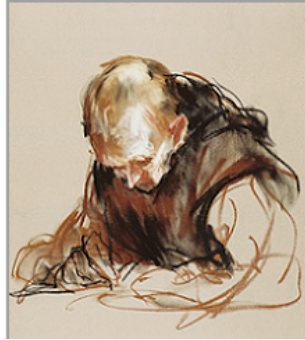


**PAX – WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR GUIDE
POST-PENTECOST II, 2017.**

September, October, November.

More specifically, this edition of “Pax” spans the period from September 1st until the first Sunday of Advent.

**SECTION ONE: READING AND REFLECTION
The human face – the Monastic face.**



Introduction: In sharing the following insights on the “face”, I have been inspired by the ABC Television Series, “Anh’s Brush with Fame”. It is advertised as a “revealing and compelling new perspective on some of Australia’s most loved personalities.” Anh Do is an artist, actor and comedian. He was an Archibald Prize finalist in 2014. In this series, he paints the face of, for example, Dr. Charlie Teo, Magda Szubanski, Kate Ceberano, and Jimmy Barnes. However, it is not about just painting the face of each person, it is rather about painting the face of a person while listening to that person’s honest revelation about family, childhood, growing years, vocational choice, marriage and the break down of relationships, racial prejudice, and so much more. When the painting is complete, the face of a person, as I understand it, reflects the story that each one has shared, prompted by the questions which the artist has asked during the session. This is a living painting, not a portrait painting where a person sits (sometimes for hours) while his or her portrait is being painted by a skilled artist.

One of the meanings for “face” in Biblical Greek, explains that the face, by its various movements “affords an index of inward thoughts and feelings”. (Cf. Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament words). Is this not what Anh Do is doing, painting “an index of inward thoughts and feelings”, experiences, joys and sufferings?

This understanding of the word “face” is found in Luke 9:51, 1 Peter, 3:12. Face is also understood as “presence”. Read 2 Corinthians 2:10. “Before the face of” is understood as “before the presence of”.

The Monastic Face:

The monastic face is **firstly**, the face of every man, woman and child on earth because the monastic person carries humanity in the heart and brings humanity before the face of God – primarily in prayer. Because of this, the monastic face reveals at different times, joy or sorrow, triumph or defeat, hope or despair, unforgiveness or reconciliation, withdrawal or participation, anger and a thirst for revenge, or acceptance and peace, simplicity or avarice, humility or pride, service or condescension. And then there is an hospitable face, or a face bound by an electric fence with the message: “Don’t you dare come into my space.” And so on...

The monastic face is one which reveals that one is walking “with the Gospel for your guide...”, as you face the events of your ‘every’ day.

The monastic face, as does every face, contains the eyes. Eyes don’t lie, as some of us may have experienced in iridology. There are no secrets! Perhaps we are familiar with the saying: “The eyes are the windows of the soul”.

Some words I came across last year spoke to me about eyes: “Some things can only be seen through eyes which have cried.” Surely this is the experience of all of us. And in our own times, it is respectable for men to cry. They no longer have to keep their grief or sorrow locked up within them.

Secondly, the monastic face is a face which expresses the priority of the monastic **values** which we as Benedictines, have taken on board. It is imaged best as the putting on of clothes. These are the clothes we Benedictines wear. overall, the monastic face is one which expresses inner peace, a peace which is attained through a crown of thorns. In spite of the number of times, *Pax* is written as being our Benedictine motto, it is not! The Benedictine motto is *Pax inter spinas*, peace through a crown of thorns, peace which is hard won!



SECTION TWO: Continuing our reading and reflection.

It is noted by W.E. Vine, that the word “face” appears in the Old Testament over 2000 times.

Just a few are Exodus 34:30; Exodus 33:11; 1 Samuel 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:14; Numbers 6:25. It appears 35 times in the Psalter.

There are many more texts which we can find for Lectio Divina. If you have a Concordance, it is easier to find these gems.

On August 6th last, we celebrated the Transfiguration of the Lord. We heard the words: “And his face shone like the sun.”

In the Book, “Stories for Sharing”, Charles Arcodia, gives the title “The Face at the Wall” to one of the stories. It is about a terrible leper colony full of lonely and abandoned men. Only one man kept a “gleam in his eyes”, and a clinging to life. He could still say, “thank you” when given food and be courteous to the nurse in charge. What was the miracle that kept him human? It was a face, “a little tip of a woman’s face high above the forbidding wall”, a face which came every day. “The man would be there, waiting to receive her smile, the food of his strength. He would smile back and then the face would disappear. Then came his long wait for the next day. When the nurse [in charge] took them by surprise [one day], he said simply, ‘She is my wife’.”

May we all keep before us, the faces of those who have loved us and still love us. “God is love”, says St. John. When we find love, we find God. The Song of Songs, in

chapter 2 verse 14, gives a description of one who is loved. We may interpret it as God loving each one of us. Allow God to say to you: YOUR FACE IS BEAUTIFUL.

SECTION THREE: ABOUT (CONCERNING) THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT

Hospitality is one of the very “brightly-lit” charisms of Benedictine monasticism. Writing on this aspect of charism, Sr. Joan Chittister shares, that “we cannot be too busy, too professional, too removed from the world of the poor to receive the poor and sustain the poor...to practise hospitality in our world, it may be necessary to evaluate all the laws and all the promotions and all the invitation lists of corporate and political society from the point of view of the people who never make the lists. Then hospitality may demand that we work to change things.” We also need to look into the faces of the poor, homeless, starving and dispossessed people of our world. We need to look into the faces of the victims of sexual and physical abuse, and domestic violence. The faces of these, our brothers and sisters in the human family, have a message for us. We need to expose ourselves to their faces in order to hear their pain, their loneliness and their desperation. Faces of human beings are all around us. Which faces are calling to us at this time in our lives?

SECTION FOUR: COMMUNITY HISTORY

In case you don't have the following facts in your memory, I am just revising: Our foundresses left England, on Her Majesty's Ship, the 'St. Vincent', in October 1847. The ship arrived in Sydney on February 6th, 1848. The nuns lived at St. Mary's Monastery for the rest of that year and into the next year. At that time, St. Mary's was a monastery of Benedictine monks, founded by Archbishop John Bede Polding, a former monk of Downside Abbey, England. He was consecrated as the first Catholic Bishop of Sydney. The Anglican Church was already established. Our nuns moved into the huge colonial mansion which Polding bought for them in October 1848. This was the former home of Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur – the “Vineyard”, near Parramatta. During the financial depression of the 1840s, Macarthur had to sell his house and property. Thus the house was bought for a lower price than it would have been in another era. The official Foundation Day of our community was February 2nd, 1849. The foundresses were Mother Magdalen (Constantia) LeClerc and Sr. Scholastica (Jane) Gregory.

SECTION FIVE: LITURGY

SEPTEMBER:

- 01: St. Giles (Memoria). This day is also the new day introduced by Pope Francis in 2015: A Day of prayer in praise of Creation.
- 01: Spring Ember Day – Day of prayer and penance. (Within Australia).
- 03: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.
- 08: Birthday of Our Lady (Feast).
- 10: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.
- 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
- 15: Our Lady of Sorrows. Memorial.
- 16: Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian. Memorial.
- 17: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.
- 21: St. Matthew. Feast
- 23: St. Pius of Pietrelcina. Memorial.
- 24: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.
- 27: St. Vincent de Paul (Memorial)
- 28: St. Lioba. Feast.
- 29: Archangels. Feast

30: St. Jerome. Memorial.

OCTOBER:

01: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A. St. Therese of Lisieux is omitted this year.

02: Guardian Angels. Memorial.

03: Blessed Columba Marmion. Feast in Benedictine Houses.

04: St. Francis of Assisi. Today is also World Pets' Day and Animal Welfare Day.

07: Our Lady of the Rosary.

08: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

09: Blessed John Henry (Cardinal) Newman

10: English Missionary Bishops (from the time of Augustine of Canterbury): Memorial.

12: St. Mechtild von Hackeborn - Feast or Memorial in Benedictine communities.

15: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

17: St. Ignatius of Antioch. Memorial.

18: St. Luke (Feast)

22: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

28: Sts. Simon and Jude.

29: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

NOVEMBER:

01: All Saints. Solemnity.

02: Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day).

04: St. Charles Borromeo (Memorial)

05: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A. 3

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: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

13: All Saints of the Order of St. Benedict.

14: All Souls of the Order of St. Benedict.

16: St. Gertrud the Great. Feast.

17: St. Elizabeth of Hungary (Memorial).

19: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

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).

26: Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Last Sunday of the Church's Year.

December 1st is The First Sunday of Advent, and the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. The Sunday Cycle is Year B. The Weekday Cycle is Year 2.

SECTION SIX: YOUR COMMUNITY

Our Oblate community continues to grow, not just in numbers, but in a marked quality of spiritual depth and commitment to ministry in the Australian Church.

JAMBEROO ABBEY FACEBOOK PAGE

We have set up our facebook page especially for our oblates and friends so that you can communicate with us and we with you. You can tune in from our website or go straight to: **facebook.com/jamberooabbey**
We look forward to welcoming you to our page and hearing from you!

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: Sr. Veronica Chandler, and Sonia (Veronica) Pleines, Dorothy Veronica Guiliani Touzell.
16: Val Margaret Johnson.
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: Christine (Frances) Angus, Diane (Frances) Greenway, Rose (Francis) De Angelis
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 Hildegard) 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.
21: Kathryn (Mary) Proctor.

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
- 14: Rose Francis De Angelis, Kathleen Catherine Daysh, Monica Augustine Hunt, Brenda Joan Williams, Robert (of Molesme) Hamilton, Felicity Benedict Giles.
- 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
- 19: Helen (Anna) Howard, Lucy (Lioba) Sneesby-Tooth, Judith (Anne) Kendall
- 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:

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

Sometime in October, 2016: Oblate Enid Fleming.

- 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.
- 19: Jennifer (Benedicta) Morrow-Canty
- 25: Sr. Mary Lucy Kirsch
- 26: Sr. Mary Patrick Emblem.

NOVEMBER

- 03: Oblate John (of the Cross) Delaforce
- 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

St. Irenaeus gave us those famous words: "The glory of God is humanity fully alive, and the destiny of humanity is the vision of God." We will see God face to face, after a lifetime of drawing closer and closer to him through the choices we make.

SECTION EIGHT: FOR REFLECTION

As a lover of all things Australian, I have always been drawn to Australian folk lore, legend, ballads and poems which reflect our great country. Slim Dusty once sang about a man "who sat by the door of the grand old Birdsville Pub, his swag and gear guarded by a faithful heeler dog." And then came the words: "There was legend in the lines of his weather-beaten face". He played a cracked and battered Gibson guitar and sang the songs he had written, songs which reflected his own life's experiences.

I look around my community, and the faces of our two 90 year old nuns reflect both wisdom and peace. There is wisdom and peace in the lines of their faces, wisdom and peace which I can see is hard won!



Srs Frances & Elizabeth