

MY STORY

ST POPE JOHN PAUL II

Hi, I'm Saint Pope John Paul II, and I'm a living saint! I was born in Poland in 1920 and my original name was Karol Wojtyla. I was later baptised on June 20th in Wadowice in Poland. As a child I loved playing football, acting in plays and spending time outdoors. My life changed dramatically when my mother, brother and father all died throughout my early childhood. This made me sad, but I never lost my faith in God. I received my First Communion when I was nine years old and then the Sacrament of Confirmation when I was eighteen. After I finished school in Wadowice I enrolled to university in the city of Krakow. However, due to World War II I had to stop my studies for a few years and I began working as a manual labourer. I felt called to become a priest, so in 1942 I began my studies in secret. This happened in secret during World War II as the people occupying my country didn't want the people to study.



I finished my studies and was ordained a priest in 1946. A few years later I became a bishop and then a few years later a Cardinal. In 1978, I was chosen to be the 264th Pope, the leader of the Catholic Church, and I took the name John Paul II.

I loved to travel all over the world to share God's love, especially with young people. I used my gifts that I learnt from my studies to teach everyone that they are loved by God. I also was able to canonise 482 Saints, helping the world recognise the many faith filled people throughout history so the whole Church could be inspired by their example. Even when I was very sick and old, I kept smiling and trusting that God would help me in my leadership. My greatest achievement was being close to Jesus and helping others grow close to Him.