

**PAX – WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR GUIDE
POST-PENTECOST II, 2021.**

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

Theme: **Patience**

Never swerving from his instructions, but faithfully observing this teaching [as a monastic], until death, we shall through patience, share in the sufferings of Christ so that we may deserve also to share in his kingdom. Amen. RB Prologue vs. 50).

Monastics should each try to be the first to show respect to the other (Romans 12:10), supporting with greatest patience one another’s weaknesses of body and behavior...” (RB 72: 4 & 5).

Pachomius (292-346), showed his monks how to live by serving as a visible model of the monastic life and especially of the patience and compassion of Christ. Pachomius was one of the greatest monastic leaders of all time, a skilled organizer and a skilled reader of the human heart (Br. Hugh Feiss, "Essential Monastic Wisdom", 205).

Romano Guardini once described a gentle person as someone without noise. It might be said that Benedict liked a climate of quiet patience in his monasteries.

“The climate of quiet patience that characterizes monastic communities and monastics is contrary to the frequently rushed work that targets short-term results, as we meet in so many present contexts.”

(Rest and patience: A Blessed Life – Benedictine Guidelines for those who long for good days by Will Derkse).

“Patience and time do more than force and rage.” (Jean de la Fontaine, 1621-1695).

God’s patience in the life of St. Augustine of Hippo.

Augustine spent a good part of his life looking for God everywhere else but in the right place: In his Confessions, he writes: “Too late have I loved you, O beauty ever ancient ever new. Too late have I love you. I sought for you abroad, but you were within me.”

St. Francis de Sales has two pieces of spiritual writing on our theme: one on patience, and another on patience in trials and sickness.

Some, when they are sick or afflicted or aggrieved avoid complaining or appearing hurt, thinking that to do so is to show their lack of courage and generosity. Recently our beautiful Sr. Frances who is now 94, had a fall and ended up in hospital. On the first day, Abbess Hilda had to warn the medical staff that Sr. Frances is not a complainer. They said that they had already noticed that, even when they knew she must be in pain. How she is now is surely a result of her choices over her very long life. One can’t reach that age and suddenly decided not to complain. No, this way is the result of her “way” over the mountains and valleys of her journey.

“Truly patient people neither complain nor want others to complain on their behalf.”

A final piece of wisdom from St. Francis de Sales: “Be patient not only in times of serious and weighty troubles, but in the midst of mini troubles of every day.”

SECTION TWO: CONTINUING OUR READING AND REFLECTION.

Take a book of your own choosing, perhaps one you haven't visited for a while. Alternatively, you can purchase one of the books on the page enclosed with this Edition of Pax. These are available from our online bookshop, which is expertly managed by Sr. Joanna. The website address is at the bottom of the page.

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

Br. Hugh Feiss sets us straight at the beginning of his chapter on Patience: “Patience comes from the Latin verb *pati*, which means “to suffer, to undergo, to endure.” The Christian monastic tradition connects patience with Christ's sufferings, his ‘passion’ another derivative of *pati*. A telling example is Benedict's statement in the prologue to his Rule: “We will share by patience in the sufferings of Christ, so that we may deserve to be sharers in his kingdom” (Prologue, verse 50) Br. Hugh also quotes Esther de Waal (A Life-giving Way). She says: “Benedict is always showing me the patience of God, waiting and working for the return of his children.”

SECTION FOUR: COMMUNITY HISTORY

There are two nuns in the Obituary list this time: Both have the surname “Diamond”. On Foundation Day, February 2, 1849, Archbishop Polding referred to them as two diamonds in the crown of *Subiaco*, our first monastery near Parramatta. Both Irish girls came to Australia as free emigrants on the Lallah Rookh arriving in Sydney on 26 December 1841. Susannah was 20 and Margaret was 22. Their occupations are listed as “domestic servants”. They were from Roscommon and listed as being literate. On their shipping papers, they are described as being “in good health and likely to be useful.” After some time working as domestic servants, they asked to enter our community as Lay Sisters. Susannah died on 25 Nov. 1867, from tuberculosis. Her sister, Margaret on 19 October 1888.

SECTION FIVE: LITURGY

SEPTEMBER:

- 01: St. Giles. And it is also the Day of Prayer in Praise of Creation – a day to reflect on the state of the earth, its flora and fauna, on oil spills in the oceans, on nuclear testing, and on wars which desecrate the earth and human beings. This day was introduced by Pope Francis in 2015.
- 03: St. Gregory the Great - Spring Ember Day – Day of Prayer and Penance (Australia)
- 05: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 08: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 12: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15: Our Lady of Sorrows
- 16: Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian
- 17: St. Hildegard of Bingen (Feast)

- 19: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 20: Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon and Paul Chong Ha-sang and companions (Memorial)
- 21: St. Matthew (Feast)
- 26: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 27: St. Vincent de Paul (Memorial)
- 28: St. Lioba (Feast)
- 29: Archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel (Feast)
- 30: St. Jerome (Memorial)

OCTOBER:

- 01: St. Therese of Lisieux (Feast)
- 02: Guardian Angels (Memorial)
- 03: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 04: St. Francis of Assisi (Feast)
- 07: Blessed John Henry (Cardinal) Newman (Memorial)
- 10: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 12: St. Mechtild von Hackeborn - Feast or Memorial in Benedictine communities.
- 15: St. Teresa of Avila. (Memorial)
- 17: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 18: St. Luke (Feast)
- 24: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 28: Sts. Simon and Jude
- 31: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

NOVEMBER:

- 01: All Saints (Solemnity)
- 02: Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day).
- 04: St. Charles Borromeo (Memorial)
- 07: 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: Armistice Day. Also St. Martin of Tours
- 13: All Saints of the Order of St. Benedict
- 14: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
- 16: St. Gertrud the Great (Feast)
- 21: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Last Sunday of the Liturgical Year B.
- 22: St. Cecilia (Memorial)
- 24: St. Andrew Dung-lac & Companions (Martyrs)

November 28 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

Oblate Bob (Anselm) Cashman went to his eternal rest on May 24, Our Lady Help of Christians. He asked for his oblate medal and crucifix to be placed on his pillow. He was surrounded by his beloved wife, Colleen, and his children and grandchildren. Bob gained great spiritual comfort from the prayers of St. Anselm, hence the choice of his oblate name.

Oblate Patrick (Bede) Quinn went to his eternal rest early in August. Pat was a dedicated member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for many years. Please pray for Betty, also an oblate of our community, and for their family.
May eternal light shine upon both our Oblates. May they rest in peace, Amen.

Oblate Alan (Bede) Hickey has notified us of the death of his brother. Please pray for Alan, and for his brother's family.

Oblate Kilian (Veronica) de Lacy has notified us of the death of her husband Bruce, on 11 August. Kilian made her Oblation on 6 August 1998. Please pray for Kilian in this time of grief. Kilian lives in New Zealand

Sr. Antonia has had terrible news. Her sister Leone has very advanced cancer. Of course, Antonia and her family are distressed and need our prayer to get them through this time. Please include Leone, Antonia and her family in your Morning Prayer.

Oblate Garry (Benedict) Gleeson has been very ill and in hospital for a long time. Garry and Marie need the support of our prayer at this time. Perhaps we can also include them in our Morning Prayer.

Sr. Petra Dorothy made her solemn monastic profession and consecration on the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul. Due of the Covid restrictions, none of her family or friends could be present. Bishop Brian Mascord came for the ceremony, under the "essential services" regulation, but left before the party afterwards. Sr. Petra's ceremony was live streamed to her family and the link is available for any of our friends and oblates who wish to watch it.

Both Srs. Clare and Frances have had weeks in hospital. They are at home and for now are as well as can be expected. Both sisters were unfortunate in that they sustained injury after a fall which necessitated a long time in hospital.

Oblate Laynie (Rita) Pullen sent me a book called "Joy in the Morning", edited by Janette Fernando, and Maree Silver. Laynie entered a poem for publication in this book, a poem called "Survivorship – Wisdom's call":
"On the weathered soundscape of faded time,
A book of intact memory shines
From those who had the courage to survive and live-in faith..."

All of the poems are beautiful. The book is available from Poetica Christi Press.
www.poeticachristi.org.au

In the last Pax, I forgot to mention that Brian (Barnabas) McKinlay was awarded his Doctorate. Congratulations Brian, from all of us. Well, done.

<p>We don't hear from some Oblates because circumstances have changed for them. A significant number have gone into nursing home care. We must not forget them, - may they be in our daily prayer.</p>
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May we pray too for those who are feeling the strain of being confined to their own homes. Social interaction comes naturally to us and is an essential part of living so these extended lockdowns can be so very difficult for many of us.

Blessings on your Feast Day:

SEPTEMBER:

01: Varcha (Giles) Sidwell, Jill (Anna) Grienke, and Rachel (Hanna) Emmitt.

03: Lenka (Gregoria) Melville, Donn (Gregory) Corcoran, The Most Rev. Brian (Gregory) Mascord.

04: Tristram (Moses) Ellicott

- 06: Wendy (Begu) Fisher-Hudson
- 06: Sr. Antonia Curtis
- 14 : Sr. Veronica Chandler, Sonia (Veronica) Pleines, Dorothy Veronica Guilliani Touzell.
- 16: Val Margaret Johnson.
- 17: Pam (Hildegard) Russell, Linda (Hildegard) Childs-van-Wijk, Beth (Hildegard) Muntz, Patrick (Hildegard) O'Connor, Diane (Hildegard) Young, 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, Elizabeth (Lioba) Anderson, Rev. Sharon (Lioba) Baird

OCTOBER:

- 01: Jan (Therese) Clark, Fiona (Therese) Harris, Libby (Therese) Denny, Sr. Therese Gilmour.
- 03: Susan (Columba) Lambert.
- 04: Christine (Frances) Angus, Diane (Frances) Greenway, Rose (Francis) De Angelis, Eva (Francis) Leppard, and Christopher Francis Capper.
- 12: Elaine (Mechtild) Alinta, 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: Sr. Mary Gertrud Barnes (Abbess Emeritus), 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.
- 23: Patricia Julian Wait.

ANNIVERSARIES OF OBLATION:

SEPTEMBER

- 03: Maree Basel McGuckin.
- 08: Lyn Hilda Yates.
- 09: Helen Therese (no surname on the charter of commitment).
- 14: Rev. 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, 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, 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
16: Patricia Julian Wait
17: Colleen Julian Hines and Victoria Rose Sultana
19: Helen (Anna) Howard, Lucy (Lioba) Sneesby-Tooth, Judith (Anne) Kendall
21: Christine Gertrud Simons, 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: Abbess Emeritus, Mary Gertrud Barnes.

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 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), Kathleen (Lioba) Mason
09: Sr. Mary Aloysius Carroll, Sr. Mary Scholastica O'Loughlin.
10: Sr. Dominic Fitzpatrick, Sr. Mary Magdalen Brown.
11: Mother Walburge Wallis (elected Prioress 1864). Mother Walburge died on 11 Oct 1902.
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 one of our most generous benefactors during 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
- 24: Oblate Leo (Thomas) Montgomery
- 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

We ought to be of help to all, to refrain from hurting others out of bitterness, to bear whatever injuries are inflicted on us and even ask pardon from the Lord for those who inflict them. (St. Bede the Venerable).

And St. Benedict says: Those who show patience in adversities and injustices fulfill the command of the Lord that says: 'Those who are struck on one cheek should offer the other.' (Matt. 5:39).

SECTION EIGHT: FOR REFLECTION:

The difference between Benedict and the other spiritual masters of his time lay in the fact that Benedict believed that his spiritual life was not an exercise in spiritual gymnastics. It was to be nothing "harsh or burdensome" and it was not a private process. It was to be done in community with others. It was to be a "school" dedicated to "the good of all concerned." It was to be lived with "patience". (The Rule of Benedict, Insights for the Ages by Sr. Joan Chittister osb., page 30).