

PAX - WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR GUIDE
POST-PENTECOST I 2016 – Covering the period from Pentecost Sunday until
August 31st.

SECTION ONE: Reading and Reflection

Theme: If Monastic men and women do not make their own that habit of mind by which they know themselves to be the Church, they delude themselves...Where the Church is not present, there is no Church at prayer. (Adapted from the “Directory for the Celebration of the Divine Office, [Liturgy of the Hours], by Sr. Anne Field, osb, and Burkhard Neunheuser, osb. 1981)

WHAT IS LITURGY?

The word “liturgy” is formed of two Greek words: leit (from laos – meaning “people”), and hence pertaining to the people. Secondly, from the word ergon - ergon - works or acts.

The Greek New Testament word is therefore leitourgos. It translates as “service” or “ministry” at one’s own expense.

Some New Testament texts which use the word “liturgy” are:

Acts 13:2 – “While they were “worshipping” the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul...”

“Worshipping” in this text means “ministering” or “liturgy”.

Luke 1:23 – “And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.” (Zechariah).

“service” here is “liturgy”.

Hebrews 9:21 – “And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent (tabernacle) and all the vessels used in worship.”

“worship” here is “liturgy”.

LITURGY IS: Ministry, service, woship, at one’s own expense.

It involved the notion of SACRIFICE.

At one’s own expense.

At one’s own cost.

Going more deeply into the Christology of the Liturgy, we need to understand that we are agents or vessels, so to speak.

Our adoration, supplication, thanksgiving and expiation goes to God through Jesus Christ who lives in us and prays in us by virtue of our baptism.

Secondly, the grace of redemption and salvation comes to us, and comes to all people, as we (with Christ), intercede on their behalf.

This is a most profound responsibility and places our liturgical prayer where it is meant to be: work for the people. Laos, meaning people. Ergon, meaning work. So, the Liturgy of the Hours or the Liturgy of the Mass is not private prayer.

Eusebius of Caesarea, in his “Demonstratio Evangelica” wrote: “Because of their immense love for the things of God, monastics dedicate themselves to the worship of God alone; and because they are consecrated to Almighty God on behalf of the whole human race, they carry out their sacred work for the sake of others as well as their own...” I have adapted this quotation, using the word “monastics” rather than nuns, oblates or monks. I believe we are all monastics. We have all stood before the altar in

our monastic church and made our promise to God to remain faithful to prayer and holy reading, and to live with the Gospel for our guide.

The Second Vatican Council Decree “Ad Gentes” taught that our part in the work of the conversion of humankind is our prayer and our life which is formed through prayer.

In the Liturgy of the Hours, I am the living prayer of God’s people on earth.

In the Liturgy of the Hours, I am a living sacrifice of praise.

So, the key words for reflection are: work at one’s own expense, a work involving “sacrifice”, a work which takes all “humanity” on board.

Hence the importance of praying some of the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Even Morning Prayer, or just Evening Prayer.

The Liturgy of the Hours is arranged according to the Liturgical Seasons of each year: Advent/Christmastide, Lent, Eastertide, Ordinary Time, and the Sanctoral Cycle with its many feasts, solemnities or memorials for Saints. (This differs according to the country in which we live).

The life of a monastic person is governed more by the Liturgy than by national holidays. The Liturgy forms us and gives us our identity as monastics. It stands with Lectio Divina as the two foundation pillars of Benedictine prayer. And both the Liturgy of the Hours and Lectio Divina flow out from the source of our faith, and towards the summit of our faith: the Eucharist.

SECTION TWO: Further Reading and Reflection

The following books have been the most helpful for me on my monastic journey:

1. “From Advent to Pentecost”, Carthusian Novice Conferences, by a Carthusian Monk. Translated by Carmel Brett. Published by Cistercian Publications, Kalamazoo, Michigan – Spencer, Massachusetts.
2. “The Mystery of Christ – The Liturgy as Spiritual Experience”: Thomas Keating, Cistercian Monk, and the Monk who has introduced many of us to “Centering Prayer”. This book was published in the U.S.A. in 1991, by Element Inc. 42 Broadway, Rockport, MA 01966
3. The Spiritual Classic, “Teach Us To Pray” by Andre Louf, Cistercian Monk, and Spiritual Master. Published by Darton, Longman and Todd, Ltd., 89 Lillie Road, London SW6 1UD

SECTION THREE: About the Rule of St. Benedict.

While we are used to the title “Divine Office” or “Prayer of the Church”, both used for the Liturgy of the Hours, it is St. Benedict who calls it for what it really is: THE WORK OF GOD. 12 Chapters of the Rule are given to the subject. Studying these chapters can’t be done in this booklet. But what can be said is that the scheme St. Benedict sets out has become more flexible down through the centuries. There is a large book in our Liturgy Room, called the “Monastic Thesaurus”. It was printed

around the time of the Second Vatican Council and gives monasteries the choice of a program for Psalmody. For example, monks running a school, can't pray the 150 psalms a week. Numbers in a monastery would be another factor. If the work of a monastery is being carried out by a few able-bodied men or women, then again, they would not be able to pray 150 Psalms a week, especially the way the Liturgy of the Hours is arranged: Antiphons, Hymns, Canticles, Psalms and Scripture and Patristic Readings. Jesus said "the Sabbath was made for men and women, not men and women for the Sabbath". We do what we can with peace and without stress. The important thing is that we do one or more "hours" each day, and do it well, praying on behalf of humankind. You may not own a full set of breviaries or a Benedictine breviary, but we all have a bible and we can easily pray one or more psalms from the bible and insert a scripture text. We can make it so simple. When we were coming to and from Jamberoo Abbey, working in the grounds prior to the building of the Abbey, we would pray the Little Hours (Terce, Middle Hour and None), either on the bus, or sitting on the grass at the property. This would be done by someone leading us in a psalm, then someone else spontaneously speaking a verse of scripture. After that, we would pray the "Our Father", and another Sister would conclude with a spontaneous prayer. Anyone can do that. It's so simple.

SECTION FOUR: Community History

When preparing a Community History Conference for the Novices the other day, I came across the following entry in our Chronicles. It is the day of the re-location from "Subiaco" Rydalmere, to the new Monastery in Franklin Road, West Pennant Hills: "On December 19th, 1957, the Hour of "None" was prayed in choir at "Subiaco" and late in the evening of the same day, the hour of "Vespers" was prayed in the Chapter Room at the Pennant Hills Monastery." The Church was not finished until 1959, hence the use of the Chapter Room. What fidelity this is – amidst a major "move" and all that went with it – the priority was prayer! There is only one person still alive in our community who remembers that day – Sr. Elizabeth Funder. She is soon to be 90 years old.

SECTION FIVE: Liturgy

MAY:

15: PENTECOST SUNDAY

22: THE MOST HOLY TRINITY.

24: OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

26: St. Philip Neri. M

29: THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

31: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

JUNE:

01: St. Justin Martyr. M

03: THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS. S

05: 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time. St. Boniface is omitted this year.

11: St. Barnabas. M.

12: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

13 – St. Anthony of Padua. O. M.

19: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

21: St. Aloysius Gonzaga, M

24: The Nativity of St. John The Baptist. S

26: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

28: St. Irenaeus. M

29: Sts. Peter and Paul. S

JULY:

03: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time. St. Thomas is omitted this year.

10: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

11: St. Benedict. F

15: St. Bonaventure. M.

16: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel M . A Solemnity for all Carmelites.

17: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

22: St. Mary Magdalen M

24: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

25: St. James. F

26: Sts. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary M

29: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus - M

31 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. St. Ignatius of Loyola. Is omitted

AUGUST:

01 – St. Alphonsus Ligouri M

03: St. Dominic M

04 – St. John Vianney, Memorial

06 - Transfiguration of the Lord – F

07: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

08 - St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Solemnity

09 – St. Edith Stein

10 – St. Lawrence. F

11 – St. Clare, M.

14 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. St. Maximilian Kolbe is omitted this year. This day takes Evening Prayer 1 of the Assumption of Our Lady.

15 - SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY. This is a holy day of obligation for Catholics.

20 - St. Bernard M

21– 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. St. Pius X is omitted this year.

22 – Queenship of Mary. M.

24 – St. Bartholomew. F

27 - St. Monica M

28 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. St. Augustine is omitted this year.

29 – The Passion of St. John the Baptist. M.

30 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

M = Memoria. F = Feast. S = Solemnity.

All other days are Ferial days.

SECTION SIX - Your Community

Our heartfelt thanks go to all the Oblates who live in reasonable proximity to the Abbey and have been helping with cooking, serving in the shop, gardening and housework.

We have a number of Oblates who are seriously ill at this time. Please keep them in prayer. Pam Delaforce has authorized me to ask you to pray for her husband, Oblate John Delaforce who is in Palliative Care at Port Kembla Hospital.

WE WISH YOU THE RICHEST BLESSING OF PEACE ON YOUR FEAST DAY:

May 16: David Brendan Mumford

May 21: Paul Godric Griffiths, Wendy Godric Orrock, Ian Godric Thomas.

May 22: Doreen Rita Soballa and Laynie Rita Pullen.

May 24: Amanda Mary Hickey

May 25: Heather Bede Thompson, Alan Bede Hickey, Cheryl Bede Townsend, Patrick Bede Quinn, Antonio Bede Zaragoza, Fr. Kevin Bede Walsh.

May 30: Brenda Joan Payne, and Brenda Joan Williams

May 31: Jo Elizabeth Wickens, Sr. Elizabeth Funder, Mary Elizabeth Locke and Margaret Elizabeth Crooks.

June 5: Allen Boniface Flanagan, Jeff Boniface Smart, Arno Boniface Struzina, Rev. Cameron Boniface Freese

June 11: Brian Barnabas McKinlay, Jan Barnabas Trevenen and Rosalie Barnabas Jacques.

June 12: Sr. Hilda Scott

June 13: Therese Anthony Harding

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: Sr. Caritas Rodrigues

June 22: Katherine Thomas Lindsay, Margaret Thomas More Whetham.

June 23: Frances Mildred Cormack.

June 24: Carmen Giovanna Xuereb

June 30: Annette Cuthbert Dawes

July 3: Leo Thomas Montgomery, Douglas Thomas Fitzpatrick

July 11: Ian Benedict Macdonald, Valerie Benedicta Dickson, Ken Benedict Press, Bill Benedict Price, Patrick Benedict Sleight, Marianne Benedict Scarf, Sonia Benedicta Aquilina, Sr. Benedetta Cerato, Russell Benedict Collins, Margaret Benedicta Houen, Geraldine Mary Benedicta Doyle, June Benedicta Jenkins, Garry Benedict Gleeson, Ellen Benedicta Woods, Brenda Benedicta Verbeek, Benedetta Marina di Mattia, Dorothy Benedicta Taylor, Chantal Mary Benedicte Jacquier, Patricia Benedict Thomas, Rosslyn Teresa Benedicta Rice, Matthew Benedict Ransom, Ivan Benedict Fitz, Claire Benedict Lanigan, Debra Benedicta Verbeek, Elizabeth Benedicta Arblaster, Felicity Benedict Giles

July 14: Dorothy (Veronica Guiliani) Touzell

July 15: Pamela Henry Herrick

July 16: Fr. Paul Gurr O.Carm. (Abbey Chaplain)

July 20: Valerie Margaret Johnson

July 22: Sr. Magdalen Mather, Margaret Mary Magdalen Oomens, Kerri Mary Olson, Jeanette Magdalen Murray, Pamela Magdalen Hassell. Marilyn Mary Magdalen Caruana, Phyllis Magdalen Rodriguez, and Judith Mary Magdalen Pickering.

July 25: Peter James Lambert-Brown

July 26: Daphne Anne Spelter

July 29: Sr. Joy Martha Jensen, Deborah Martha Pike and Wendy Mary Young.

August 8: Carol (Mary of the Cross) Xuereb

August 9: Anne (Edith) Fry, Hilary (Teresa Benedicta of the Cross) Scarce.

August 11: Sr. Clare Gamble, Shirley Clare Basham, Rev. Ann Clare Dittmar McCollim, Marie Clare Manning

August 15: Sr. Maria Frances Slade

August 20: Bernard Quinn, Fr. Henry Bernard Byrne, Peter Bernard Sheehan, Lee Ann Bernardine Wein, Dean Bernard Godric Piryak

August 22: Christina Maria de Angelo Camron
August 23: Victoria Rose Sultana
August 27: Colleen Monica Fletcher
August 28: Joan Augustine Lorente, and Monica Augustina Rodriguez, Colleen Augustine Cashman, Monica Augustine Hunt
August 31: Leslie Aidan Whittet.

LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER AS OUR ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR:

May 22: Laynie Rita Pullen
May 23: Rosalie Barnabas Jacques.
May 24: Ivan Benedict Fitz
May 25: Phyllis Magdalen Rodrigues, Clare Therese Sydenham, Rev. Jeannette Therese McHugh, Phillip John Wilson.
May 30: Wendy Godric Orrock.
June 1: Fr. Mark Aelred Podesta
June 3: Matthew Benedict Ransom
June 6: Lorraine Mary Irmina Stilo
June 6: Dorothy Veronica Guiliani Touzell.
June 7: Ian Benedict MacDonald.
June 8: Brenda Benedicta Verbeek, Judith Catherine Brown, Helene Miriam Mackey, Rev. Catherine Eaton.
June 12: Christine Gertrud Phillips, Lenka Gregoria Hill, Catherine Frances Turek, Peter Damian McElhone, Alfred Anselm Breznik, Susan Frances Carter, Rhonda Scholastica Kinsela, Debi Gertrud Russell, Isabel Frances Vicary and Kevin Francis Vicary.
June 14: Jean Julian Reid
June 14: Fr. Brian Gregory Mascord
June 22: Valerie Benedicta Dickson, Dorothy Benedicta Taylor and Christina Maria de Angelo Camron.
June 23: Aaron Placid McElhone, Margaret Benedicta Houen, Carmen Giovanna Xuereb and Josephine Antonia Petrie.
June 24: Libby Therese Denny, Catherine Scholastica Ransom
June 25: Varcha Giles Sidwell, Elizabeth Lioba Anderson, Bernadette Mary Maher, Paul Godric Griffiths, Colleen Monica Fletcher, Nancy Hilda Sage
June 28: Sonia Veronica Pleines
June 29: Sr. Julain Barbara Garwood
June 30: Rev. Nigel Thomas Wright
Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: Anthony Anselm Tarleton, Ewa Mary Grajewska.
July 1: Barbara Catherine Mary Crawford, Sarah Louise Emmanuelle Kirsop and Rev. Sharon Lioba Baird.
July 9: Pam Magdalen Hassell
July 10: Lee Ann Bernardine Wein
July 11: Rev. Ian Patrick Crooks and Margaret Julian Crooks. Rosslyn Teresa Benedicta Rice, Ellen Benedicta Woods
July 12: Margaret Mary Magdalen Oomens
July 18: Melanie Syncletica Phillips
July 19: Susan Nano Dickson, and Elizabeth Benedicta Arblaster.
July 22: Kerri Mary Magdalen Olson
July 25: Sr. Joy Martha Jensen

July 26: Anne Sophia Norrie and Denis Nicols
 August 6: Kilian Veronica de Lacy.
 August 8: Anne Edith Fry
 August 9: Hilary (Teresa Benedicta of the Cross) Scarce
 August 10: Anthony John Smith and Vilma Elizabeth Smith.
 August 15: Noella Mary-Emmaus Sheerin, and Michelle Anne Mary Higlett.
 August 18: Marie Clare Manning
 August 22: Laura Gertrud Moya, Marianne Benedict Scarf, Irene Patricia McAllister, Josette Elizabeth Wickens, Mary Gertrud Connors, Antoinette Gertrud Jenkins, Ruth Hedwig Huebner, Assunta Benedicta Aquilina, Wilfrid Ambrose Moon, Nereda Gertrud Blake, Doreen Adela O'Sullivan.
 August 24: Wendy Begu Fisher-Hudson
 August 27: Kay Matilda Myers
 August 29: Leslie Aidan Whittet, Susan Columba Marmion Lambert, Peter James Lambert-Brown.
 August 31: Pamela Hannah Winter

SOLEMN PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES:

Corpus Christi: Sr. Agnes Manly
Sacred Heart: Sr. Mary Mellitus Troy, Sr. Antonia Curtis, Sr. Maureen Therese Woodhouse and Sr. Gertrud George.
 July 11: Sr. Therese Gilmour, Sr. Mary Bernadette Sunarjo
 August 6: Sr. Mary Veronica Chandler
 August 23: Sr. Caritas Rodrigues

MAY ETERNAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM AND MAY THEY REST IN PEACE:

May 17th, 1854, Bishop Charles Henry Davis, Father/Pastor of our community from 1849 until his premature death in 1854, on the eve of his 39th birthday.
 June 2nd, 1924: Mother Mary Austin Marum (the title Mother in this case is an honorary title – she lived 72 years in our community).
 June 2nd, 1987: Sr. Marian Bourke
 June 4th, 1976: Sr. Mary Gertrude Flannery
 June 8th, 1905: Sr. Mary Scholastica Therry
 June 9th, 2011: Sr. Janice Robertson
 June 10th, 1973: Sr. Mary Bernard Bryant.
 June 13th, 1988: Sr. Miriam Murray
 June 16th, 1920: Sr. Mary Paul Fairland
 June 16th, 1932: Sr. Mary Stanislaus Egan
 June 18th, 1861: Sr. Mary Aloysius Shortall
 June 18th, 1980: Sr. Mary Audrey Bourke
 June 18th, 2008: Oblate John Anselm Jamieson
 June 22nd, 2011: Oblate Gabriele Angelica Harders
 June 23rd, 1994: Oblate Clare Scholastica Empen
 June 23rd, 2001: Oblate Dr. William Canice Hudson
 June 23rd, 2012: Oblate Jean Edmond Peter Antoine
 June 27th, 1972: Sr. Mary Bede Muschialli
 June 28th, 1894: Mother Mary Placid Loughnan
 June 29th, 1932: Mother Mary Justina Merewether
 July 2nd, 1888: Sr. M. Elizabeth Dwyer,

July 5th, 2008: Oblate Billie Jude Balson.
July 10th, 1891: Sr. M. Bridget O’Sullivan
July 15th, 1943: Sr. Mary Scholastica Sugrue
July 15th, 1985: Sr. Mary Boniface McConnell
July 19th, 2009: Oblate Henning Maximilian Harders
July 22nd, 2003: Sr. Marie Gregory Forster
July 23rd, 1994: Oblate Clare Scholastica Empen
July 24th, 1952: Sr. Mary Ann Harrington
August 9th, 1968: Mother M. Mildred Potts, Fourth Elected Prioress of our community.
August 11th, 1950: Sr. M. Annette Cunningham
August 22nd, 2012: Oblate Teresa Benedict Pozniak.
August 24th, 2006: Mother Benedicta Philips, first Abbess of the community.
August 31st, 2005: Sr. Joy Reynolds

SECTION SEVEN: Saints

Blessed Columba Marmion, the great Benedictine Abbot and spiritual master who lived at the end of the 19th century and the early 20th century has the following to say about the Liturgy of the Hours (the Work of God): “...nowhere can we better contemplate Our Lord in His person and in His mysteries, than in following the liturgical cycle established by the Church, His bride. The Church herself is guided in this by the Holy Spirit. From Advent to Pentecost the liturgy is Christocentric; in it, all leads back to Christ, all converges towards Him; it is a representation, but a living representation of His mysteries; His Incarnation, His hidden life, His public life, His sorrowful Passion, the triumph of His Resurrection, His Ascension; the Mission of the Holy Spirit. The Church leads us by the hand in Jesus’ footsteps; we have only to listen, only to open the eyes of faith; we are following Jesus. It is this custom of following, (under the Church’s guidance), the mysteries of Jesus that gives to Benedictine spirituality such a specifically Christian character. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus there is no chance of going astray. The secret of the **safety**, as of the **simplicity** and the **breadth** of Benedictine spirituality, lies in the fact that it borrows not from fallible humanity, but from the Church, from the Holy Spirit, all its elements, even to its framework, which is nothing else than the representation of the life of Christ.” (From “Christ The Ideal of the Monk”, by Bl. Columba Marmion, pages 318-319).

SECTION EIGHT: For reflection

“Lectio Divina is the necessary pre-requisite for a lively and true prayer, and a necessary pre-requisite for attentiveness in the Liturgy of the Hours. Lectio Divina is a prayerful reading, which enables the Holy Spirit to move our minds towards an understanding of, and an insight into, the things of God, coupled with a desire to give ourselves to God and to express this in prayer.” (Cardinal Basil Hume, “Searching For God”).