

PAX – WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR GUIDE
POST-PENTECOST II, 2015.
September, October, November.
More specifically, this edition of “Pax” spans the period from September 1st
until the first Sunday of Advent.

SECTIONS ONE AND TWO: READING AND REFLECTION

THEME: *IT IS LOVE THAT IMPELS THEM TO PURSUE EVERLASTING LIFE. THEREFORE THEY ARE EAGER TO TAKE THE NARROW ROAD OF WHICH THE LORD SAYS: ‘NARROW IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE’. (Matt. 7:14, Rule of St. Benedict 5:10).*

This time I have combined Sections One and Two in order to concentrate heavily on one aspect of love.

At the end of April this year, the electric motor which drives our Church Organ broke down and had to be taken away to be repaired. There was no more music from that beautiful Organ for a month.

Love is the electricity that impels us on our Benedictine journey. When it is not there, there is no life, no beautiful music. St. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, tells us that love is a lot of things.

This edition of “Pax” will focus on one of those characteristics: “Love is kind...”

In 1859, a book of Spiritual Conferences was published by Thomas Richardson and son, London. The title: “Spiritual Conferences”, by Frederick William Faber D.D., Priest of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri. One of these Conferences is on “Kindness”.

I have summarized it here:

We have the power to make the world happy. This power is called kindness.

Kindness means we put others in place of self.

We treat them as we would wish to be treated ourselves. We change places with them.

We cannot speak of kindness without thinking of God, for Creation was an act of Divine kindness.

Kindness adds sweetness to everything. It is kindness which makes life’s capabilities blossom, and paints them with their cheerful colours, and endows them with their invigorating fragrance.

Kindness is the nobility of human beings. It is a divine thing rather than a human one, and it is human because it springs from the soul of a person just at the point where the divine image was graven deepest.

Kindness is infectious. No kind action ever stopped with itself.

One kind action leads to another.

The single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make fresh trees.

The kindest people are generally those who have received the greatest number of kindnesses. Inward happiness almost always follows a kind action.

Kind Interpretations:

Kindness is our best wisdom because it is an image of the wisdom of God. The habit of judging is so nearly incurable, and its cure is such an almost interminable process, that we must concentrate ourselves for a long time on keeping it in check, and this check is to be found in kind interpretations.

The practice of kind thoughts...enables us to find God easily.

The interior beauty of a soul through habitual kindness of thought is greater than our words can tell. To such a person life is a perpetual bright evening, with all things calm, and fragrant, and restful. The dust of life is laid, and its fever cool. All sounds are softer, as is the way of evening, and all nights are fairer- and the golden light makes our enjoyment of earth a happily pensive preparation for heaven.

Kind Words:

From thoughts we naturally pass to words.

Kind words are the music of the world.

There is hardly a power on earth equal to the power of kind words.

With the help of God's grace, the habit of saying kind words is very quickly formed, and once found, it is not speedily lost.

The more humble we are, the more kindly we shall talk.

A kind-worded person is a genial person. And geniality is power.

A genial person is both an apostle and an evangelist; an apostle, because one brings people to Christ; an evangelist because one brings Christ to other people.

Kind actions:

Like God's goodness, kind actions are constantly occupied where there is no hope of repayment and return.

Like the shedding of precious blood, they have an actual preference for multiplying themselves upon their enemies. Kindness is the spirit of Jesus.

Kindness is the turf of the spiritual world, whereon the sheep of Christ feed quietly beneath the Shepherd's eye.

Love is kindness, says St. Paul, and kindness is part of the narrow road that leads to life (Jesus). The journey on this narrow road is impelled by love – the love of Christ. (St. Benedict).

Section Three: About (Concerning) the Rule of St. Benedict.

Reflecting on chapter 5, and on the words, "Love it is that impels them...", Sr. Joan Chittister offers the following insights: *Two ideas permeate the Rule of St. Benedict: love and wisdom. Love is the motive; wisdom is the goal and the way. Two great loves, love of God and love of the other, impel us to look outside ourselves and learn from those outside of ourselves where we really are in life.* She then speaks of the need for wisdom figures, abbesses, abbots, mentors, spiritual guides, husbands, wives, good friends who love us enough to guide us, and to whom we listen so that we can bear the "heat of life that shapes us, and not ...escape it." Love certainly impels us in all we do as Benedictines, but first of all, love is a commitment.

Love is a commitment to which we are faithful. If we become unfaithful, we haven't much hope of going anywhere on this Benedictine journey.

SECTION FOUR: COMMUNITY HISTORY

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, one of our Lay Sisters, whose work was the Kitchen and the provision of meals for the community, used to give away leftovers to the unemployed men who would sleep at night under the Clyde Railway bridge. They would come down during the day to the back door of the Kitchen, looking for help. A young Priest in Queensland used to send her money for these men, and she would also give them five or ten shillings when she could spare it. This was the work of a kind soul, Sr. Mary Anthony O'Connor, who died on December 22nd, 1950. She too was a Queenslander, born in Toowoomba, so it is possible that the connection was with a young Priest of the Toowoomba Diocese. She is remembered for her many hours scrubbing floors, assisting in the School Infirmary, and washing the hair of the small girl boarders on a Saturday morning. It is also noted in our Chronicles that she wore herself out with hard work, and towards the end of her life, when her mind was wandering, she received much KINDNESS from another sister, Sr. Mary Editha Thompson. Thank God that someone was kind to her after all she had given to the community.

SECTION FIVE: LITURGY

SEPTEMBER:

- 03: St. Gregory the Great (Feast).
- 04: SPRING EMBER DAY – DAY OF PRAYER AND PENANCE. (Within Australia).
- 06: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 08: Birthday of Our Lady (Feast).
- 13: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 14: EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS.
- 15: Our Lady of Sorrows. Memorial.
- 16: Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian. Memorial.
- 17: St. Hildegard of Bingen. Feast
- 20: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 21: St. Matthew. Feast
- 23: St. Pius of Pietrelcina. Memorial.
- 24: Mercy Day (Sisters of Mercy)
- 27: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 28: St. Lioba. Feast.
- 29: Archangels. Feast
- 30: St. Jerome. Memorial.

OCTOBER:

- 01: St. Therese of Lisieux: Feast
- 02: Guardian Angels. Memorial
- 03: Blessed Columba Marmion. Feast in Benedictine Houses.
- 04: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B. St. Francis of Assisi is omitted this year. Today is also World Pets' Day and Animal Welfare Day.
- 06: St. Bruno. Memorial.
- 07: Our Lady of the Rosary.
- 09: Blessed John Henry (Cardinal) Newman
- 10: English Missionary Bishops (from the time of Augustine of Canterbury): Memorial.
- 11: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.

- 12: St. Mechtild. Feast or Memorial in Benedictine communities.
- 15: St. Teresa of Avila – Memorial.
- 16: St. Hedwig, or St. Margaret Mary Alcoque. Optional Memorias.
- 17: St. Ignatius of Antioch. Memorial
- 18: St. Luke (Feast) – omitted this year because it is the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 25: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 28: Sts. Simon and Jude.

NOVEMBER:

- 01: All Saints. Solemnity. This takes the place of the Sunday Liturgy
- 02: All Souls' Day
- 04: St. Charles Borromeo (Memorial)
- 05: Commemoration of the Deceased Relatives and Benefactors of our Community.
- 08: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 09: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. Feast. The Lateran Basilica is the official Church of the Pope.
- 10: Pope St. Leo the Great.
- 11: St. Martin of Tours. Feast
- 12: St. Josaphat (Memorial).
- 13: All Saints of the Order of St. Benedict.
- 14: All souls of the Order of St. Benedict.
- 15: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 16: St. Gertrud the Great. Feast.
- 17: St. Elizabeth of Hungary (Memorial).
- 18: Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul. Optional Memorial.
- 21: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the Annual Feast for all Presentation Sisters. It is also *Pro Orantibus Day*. This day was proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI on November 19, 2006, as the day dedicated to remembering cloistered religious.
- 22: St. Cecilia (Memorial). (omitted this year because of the Solemnity of Christ The King).
- 22: SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE.
- LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH'S YEAR.
- 30: St. Andrew (Feast) This Feast is not celebrated this year, because November 29th is

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, and the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. The Sunday Cycle is Year C. The Weekday Cycle is Year 2.

SECTION SIX: YOUR COMMUNITY

Congratulations to the Rev. Sharon Baird of Brisbane and to Sarah Kirsop of Warrawee, Sydney, who made their commitment as Oblates of our community on 1st July.

The Rev. Sharon took the name "Lioba"

Sarah took the name "Emanuelle".

Congratulations to Elizabeth Arblaster of Lindfield, Sydney, who made her commitment as an Oblate on July 19th.

Elizabeth took the name "Benedicta".

The next Group Oblation Ceremony is November 14th, 2015. The Weekend of 14th and 15th November is an Oblate Retreat Weekend. You can enquire about bookings by ringing the Cottage Secretary on 42 360533. It may be already booked out, but you can easily find out with a phone call.

The next OBLATE MEETING is Saturday September 19th at 2.30 p.m. in the Conference Room at our Retreat Centre.

Blessings on your Feast Day:

SEPTEMBER:

01: Varcha (Giles) Sidwell, and Jill (Anna) Grienke

03: Lenka (Gregoria) Hill, and Donn (Gregory) Corcoran, Fr. Brian (Gregory) Mascord.

06: Wendy (Begu) Fisher-Hudson

06: Sr. Antonia Curtis

14: John (of the Cross) Delaforce, Sr. Veronica Chandler, and Sonia (Veronica) Pleines.

17: Pam (Hildegard) Russell, Linda (Hildegard) Childs-van-Wijk, Patrick (Hildegard) O'Connor, Diane (Hildegard) Young, Beth (Hildegard) Muntz, Robyn (Hildegard) Wein, Mary (Hildegard) McCall, Elaine (Hildegard) Housen, Louise (Hildegard) McMahon, Anne (Hildegard) Morris Bannerman, Nazin (Hildegard) Atalay, Sr. Hildegard Ryan.

28: Rosie (Lioba) Jenkins, Gerardine (Lioba) Healy, Beppi (Lioba) O'Connor, Kathy (Lioba) Mason, Elizabeth (Lioba) Anderson, Rev. Sharon (Lioba) Baird

29: Sidney (Michael) Rice

OCTOBER:

01: Jan (Therese) Clark, Fiona (Therese) Harris, Libby (Therese) Denny, Sr. Therese Gilmour.

03: Sr. Naomie Ruth Varnakulasingham, Susan (Columba) Lambert.

04: Maxine (Francis) Pickering, Christine (Frances) Angus, Diane (Frances) Greenway

10: Sr. Mellitus Troy.

12: Elaine (Mechtild) Alinta, Sr. Carmel (Mechtild) Leighton, Sr. Mechtild Crawford.

15: Carmen (Teresa) Lorente, Robyn (Teresa) Wynen, Elizabeth (Teresa) Montgomery, Maria (Teresa) Elisabetta Gambino, Beate (Teresa Hildegarde) Steller, Ewa Maria (Teresa) Komorowska.

16: Ruth (Hedwig) Huebner, Vincenzo (Gerrado) Cappetta.

25: Wilf (Ambrose) Moon, Ken (Ambrose) Halliday.

NOVEMBER:

16: Mother Mary Gertrud Barnes (Abbess), Mary (Gertrud) Connors, Joan (Gertrud) Dray, Irene (Gertrud) Bajda, Rita (Gertrud) Schembri, Joan (Gertrud) Eldaher, Christine (Gertrud) Phillips, Nereda (Gertrud) Blake, Debi (Gertrud) Russell, Toni (Gertrud) Jenkins, Laura (Gertrud) Moya, Maria Elena (Gertrude) Zaragoza, Christine (Gertrud) Simons, Sr. Gertrud George.

21: Kathryn (Mary) Proctor.

22: Enid (Cecilia) Fleming.

ANNIVERSARIES OF OBLATION:

SEPTEMBER

03: Maree Basel McGuckin.

08: Lyn Hilda Yates.

09: Helen Therese (no surname on the charter of commitment).

14: Fr. Andrew Aidan Doohan.

15: Maria Elena Gertrude Zaragoza, Antonia Bede Zaragoza, Doreen Rita Mary Soballa, Monica Augustina Rodrigues, Geraldine Mary Benedicta Doyle.

16: Dean Bernard Godric Piryak.

22: Elaine Hildegard Housen, and Harry Gregory Housen.

24: Daphne Anne Spelter, Douglas Thomas Fitzpatrick, Brian Barnabas McKinlay, Brenda Joan Payne, Anne Hildegard Morris Bannerman,

26: John of the Cross Delaforce.

29: Chantal Mary Benedicte Jacquier, Debra Benedicta Vermeer, Claire Benedict Lanigan, Judith Magdalen Pickering

30: Lindsay Samuel Alban Roe, and Vivien Teresa Hilda Arnold.

OCTOBER:

05: Diane Frances Greenway

14: Louise Hildegard McMahon.

17: Rev. Dixon Serafim Kenney, Wendy Mary Kenney. Philip Benedict Ryan, Gudrun Majella Muling, Paul Bernard Muling, Lilette Monica Louise, Helen Therese Subramanian

22: Janet Therese (of Lisieux) Clark

23: Beate Teresa Hildegard Steller.

27: Valerie Margaret Johnson

NOVEMBER

09: Diane Hildegard Young

15: Alan Bede Hickey, Amanda Mary Hickey, Pamela Hildegard Russell, John Antony Dunne, Irene Sutherland, Helena Frances O'Neill, Joan Gertrude Dray, Heather Bede Gorman, Mary of the Annunciation Wyatt, Bill Benedict Price, Claire Catherine Devlyn, Gerardine Lioba Healy, Pamela Henry Herrick, Ira Peter Wilson, Elizabeth Frances Fahey, Rita Romanus Gertrude Schembri, Linda Hildegard Childs-Van-Wijk, Jeff Boniface Smart, Margaret Hilda Watts, Denise Frances Hill, Ken Benedict Press, Rosie Lioba Jenkins, Brian Robert Brennan, Patrick Benedict Sleight.

17: Colleen Julian Hines and Victoria Rose Sultana

21: Christine Gertrud Simons, Enid Cecilia Fleming, Patricia Benedict Thomas.

22: Catherine Anne Cecilia Milgate, Janet Therese Clark.

23: Majorie Teresa Carroll.

24: Fiona Therese Harris

26: Therese Julian Proctor, Arnold Boniface Struzina.

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING: Mary Elizabeth Locke.

SOLEMN PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES:

SEPTEMBER:

14: Sr. Benedetta Cerato

OCTOBER:

11: Sr. Elizabeth Funder

NOVEMBER:

03: Sr. Magdalen Mather

16: Mother Mary Gertud Barnes (Abbess).

NECROLOGY:

SEPTEMBER

03: Sr. Mary Patricia Kelly.

07: Sr. Mary Chanel Pechy

12: Fr. Maurus O'Connell, who was chaplain for a short time from 1888, following upon the death of Fr. Bonaventure Curr. (chaplain from 1874-1888)

15: Oblate Patricia Mary Atkins.

21: Sr. Fidelis Williams

24: Sr. Gertrude Hishon

26: Sr. Marie Therese Malone

27: Oblate Philip Francis Bruno Price

OCTOBER

04: Oblate Ann Gertrud Anderson

08: Mother Mary Scholastica Gregory (one of two founding Mothers).

09: Sr. Mary Aloysius Carroll, Sr. Mary Scholastica O'Loughlin.

10: Sr. Dominic Fitzpatrick, Sr. Mary Magdalen Brown.

- 11: Mother Walburge Wallis (first elected Prioress - 1864).
- 11: Oblate Vivienne (Martha) Chiswell
- 13: Sr. Marie Vianney Loughnan
- 17: Fr. Bede Sumner. Fr. Bede lived at our monastery in the last years of his life. He freed our community from debt in 1864, and was therefore our most generous benefactor of the early decades of our history.
- 18: Oblate Aubrey Patrick Connors
- 19: Sr. Mary Joseph Dimond.
- 19: Sr. Placid Wilson, fifth elected Prioress.
- 25: Sr. Mary Lucy Kirsch
- 26: Sr. Mary Patrick Emblem.

NOVEMBER

- 09: Sr. Mary Stanislaus Dwyer.
- 21: Sr. Mary Francis Machlin.
- 23: Sr. Mary Veronica Hennessy
- 24: Sr. Mary Gabriel Enge
- 25: Sr. Mary Teresa Dimond.

SECTION SEVEN: SAINTS

From the writings of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta: “One day I was walking down the street in the middle of London. I saw a tall, thin man on the corner, all huddled up and looking most miserable. I went up to him, shook his hand, and asked him how he was. Then he looked at me and said, ‘Oh! After such a long, long, long time, I feel the warmth of a human hand!’ And he straightened up. There was such a beautiful smile on his face, because somebody was kind to him. Just shaking his hand, made him feel like somebody. For me, he was Jesus in a distressing disguise. I gave him the joy of being loved, the feeling of being loved by another person. Small things, even a smile, a helping hand, become works of peace.”
 (I recommend reading “Reaching Out in Love” – Stories told by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta).

SECTION EIGHT: FOR REFLECTION:

From the wisdom of Cardinal Basil Hume, O.S.B.: “We get tired, frustrated, irritated at times, but even so we ought never allow an unkind word to fall from our lips or do an unkind action. Others will forgive us our inadequacies, will not mind our weaknesses, will accept our limitations, if they sense that we will do anything for them because we truly love them. We have to work at it, saying ‘no’ very often to ourselves, and ‘yes’ to others. ‘If I speak in the tongues of men or angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.’ LOVE IS KIND (St. Paul). IT IS LOVE THAT IMPELS THEM. (St. Benedict).

One of the most inspiring stories we can still read is “The Hiding Place”, the story of Betsy and Corrie Ten Boom and their father. When they were sheltering, (in kindness) a young Jewish mother and her baby, and the baby was crying, they needed to find another hiding place. They asked a Pastor and his wife to take the fugitives, because their home was set back from the street within a large wooded park. His answer was: ‘No, definitely not. We could lose our lives for a Jewish child!’ Mr Ten Boom held the baby close to

his cheek, and said: 'You say we could lose our lives for this child. I would consider that the greatest honour that could come to my family.'

"The Hiding Place" is a timeless story of inspiration and courage. The film is also still available. This is kindness to an amazing degree. We may never be asked to be that kind. However, may we not neglect the small kindnesses of every day. We have the power to change our world for the better. Let us harness that power and set out over these three months to do just that!

Please note carefully: If you are sending a donation by Cheque to contribute to the cost of the Oblate literature, you need to make it out to the "Benedictine Abbey". The bank will not accept cheques made out to me, Sr. Hildegard, unless I go to the bank and show my driver's license. This isn't always convenient. With thanks.