

Francesco Forgione was born of agricultural worker parents in the village of Pietrelcina, northeast of Naples. He joined the Capuchins, taking the name Pius and was ordained priest in 1910. He began to experience pains and what he called "invisible stigmata". During military service in World War I, he was sent on convalescent leave. In 1918 he contracted double pneumonia and was sent to a monastery at San Giovanni Rotondo, near Foggia, where he stayed for the rest of his life.

The stigmata on his hands and feet became visible and a wound in his side bled for the rest of his life. The Capuchins made no attempt to hide his condition. The Vatican had him examined and he had to say Mass in private for a number of years.

At San Giovanni Rotondo Pius, always a humble man, and always dedicated to the passion of Christ would only say he was a mystery to himself.

People for whom he prayed left donations. A new hospital complex was built and the place became a centre of pilgrimage and healing.

A story of his being in two places at the one time is told by his superior, Padre Carmelo da Sassano. There was a concert one evening in the monastery. During the intermission Padre Pio folded his arms on a chair in front of him and rested his head. No one disturbed him and when the intermission was over Padre Pio sat upright and gave his attention to the rest of the performance.

Next day Padre Carmelo called to see a sick villager. He found the patient fully recovered and the family delighted as Padre Pio, they said, had visited them the night before. Padre Carmelo said that wasn't possible, as Padre Pio had been at the concert. But the family insisted he had come and when asked at what time, Padre Carmelo recognised it was at the time of the intermission.

Penitents came from all over the world to confess to Padre Pio. It wasn't always a comfortable experience. Sometimes he would reveal hidden sins to them. And if he discerned that someone was not sincerely repentant, he would shout out at them to leave the confessional. This usually provoked a crisis for the penitent, who would later return to Padre Pio with true repentance.

On the fiftieth anniversary of the day he received the stigmata, while Padre Pio was saying Mass, people in the congregation noticed that the stigmata had vanished. He died the next day.

He was beatified on 2 May 1999 and canonized on 16 June 2002, by Pope John Paul II.

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| Mon 21 | ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST |
| Wed 23 | St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) |
| Fri 25 | St Finbarr, bishop |
| Sat 26 | Ss Cosmas and Damian, martyrs |

"Nothing great was ever done without much enduring."

St. Catherine of Siena



FOXROCK PARISH

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER September 20th 2020



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Are you envious because I am generous? Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." - Mt 20:15-16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. CLP.

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MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 19th 6.00 pm Special Intention

Sun 20th

10.00 am: Kathleen Quinn (Anv)
 Meta, Maurice and Aidan Duggan (Anvs)

11.30 am

Mary O'Connor (25th Anv)
 Carmel Walsh (Month's Mind)
 Sophia Mellin (Anv)
 Mary, Patrick and Jimmy Rochford (Anvs)

Recently Deceased:

Norrie Kelly
 John Nolan
 Matt McCusker
 Nellie O'Rourke
 Teresa Donnelly

Anniversaries:

Michael O'Flynn
 Brian O'Flynn
 Anna Kutty
 Mark Lane
 Concepta Sheehan
 Vincent Curtis
 Patrick Murray



we have the merit badge notion of faith, we can find ourselves feeling a little arrogant and even jealous of folks who have not followed the same path that we have. We can even see ourselves as the privileged few who have a corner on the faith and fully possess it.

That thinking doesn't square with God. God is all about mercy in abundance and is ready to take anyone to himself regardless of when they come. He is only happy that they have come home and delights in their return. After all, if you really and truly love someone, does it matter what they will give you in return or what you receive as a benefit? If relationships were assessed based upon productivity, they would lack authentic love. We invest too much self interest in our prayer and neglect to see it as an opportunity to pursue our Lover and deepen the intimate bond we have with God.

When we breathe our last, all that is of consequence is union with God. If my love for God is real, I am going to want to live the Gospel, abide by the commandments, practice my faith, forgive and love my neighbor, and care for the environment, regardless of how much time it takes or benefits me. We want God to think and behave as we do, and in doing so, we set ourselves up for disappointment. God has a totally different agenda and that's okay.

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September 20, 2020
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

If I work for five hours, I expect to get paid for five hours. If I work for two, I expect to get paid for two. What if we worked for a company that paid everyone the same amount regardless of how long they worked? How would we feel going home with the same pay for working eight hours as my co-worker did for working only two hours? Secular wisdom would have a huge problem with this and a visit to the Labor Board would quickly pursue. But this is God's wisdom and God's way.

We sometimes think that if we pray more, better, or more fervently and go over and above with the practice of our faith, God will somehow reward us and present us with some kind of merit badge. We are so wrong. Spiritual practices have only one true purpose: to deepen our love for God. In deepening our love for God, we also increase our ability to see God's presence around us, living life more purposefully and contemplatively. What if God chooses to treat someone who has come on the scene of faith later in life the same as someone who has devoted their whole lives to it? Does it really matter? If

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found , call to him while he is still near.

PSALM

I will bless you day after day and praise your name forever. (Ps 144:2-3,8-9,17-18)

SECOND READING

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. (Ph 1:20-24,27)

GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard.' (Mt 20:1-16)



"Silence is not the absence of something

but the presence of everything...Silence is the think-tank of the soul". Gordon Hempton is an acoustic ecologist who has circled the globe three times, exploring and collecting disappearing natural sounds. A ten-minute film made with National Geographic is a beautiful and moving reflection on what may well be another form of endangered species.

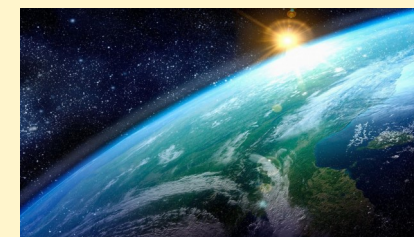
We feature his film to mark the Season of Creation, which runs from 1st September to 4 October this year. Celebrated throughout the Christian world, it is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation as we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. Watch the short film on newpilgrimpath.ie.

GOD'S GRANDEUR

by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89)

The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil; it gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod? Generations have trod, have trod, have trod; and all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil; and wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent; there lives the dearest freshness deep down things; and though the last lights off the black West went oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs-- because the Holy Ghost over the bent world broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings



Ref Newpilgrimpath.