

**PAX – WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR GUIDE
POST-PENTECOST II, 2018.**

September, October, November.

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

SECTION ONE: READING AND REFLECTION

“Yearn for everlasting life...day by day remind yourself that you are going to die. Hour by hour keep careful watch over all you do, aware that God’s gaze is upon you, wherever you may be. As soon as wrongful thoughts come into your heart, dash them against Christ...guard your lips from harmful or deceptive speech.” (Cardinal Basil Hume would say that God’s gaze is upon you because God loves you so much, he can’t take his eyes off you). Let us think of it that way!

This edition of “Pax – With the Gospel for our Guide”, takes in the month of November, a month when we are aware of our loved ones, mentors, ancestors, extended family, - all who have gone before us into the kingdom of God. It is a month when we are aware of that great “cloud of witnesses” who prays for us, while we continue the pilgrimage on earth.

November 2 is All Souls Day, (Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed); November 5 is the day we set apart for the commemoration of all our loved ones: immediate family, or sisters in the Abbey community; November 14 is the Commemoration of all All Souls Benedictine: all Monastics (oblates, nuns, monks).

When we “keep death daily before our eyes” (another translation of chapter 4, verse 47), we live with more awareness of the quality of our living. The quotation is about choice – choosing over and over and over, the Christian response to life: good thoughts and loving words. This is not easy, and it is not meant to be easy. Benedict is throwing out the challenge to each one of us who profess to be his disciples.

Our choices for Christ throughout each day are the small deaths we die. When we opt for the Christian response to any situation, we die to our own plans. For example, I am in a shopping centre, and I see someone fall. If I am close enough, I leave my plans and rush to help.

My neighbor has had a fall in the garden, while mowing his lawn. I turn off my mower and rush next door to help. My lawn can wait. I want to do it today – but that is just what **I want**. God is calling me elsewhere. It is Saturday and I’m looking forward to a break this weekend. Then, my child become ill and I need to go to the hospital. While there, my mother-in-law who is at home with the other children, falls over one of the toys strewn through the house. She is taken to hospital. We make other arrangements for the children (not easy), and we take turns (my wife and I), sleeping in the car. This is based on a weekend story told to me personally.

One day, I was behind a car travelling from Jamberoo to Kiama. When we came closer to Kiama, the driver stopped on the side of the road and picked up a rubbish bin which had fallen in the morning’s collection of garbage (most of them fall). Then he did it for a second bin. No one will know that he did this. I happened to see it.

This text from RB 7:47 and 48, calls us right away from our own plans and often our desires. I may be studying for a Doctorate in Mathematics, and one of my children becomes ill, - seriously ill. I can’t afford the fees for the next semester because I need the money to pay the doctors who are helping my child. I die to my plans and desires, and rise to the real call in my life – to LOVE. I love my child. I cease my

study. My child is the most precious person in my life, more precious than all the mathematical theories I have been researching.

The ability to die to plans and dreams makes us stronger and stronger. And then one day, we are called to accomplish the big DYING, and we are ready because we have let go. We have let go some of the things we wanted to accomplish, and watched younger people accomplishing them. We want to tell them how to do it, but we let go of that too. Slowly but surely, we become persons of peace, the peace that comes because we have discovered the secret of “letting go”, or, as we monastics call it, “renunciation”. The motto, “Peace through a crown of thorns” has enabled us to go beyond our plans, and our agenda for success. Gerald Brennan, has written the following words of wisdom: “Wisdom means keeping a sense of the fallibility of all our views and opinions, and of the uncertainty and instability of the things we most count on.” Wisdom means letting go – over and over and over – all the little deaths of our everyday.

SECTION TWO: CONTINUING OUR READING AND REFLECTION

Harriet Beecher Stowe once wrote (1821) that “The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone.” The way of St. Benedict gives us the tools for saying the words, and doing the deeds. Why leave them unsaid and undone?

Fr. Karl Rahner has the golden words for November 1 and 2 each year. Of November 2, he shares: “Today...we want to remember before God our dead, all those who once belonged to us and who have departed from us. There are so many of them, that we can by no means take them all in at one glance. If our celebration is to greet them all, we must go back in memory over our path through life. When we go about it in this way, from our point of view, it is like a procession of persons marching down the street of life. At each moment, without bidding farewell, someone or other silently withdraws from the procession and, turning aside from the road, is lost in the darkness of the night. This procession becomes smaller and smaller for each one of us...”

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

The teaching on “death” comes into the Chapter on the “Tools For Good Works”. Verses 48-50 instruct us for right living: “Hour by hour, keep careful watch over all you do, aware that God’s gaze is upon you, wherever you may be. As soon as wrongful thoughts come into your hearts, dash them against Christ, and disclose them to your spiritual father.” The spiritual father may be husband, wife, spiritual director, confessor, or close friend. The truth is that we need to disclose our dark thoughts to someone, and turn to Our Lord once more. Benedict says, “Dash them against Christ.” The image he uses is that of dashing something against rocks, in order to kill that “something”. Christ is the Rock against which we kill our unloving thoughts and words and actions. We want to be rid of them. We want to be free of them. Call on Jesus Christ, and disclose them honestly to the person in your life who is there for you.

SECTION FOUR: COMMUNITY HISTORY

One of our founding mothers, Scholastica Gregory, died on October 1, 1850, after only one year in the Colony. She was one of those unfortunate nuns of our community who died from tuberculosis. The next victim was Eliza Nagle on December 18, 1855. She made her vows on her death bed. Then a third victim

followed in 1859 – Elizabeth Burrowes. The average age of death in the community between 1850 and 1878 was 36. This would have been a comparable average in the wider society. At this stage tuberculosis could not be treated. Death in the 19th century was a more frequent event than it is in the 21st century. People died at home, not just in a monastery but in every home. We need to think about that, because now, people live longer – we get much more time for loving thoughts and actions.

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.
- 02: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 03: St. Gregory the Great. (Feast)
- 07: SPRING EMBER DAY – DAY OF PRAYER AND PENANCE. (Within Australia).
- 08: Birthday of Our Lady (Feast).
- 09: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 14: EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS.
- 15: Our Lady of Sorrows. Memorial.
- 16: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 17: St. Hildegard of Bingen (Feast)
- 20: Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon, and Paul Chong Ha-sang and companions. (Memorial)
- 21: St. Matthew. Feast
- 23: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 27: St. Vincent de Paul (Memorial)
- 28: St. Lioba. Feast.
- 29: Archangels. Feast
- 30: 26th Sunday in Ordinary time, Year B.

OCTOBER:

- 01: St. Therese of Lisieux. (Feast)
- 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: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 09: Blessed John Henry (Cardinal) Newman (Memorial)
- 10: English Missionary Bishops (from the time of Augustine of Canterbury) Memorial.
- 12: St. Mechtild von Hackeborn - Feast or Memorial in Benedictine communities.
- 14: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 15: St. Teresa of Avila. (Memorial).
- 17: St. Ignatius of Antioch. Memorial.
- 18: St. Luke (Feast)
- 21: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 28: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.

NOVEMBER:

- 01: All Saints. Solemnity.
- 02: Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day).
- 04: 31st 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: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.

- 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).
- 18: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.
- 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).
- 24: Sts Andrew Dung-Lac and companions (Memorial)
- 26: SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE.
LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH'S YEAR.

December 2nd 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 1.

SECTION SIX: YOUR COMMUNITY

Death Notice: Oblate Doreen (Adele) O'Sullivan died on June 23, aged 93. Her eulogy (written by herself) was printed in the Catholic Leader, because Doreen was once a columnist for the Leader. In the eulogy, she mentions her commitment as an Oblate of the Jamberoo community.

If you are planning on making a commitment as an Oblate to the community on November 10, at the 9.00 a.m. Mass, you need to write your formal letter to Mother Abbess, stating why you want to do this. You also need to submit to me (Sr. Hildegard), your Rule of Life. This need only be a simple outline of how you intend to live out your life as an Oblate of St. Benedict. It is good if you can incorporate your apostolic outreach to others. Perhaps the other is wife or husband who is ill. One oblate works with handicapped children. Another Oblate goes now and then to relieve his sister who cares 24/7 for her husband who has had a stroke at the age of 49.

Please include with your Rule of Life, the time you give to *Lectio Divina* and some of the Liturgy of the Hours. We are reminded that the two foundations of prayer in Benedictine life are: *Lectio Divina* and the Liturgy of the Hours. Most of us add some personal prayer to this: the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Christian Meditation and Centering Prayer.

Our Oblate community is growing, not just in numbers, but in a marked quality of spiritual depth and commitment to ministry in the Australian Church. This year, 2018, we invited Oblates to come for three to twelve months, to pray with us and to work with us. One Oblate from Sydney came for three months and brought her spiritual and artistic gifts to our monastic community.

Another Oblate is here for twelve months and continues to pray and work and be faithful to *Lectio Divina*. She has been heroic in her fidelity to all that we are and all that we do. We are grateful.

Another Oblate came for three months, and was fully committed to the Monastic "daily-ness". Her intention was to come for a year, but during May, she was called away to care for her elderly parents, and try to make arrangements for them on a long term basis. She is strengthened in this because of the time she had with our community. (Her words to me).

Make sure you read the two advertisements which Mother Abbess has included with this edition of "Pax – With the Gospel for our Guide".

Blessings on your Feast Day:

SEPTEMBER:

- 01: Varcha (Giles) Sidwell, and Jill (Anna) Grienke
- 03: Lenka (Gregoria) Hill, and Donn (Gregory) Corcoran, The Most Rev. 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) McMahan, 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

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 and Eva (Francis) Leppard.
- 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,

- 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 McMahan.
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
11: Eva Francis Leppard, Matthew Hermann James Sebastian Tague and Ethel Emmanuel Paraiwa-Murray
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 Gertrud 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 Diamond.
- 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 Macklin.
- 23: Sr. Mary Veronica Hennessy
- 24: Sr. Mary Gabriel Enge
- 25: Sr. Mary Teresa Diamond.

SECTION SEVEN: SAINTS

From the wisdom of Blessed Columba Marmion: "Death cannot trouble those who have sought God throughout life. For them, death is but a transition; Christ comes himself to open to them the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem, which, much more so than that of old, deserves to be called the 'Blessed vision of peace.' There will be no more darkness, trouble, tears, or sighs; but peace, infinite and perfect peace..."

Peace first becomes ours with the longing and seeking for the Creator; it is in the full vision and eternal possession of Him that peace is made perfect." *Pax enim nostra ex desiderio Conditoris inchoatur, ex manifesta autem vision perficitur.* (St. Gregory the Great).

SECTION EIGHT: FOR REFLECTION:

From the Wisdom of Meister Eckhart: "The seed of God is in us. The seed of the pear tree grows into a pear tree. The seed of the hazel grows into a hazel. And the seed of God grows into God."