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## Pope Benedict XVI ?

By Dónal Thompson



Will Cardinal Arinze be "The Glory of the Olive"?

Saint Malachy was an Irish priest born in 1094. He became Bishop of Armagh and as such he travelled to Rome to see Pope Innocent II. While he was there he had a vision where he saw all of the future Popes in order of their election. This vision is remarkably accurate when applied to all the Popes since then up to now. If he is correct, the Pope who is elected in next week's conclave will be the penultimate Pope.

The Popes in his vision were all characterised by an 'epithet' or short description.

Pope John XIII was referred to as "Pastor et Nauta". It is a perfect soubriquet for a Pope who was a former archbishop of Venice. But it is astounding that it predicted in the eleventh century.

Albino Luciani was born in Belluno and was elected Pope John Paul I on August 26th 1978. There was a half-moon that day. He lasted only 33 days. He was portrayed, as "De Mediatate Lunae" - of the half-moon

The recently deceased John Paul II, who was born during a solar eclipse, was given the appellation "De labore Solis" - labour of the Sun.

The next Pope is "Gloria olivae" - The Glory of the Olive. What does this mean? The Benedictine Order are associated with olives so maybe the next Pope will come from that order. Or maybe he will choose to be the sixteenth Pope Benedict.

Among the leading contenders for the Papacy next week are Cardinal Francis Arinze, former archbishop of Onitsha, Nigeria, Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, archbishop of Milan and Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, archbishop of Vienna.

Personally I would like a non-European Pope who will address the problems of AIDS and poverty in the third world.

But, I suspect, as has often happened before, we will all be surprised.