

MEDIA RELEASE – Sunday January 1 2023

## DEATH OF POPE BENEDICT

Statement from Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, Catholic Archbishop of Adelaide.

“I was saddened to hear of the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI at the age of 95 on New Year’s Eve, 2022.

Among his many gifts to the Church, two stand out: first his contribution as a theologian. From seminary days I remember being inspired by the clarity and inspiration of his writings.

In speaking of the last three popes it has often been said that people came to see Pope John Paul II; to listen to Benedict XVI and to be with Pope Francis.

Pope Benedict’s series of books on Jesus are remarkable. His encyclicals, especially *Saved in Hope* in 2007 spoke deeply to the Church and the world about what hope is all about.

The second, and his most prophetic act was his decision to resign from the office of Bishop of Rome. In a celebrity-obsessed world he showed that it wasn’t about him, but rather like John the Baptist he always pointed to Jesus who is the head of the Church.

We mourn his death and give thanks for him showing us the hopeful face of Christ in an often troubled world. May he rest in peace.”



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