

Faith



Karen Blampied at work on the icon Pictures: MATTHEW HOTTON (01727763 and 01727761)

St Thomas' to become home to icon of Polish Pope

By Lucy Stephenson

lstephenson@jerseyeveningpost.com

AN icon of the late Pope John Paul II produced for Jersey's Polish community is due to be blessed during a Mass tomorrow.

Iconographer Karen Blampied has spent the past week as artist-in-residence at St Thomas' Church creating the artwork, which will be blessed at tomorrow's Polish Mass at the church at 7.30 pm.

It has been timed to coincide with the feast day of John Paul II, which will be celebrated on Monday to remember the former Polish Pope, who was in office from 1978 until his death in 2005. He was the second-longest-serving Pope in history and the first non-Italian to serve in the role for more than 400 years.

'Totally yours'

Miss Blampied, who has produced icons for the Island's Catholic and parish churches in the past, said: 'Totus tuus, totally yours - that was the motto of Pope John Paul II. His pontificate lasted more than 26 years and on his death on 2 April 2005 more than four million pilgrims went to Rome to show their affection and respect for the man.'

'For the Catholic community in Jersey and for many others, his journey towards beatification was the Church's way of acknowledging Pope John Paul's great contribution

to faith in the world.

'Last week saw the worldwide Catholic Church launch the Year of Faith, so for me it was a great privilege to be invited to create an icon of Blessed John Paul II for the Polish community in the Island.'

She added: 'All the icons I have written to date have been of people from antiquity, so this was a first for me, as I had actually seen John Paul II in the 1980s in Africa when I attended a eucharistic congress. When creating an icon, the focus is on the spiritual attributes conveyed by the holy person, not their likeness or personality.'

Symbolism

Miss Blampied is a former teacher and has been producing icons since the early 1980s.

Icons are religious pieces of artwork which are created using a specific method, with each stage having a religious symbolism.

For example, boards are covered in a thin material which represents the shroud of Jesus before a special glue mixed with chalk is applied to represent the stone that was rolled in front of Christ's tomb.

The icons are then baptised to make them smooth before the design, or word of God, is carved into the stone. Gilding is then applied to the areas where it is needed before painting can begin.



**FREE
VARIFOCAL LENSES**
with glasses from £69

St Helier 1-3 Beresford Street. Tel: 01534 726 373
St Brelade 6 Centre Point. Tel: 01534 741 744



Cannot be used with other offers. Applies to one pair of glasses. Standard PENTAX varifocal lenses - usual price £49. Other lenses and Extra Options available at an additional charge. Subject to suitability. SKU 25381641. ©2012 Specsavers. All rights reserved.