

**PAX - WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR GUIDE
ADVENT/CHRISTMASTIDE (2021-2022), and ORDINARY TIME THROUGH TO ASH
WEDNESDAY, 2 March, 2022.**

Pax - With the Gospel for our Guide is sent out to oblates and to those who are enrolled in the oblate formation program, five times each year. This edition is always number one, being sent out at the beginning of the church's liturgical year. Please take your direction from each edition of "pax – with the gospel for our guide". This booklet is also on our website and is sent personally to oblates who prefer to receive it by email.

SECTION ONE: Reading and Reflection

Take your Bible and open at Isaiah 30:15.

We need to write this verse on our hearts. It is about faith in the midst of chaos, of darkness, of depression and anxiety, of grief and loss.

Recently (October 18), Fr. Paul, our Chaplain asked me if I had seen the 4 Corners program on the life of Angela Merkel, who was resigning as German Chancellor.

Because I hadn't seen it, I watched it on iview and it was a privilege.

Angela's father was a Pastor, so she was formed by the Sacred Scriptures and educated as a Christian. The one verse that stood by her all through her life was one who stood by her father and which he gave to his daughter: "In quietness and confidence will be your strength." It is about faith. It was suggested that it was her formation as a Christian which led to welcoming the refugees to Germany.

I know of a monastery where vocations were lost, good monks left, numbers dwindled, and a strong good monk who kept the property in order was killed when the tractor over-turned on him. He was crushed beneath it. The abbot was devastated, frustrated, in grief. But when he was questioned weeks later he said: "The only response we can make is one of faith."

Perhaps we think that is stupid. To someone who doesn't believe in God it probably is stupid.

"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." We have no other defense.

Quietness...

Our lives need to change. We need to build in quietness, and in so doing, we will be less troubled about the fact that we could not save the 4.8 million people world-wide who have died from the corona virus. It is no use dwelling in a state of anxiety, desperation and frustration. Our call as monastics is to be in solidarity with the families of these victims and to bring them to God in prayer. Our sister Petra lost a number of family members – a tragedy for her. There are Australians who could not say goodbye to their parents in nursing home care because the homes were in lockdown. There are Oblates (Monastics) of our own community who are praying to

Our Lord not to let their parents die during the Covid lockdowns. All we are left with is faith, (confidence and trust). “In quietness and in confidence will be your strength”.

“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.” This is the whole of verse 15.

It is loaded with implications for us who are monastics and especially Benedictine monastics.

In returning (to the Lord) and rest (resting in the Lord) you shall be saved from needless worry; from making yourself ill because of your anxiety; from dwelling on all that is negative and dark.

I advise all of us to write down the words: “In returning and rest, you shall be saved; in quietness and in confidence will be your strength.” Then, put them in a place (or places) where you will see them throughout the day: the kitchen, the bathroom, the lounge room, the tool shed...wherever you go, have these words with you – even in the cover of your mobile phone. If you like, we can call it continuous *Lectio Divina*.

Five words stand out from our Scripture text: return, rest, quietness, confidence, strength.

SECTION TWO: Further Reading and Reflection

The call to “return” implies that I am away from home and I am being called to return.

If it means I have been away from God through my own initiative, then I pray for the grace to return home – home to God. It doesn’t mean travelling somewhere to meet God. God dwells within me. St. Augustine searched for God everywhere except in the right place. God dwells within me. If I can get into touch with that reality, I’m home.

To get into touch with God dwelling in me I need “quietness”, “confidence” and “strength”.

“Quietness” is not “silence”. It is rather an attitude of mind and heart.

“Confidence” is faith, trust, hope...

“Strength” will help me stand against the forces which make me noisy. See Section Three on the Rule of St. Benedict.

SECTION THREE: ABOUT THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT

Benedict is very clear about the characteristics of the Monastery Cellarer: Excitable, proud, offensive, dilatory, wasteful – these are the characteristics that the Cellarer must **not** cultivate. Read chapter 31.

And the abbot? Read chapter 64, verse 16: Excitable, anxious, extreme, obstinate, jealous or over-suspicious – the abbot (abbess) must **not** cultivate these qualities. If they do, they are never at rest. “In quietness and in confidence will be [their] strength.”

SECTION FOUR: COMMUNITY HISTORY

One of the anniversaries for this issue is Sr. Mary Philomena Hay (10 Dec 1911). The story of her brother Joseph makes interesting history. Joseph was the first son of Joseph and Mary Hay, being born in 1848 in Chile. The family moved to London, where Mary Ann was born (Sr. Mary Philomena) in 1859. They stayed in England briefly and then sailed on the “Spitfire” for nearly three months from Plymouth, arriving in Sydney in August 1863. 419 passengers were on board. The Blue Mountains National Park in the vicinity of Lawson became the place of settlement for the family. The National Park is both on the north and south side of the main highway. The northern section was designated by Joseph Hay as Reserve No. 35, and the southern side as Reserve No. 36. In 1878, Joseph Hay called the northern Reserve, ‘San Jose Park’ and the southern one ‘Santa Cruz Park’, both names originating from his country of birth, Chile. He also named several waterfalls.

South Lawson: Joseph’s sister, Mary Ann Hay had on the same day as Joseph’s first land purchase, (July 1878), acquired Portion 10 and 11, Parish of Linden and a few months later on 12 September 1878, purchased Portion 21. At one time she had a house called Santa Cruz and advertised accommodation in her “Mountain Residence” called Santa Cruz. She sold all three portions to Joseph on 19 November 1881 as he had recently purchased Portion 27 in the same area. These four portions are bounded by the Great Western Highway on the north, Orient St. on the west, Flinders Street on the south and part of Somers Street on the east.

On 10 September 1903, Joseph Hay transferred his title deeds of Portion 27 (located south of the present Catholic Church and school) to Elizabeth Louisa Harnett (Mother Ignatius) the Prioress of the Benedictine Monastery of Subiaco, where his sister Mary Ann was a nun. (Sr. Philomena Hay). This extensive research has been carried out by Brian Fox, and appeared in the Blue Mountains History Journal, Issue 1, 2010. It rather puts a stop to the oral tradition which says she never received her inheritance. It was generous of Joseph to give it to the monastery. Take a drive around Lawson some time and see the influence of Joseph Hay. Look for Hay Street, Joseph Lane, San Jose Avenue on the northern side of the railway line and Mary Street and Christabel Street on the southern side.

SECTION FIVE: LITURGY

Advent begins a new liturgical year: The Sunday Liturgy readings take Year C, and Weekdays take Year 2. The ‘O’ Antiphons begin on December 17.

The Abbey will hopefully be open for Midnight Mass, but we ask that you check the Abbey website for definite confirmation. Christmas Midnight Mass at Jamberoo Abbey is preceded by the traditional monastic Vigil at 10.45 p.m. You are invited to this traditional vigil and then to the singing of carols preceding Midnight Mass. The Vigil takes an hour, the carols just fifteen minutes before midnight.

Feasts and Solemnities:

November 28: First Sunday of Advent

November 30: St. Andrew (Feast)

December 03: St. Francis Xavier (Memorial)

December 05: Second Sunday of Advent.

December 07: St. Ambrose (Memorial)

December 08: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

December 12: Third Sunday of Advent.

December 13: St. Lucy (Memorial)

December 14: St. John of the Cross (Memorial)

December 17: This day, the greater Advent Ferias begin. The 'O' Antiphons are used at Vespers each day for the *Magnificat*.

December 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent.

December 25: Christmas Day.

December 26: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

December 27: St. John the Evangelist

December 28: The Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 29: 5th day in the Octave of Christmas.

December 30: 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas.

December 31: 7th day in the Octave of Christmas.

Vespers on this day is First Vespers of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

JANUARY:

01: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. World Day of Prayer for Peace.

02: The Epiphany of the Lord.

11: St. Aelred of Rievaulx

09: Baptism of Our Lord (feast). This is a special day of remembrance in our community, - the first Abbatial Blessing in 1983.

15: Sts. Maurus and Placid.

17: St. Anthony of Egypt

16: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr. C.

21: St. Agnes (Memorial)

23: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr. C.

24: St. Francis de Sales. (Memorial)

25: The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

26: Australia Day

28: St. Thomas Aquinas (Memorial)

30: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr. C.

31: St. John Bosco (Memorial)

FEBRUARY

02: Titular Solemnity: Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple – the title of our Abbey. Blessing of Candles and Procession take place on this day.

05: St. Agatha (Memorial)

06: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr. C.

10: St. Scholastica, twin sister of St. Benedict of Nursia. (Feast or Solemnity in Benedictine Houses. Memorial elsewhere).

11: Our Lady of Lourdes – (World Day of Prayer for the Sick).
13: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr. C.
14: Sts Cyril, and Methodius (Memorial)
20: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr.
22: The Chair of St. Peter, the apostle.
23: St. Polycarp.
27: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr. C.

MARCH

02: Ash Wednesday.

Section Six: Your Community

Congratulations to Oblate Patricia (Benedict) Thomas. Pope Francis has awarded her a Papal Honour: Dame of the Order of St. Sylvester. The Pontifical Orders are of comparatively recent origin. However, “membership of such an Order represents one of the highest and most prestigious distinctions which the Pope, as Supreme Pontiff and Head of the Catholic Church and as Sovereign of the Vatican State, can bestow on an individual.” (Vatican website).

In our Heritage Centre, we hold in trust the Knighthood of Pope St. Gregory the Great, awarded to Justice McClemens. His wife asked us to keep it.

Instructions were issued in November 1993 by the Secretariat of State that women were henceforth eligible for admission to the Order of Saint Gregory the Great and to the Order of Pope St. Sylvester. These awards no longer confer titles of nobility on the recipients. They are awards given to Christians, who are working in the Church with the Gospel of Jesus as their foundation. Patricia Thomas has certainly done that and continues to do so through her work in the Archdiocese of Sydney: grief counselling, and funeral arrangements for families

Please continue to pray for our Sr. Clare Gamble who for over 20 years has run off the Pax booklet for me.

Happy Feast Day to:

Robert Arsenius Daly, for December 6.

Sr. Maureen Therese Woodhouse, and Oblate Wanda (Immaculata) Kwan, for December 8.

Oblate Catherine (Thomas) Corban, for December 10.

Elizabeth (Adele) Quinn for December 24.

Oblate Ethel (Emmanuel) Parriwa-Murray, for December 25.

Obl. Robert (Stephen) Basham and Graham (Stephen) McCall for December 26

Sarah Louise (Emanuelle) Kirsop for Christmas Day.

Sr. Joanna Bagot, Therese Veronica (Johanna) Nilsson, and Neville (John) Feeney, for December 27.

Fr. Nigel Thomas Wright, for December 29

Marie (Basel) McGuckin, for January 2.

Fr. Dixon Seraphim Kenny, Helen Seraphim Shorter, and Sandra Seraphim Temple for January 2.

Oblate Rob (Aelred) Johnstone for January 11.

Oblate John (Placid) Limbourn for January 15.

Oblate John (Anthony) Dunne for January 17.

Sr. Agnes for January 21.

Brian (Robert) Brennan for January 26

Gabrielle Brigid Nicholson, for February 1.

Lynne Scholastica Middleton, Rhonda Scholastica Kinsela, Jacqueline Scholastica Collins and Cathy Scholastica Ransom for February 10.

John Gregory Wynen for February 13.

Peter Damien McElhone, Ira Peter Wilson, for February 22.

Anniversaries of Oblation:

03 December: Patrick Martin (Hildegard) O'Connor, and Beppi Lioba O'Connor.

05 December: Sandra (Julian) Cooper

06 December: Robert Arsenius Daly

10 December: Catherine Mary Thomas Corban

11 December: Irene Gertrud Bajda, David Alan Brendan Mumford.

15 December: Kathryn Mary Proctor

16 December: Rev. Kevin Bede Walsh

18 December: Jeanette Magdalen Murray

18 December: Deborah Martha Pike

28 December: Maria Teresa Elisabetta Gambino.

Epiphany: Graham Stephen and Mary Hildegard McCall

09 January: Elaine Mechtild Alinta

11 January: Rob Aelred Johnstone and Elizabeth Aelred Sheppard.

15 January: Donna Sturgeon, and John Placid Limbourn

18 January: Joan Augustine Lorente, Carmen Teresa Lorente, Georgette Sharbel Najjar, and Peter Bernard Sheehan.

21 January: Robyn Hildegard Wein

30 January: Catherine (Thomas More) Lindsay

03 February: Ingrid (Ruah) Cheng

03 February: Therese (Anthony) Harding.

04 February: Rev. Ann Clare Dittmar-McCollim

08 February: Shirley Clare Basham and Robert Stephen Basham.

10 February: Ellen Benedicta Woods

11 February: Patricia Julian Morgan, Garry Benedict Gleeson, Marie Catherine Gleeson, Frances Mildred Cormack, Ken Ambrose Halliday, Elizabeth Adele Quinn, Maureen Frances Williamson, Margherita Hilda Cappetta, Russell Benedict Collins, Jacqueline Scholastica Collins.

12 February: Sylvia Dymphna Honeysett.

13 February: John Gregory Wynen and Robyn Teresa Wynen

14 February: Bendetta Marina Di Mattia.

17 February: Edward Dowsey, Vincenzo Gerardo Cappetta, Elaine Brigid Guy, Wendy Lucy Browning, Barbara Elizabeth Jamieson.

18 February: M. del Carmen Teresa Boharull-Vita, and Robert Anselm van OOrt.

20 February: Christine Frances Angus, and Patricia Hildegard Benedict

21 February: Fr. Henry Bernard Byrne

27 February: Colleen Augustine Cashman

Anniversaries of Solemn Profession:

Sr. Maria Frances Slade, Sr. Hildegard Ryan, Sr Hannah Massy-Greene for 2 February.

Sr. Clare Gamble and Sr. Joanna Bagot for February 10

Let us pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs during this season.

DECEMBER:

03.12.2015 Oblate Maxine Francis Pickering

05.12.1913 Dame Mary Teresa Parkinson

06.12.1961 Dame Mary Winifred Price

07.12.1923 Dame Mary Romanus McKee

07.12.2013 Oblate David Aelred Russell

10.12.1911 Dame Mary Philomena Hay

11.12.1985 Oblate Carmel Condon

14.12.1998 Oblate Richard Damian Lequaietermaine

14.12.2014 Oblate Valerie Mary Cecilia Proverbs

18.12.1855 Sr. Mary Gertrude Nagle

19.12.1969 Sr. Mary Benedict Walsh

21.12.1985 Sr. Teresa Gillin

22.12.1950 Sr. Mary Anthony O'Connor

23.12.2012 Sr. Immaculata Briglia

26.12.2018 Oblate Bill (Benedict) Price

29.12.1908 Sr. Mary Martha Comyn

30.12.1949 Mother Mary Joseph Brady, third elected Prioress of the Community.

JANUARY

02.1.2004 Oblate Elizabeth (of the Trinity) Corcoran

07.1.1882 Mother Mary Bernard Hawthorn

10. 1.1985 Sr. Moira Bradshaw

12. 1.1923 Sr. Mary Catherine Connolly

17. 1.1923 Sr. Mary Baptist Schahill

20. 1.1913 Sr. Mary Placid de Castella

20. 1. 2008 Oblate Dr. Carney (Bede) Fisher.

29. 1. 2018 Oblate Irene (Patricia) McAllister

The title "Dame" was adopted when a set of Constitutions was given to us from the Abbey of Beuron in Germany.

Dame for women; Dom for men. Dame and Dom distinguished Choir nuns and monks from Lay Sisters and Lay Brothers. After the Second Vatican Council, the title Dame was 'dropped' in our community, and 'Sister' was used.

FEBRUARY

02. 2.1899 Mother M. Benedict Lett,

02. 2. 2015 Obl. Fr. Ronald Bede Harden.

08. 2.1973 Sr. Mary Bernadette Hughes.

26.02.1931 Sr. Mary Mildred Smythe

SECTION SEVEN: SAINTS

“The diligence and care with which we should attend to our affairs is very different from anxiety. Care and diligence are compatible with tranquility and peace of mind; anxiety, over-carefulness and agitation are not.” (St. Francis de Sales whose feast day is on 24 January).

SECTION EIGHT: FOR SERIOUS REFLECTION

I decided to take half an hour a day for “quiet” time, in keeping with the text from Isaiah 30:15. The first day, I drove my car to a pleasant and private place by the ocean. I sat on a seat provided for those who wanted to take in the magnificence of the waves and the depths of the sea. I was just beginning to settle when into my “quiet” time came: *Did I lock the house? Is the cat inside or outside? Where are my car keys? Oh, all right, they are there in the hidden compartment of my handbag. There are too many compartments in this bag. I must get rid of it. I don't think I've got anything for tea tonight. I'll have to call at the IGA on my way home. Now, where was I? That's right, I was with Isaiah 30:15. A breeze is coming up. I think I need to go and sit in my car. That's better. Now I can't get the full view of the ocean. I will move my car closer. I must ring my sister when I get home. She's unwell.* YES, THE HARDEST THING OF ALL IS TO QUIETEN ONE'S MIND. BUT DON'T GIVE UP. TRY A MANTRA. Try the “Jesus Prayer” of the Hesychast tradition.

OBLATE WEEKENDS in 2022 will be held on

- 25-27 March
- 14-16 October

Christmas blessings to all!

*The tree ferns in green gullies sway;
The cool stream flows silently by
The joybells are greeting the day,
And the chimes are adrift in the sky.
As we lift up our voices and sing
To the Christ-Child the heavenly king.*

