

**Epiphany: The Visit of the Wise Men.  
House Blessing for 2023.  
20-CMB-23.**

As with all religious dates of note, many customs and traditions sprang up around the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>) which came to be known as ‘Three Kings’ Day’ or ‘The Day of the Kings’, and on mainland Europe there was a common tradition of chalking the initials of the Magi (Wise Men) over the doors of churches and homes.

The letters CMB represent the Wise Men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Their names turn our thoughts towards Jesus, the one whom they came to visit.

**CMB also stands for the Latin phrase: ‘Christus Mansionem Benedicat’ which translates: ‘Christ blesses this house’.**

The tradition symbolises the commitment of the whole household to welcome Christ into our lives as the Wise Men did, and to welcome Him into our homes each day during this year, 2023.

**20-CMB-23: Christ blesses this house in 2023.**

**Prayer for the New Year.**

The new year, like a new-born child, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away. The days and weeks to come are God’s gift; they carry God’s blessing.

As a blessing we welcome them. Our hope for the year ending is that all that was good in it will remain with us and all that was harmful be left behind.

Bless us, O Lord, and bless the time and seasons yet to come. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.

And fill this new year with your kindness, that we may be glad and rejoice all the days of our life. Amen.

**Prayer for Families.**

O God, may the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph be our example and guide.

Bless all our family. Bind us together and keep us in your peace.

We remember all family members who have gone before us. May they rest forever in your love.

And may we always know that we are united as one family through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**St. Mary’s Parish Dungarvan**

**January 2023**



**Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (1927 – 2022)**

16<sup>th</sup> April 1927 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

(Holy Saturday 1927 – New Year’s Eve 2023)

Birth Name: Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger

Born: Marktl am Inn, Germany.

Ordained to the Priesthood: 29<sup>th</sup> June 1951.

His brother Georg was also ordained that day.

Archbishop of Munich and Freising: 1977 – 1982.

Motto: Cooperators of the Truth.

Created a Cardinal: 27<sup>th</sup> June 1977.

Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: 25<sup>th</sup> November 1981 – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2005.

Elected Pope: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2002, taking the name Benedict XVI.

Resigned: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Becoming Pope Emeritus.

The first Pope to resign voluntarily since Celestine V in 1294.

Died: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 in Mater Ecclesia Monastery in the Vatican.



**Pope Emeritus Benedict’s First Public Words  
on Being Elected Pope.**

‘Dear Brothers and Sisters, after the great Pope John Paul II, the cardinals have elected me, a simple, humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord. I am comforted by the fact that the Lord knows how to work even with inadequate tools. Above all I commend myself to your prayers. Let us go ahead in the joy of the risen Lord and trusting in his perpetual help. The Lord will help us and Mary, his blessed Mother is standing beside us. Thank you.’

(St. Peter’s Basilica, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005)

**From Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's  
Resignation Announcement.**

Dear Brothers,

I have convoked you to this Consistory, not only for the three canonizations, but also to communicate to you a decision of great importance for the life of the Church. After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry. I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only with words and deeds, but no less with prayer and suffering.

However, in today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfil the ministry entrusted to me. For this reason, and well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome, Successor of Saint Peter, entrusted to me by the Cardinals on 19 April 2005, in such a way, that as from 28 February 2013, at 20:00 hours, the See of Rome, the See of Saint Peter, will be vacant and a Conclave to elect the new Supreme Pontiff will have to be convoked by those whose competence it is.

From the Vatican, 10 February 2013

BENEDICTUS PP XVI

**From Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's Last General Audience,  
27 February 2013.**

'I offer a warm and affectionate greeting to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors who have joined me for this, my last General Audience. Like Saint Paul, whose words we heard earlier, my heart is filled with thanksgiving to God who ever watches over his Church and her growth in faith and love, and I embrace all of you with joy and gratitude.

*During this Year of Faith, we have been called to renew our joyful trust in the Lord's presence in our lives and in the life of the Church. I am personally grateful for his unfailing love and guidance in the eight years since I accepted his call to serve as the Successor of Peter.*

*I am also deeply grateful for the understanding, support and prayers of so many of you, not only here in Rome, but also throughout the world.*

The decision I have made, after much prayer, is the fruit of a serene trust in God's will and a deep love of Christ's Church. I will continue to accompany the Church with my prayers, and I ask each of you to pray for me and for the new Pope. In union with Mary and all the saints, let us entrust ourselves in faith and hope to God, who continues to watch over our lives and to guide the journey of the Church and our world along the paths of history.

I commend all of you, with great affection, to his loving care, asking him to strengthen you in the hope which opens our hearts to the fullness of life that he alone can give. To you and your families, I impart my blessing. Thank you!'

**From Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's Challenge to  
Young People at WYD 2008.**

Dear young people, let me now ask you a question. What will *you leave to the next generation?*

Are you building your lives on firm foundations, building something that will endure?

Are you living your lives in a way that opens up space for the Spirit in the midst of a world that wants to forget God, or even rejects him in the name of a falsely- conceived freedom?

How are you using the gifts you have been given, the "power" which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you?

What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come?

What difference will you make?

**From the Closing Mass at World Youth Day, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008,  
Sydney, Australia.**

**Pope Francis at his Angelus Address, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.**

**'The beginning of the new year is entrusted to Mary Most Holy whom we celebrate today as Mother of God. At this time, let us invoke her intercession especially for Pope emeritus Benedict XVI who left this world yesterday morning. Let us all join together, with one heart and one soul, in thanking God for the gift of this faithful servant of the Gospel and of the Church.'**