2005.  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 2004
- Lolek : the boy who became Pope John Paul II** **1 of 1 available**  
[ Book ] Call #: 282 HOF KIT Hoffman, Mary Hramiec.  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 2009  
Reading Level: 3.1 Interest Level: K-3
- The private prayers of Pope John Paul II : an invitation to prayer.** **1 of 1 available**  
[ Book ] Call #: 252 JOH John Paul II, Pope, 1920-2005.  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 1999
- Pope Paul II : the Pope visits Canada** **1 of 1 available**  
[ Book ] Call #: 282.092 BUL Bulbrook, Robert.  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 1984
- John Paul II** **1 of 1 available**  
[ Book ] Call #: 282.092 SIN Sinasac, Joseph, 1957-  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 2011  
Interest Level: 5-8
- The gift of Blessed John Paul II : a celebration of his enduring legacy** **1 of 1 available**  
[ Book ] Call #: 282.092 WUE Wuerl, Donald W.  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 2011
- Way of the cross** **1 of 1 available**  
[ Video ] Call #: R60168 VC Man.  
Location: Religion  
Published 2002
- Theology of the body for beginners : A basic introduction to Blessed John Paul II's Sexual Revolution** **2 of 2 available**  
[ Book ] Call #: 241 WES West, Christopher.  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 2009
- Pope in Denver Celebration & challenge.** **1 of 1 available**  
[ Video ] Call #: R60083 VC  
Location: Religion  
Published 1993
- A boy who became pope : the story of Saint John Paul II** **1 of 1 available**  
[ Book ] Call #: 282 GAR Garza, Fabiola,  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 2014  
Reading Level: 2.3 Interest Level: K-3



**Holy Spirit 101 : present among us**

[ Book ] Call #: 231 GRE Gresham, John Leroy.  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 2011

**1 of 1 available**

**St. Thérèse : doctor of the little way.**

[ Book ] Call #: 270.3 STE  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 1997

**1 of 1 available**

**RTJ's creative catechist. April/May 2014.**

[ Serial ] Call #: MAG April/May 2014  
Location: CRC

**1 of 1 available**

**Follow me : A Stations of the Cross book**

[ Book ] Call #: 232.96 HAA Haapala, Christine.  
Location: Non-fiction  
Published 2006

**2 of 2 available**

**Growing together in faith**

[ Book ] Call #: R850017 Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association.  
Location: Religion  
Published 2013

## **Video links – Saint Pope John Paul ii** (5-7 minutes)

There are many beautiful tributes paid to Saint Pope John Paul II from the time of his death. These are fairly short, and some may be suitable to play on screens in secondary since the sound is not necessary (music).

With children, and pictures of his own childhood (2011):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a71XavdE0wQ>

A tribute (2013) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81v3v-nYpSQ>

In memory (2008) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz6xt8qmQkQ>

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This video is more recent, and includes narrative about his life – very well done (2014):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4\\_n6dClfkFg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_n6dClfkFg)

Life of a Holy Pope (2014) on his canonization – cartoon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9lYvkmY874>