

**PAX - WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR GUIDE**  
**ADVENT/CHRISTMASTIDE (2022-2023), and ORDINARY TIME through to**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY, 22 February 2023.**

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. 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**

The Mystery of the Incarnation.

Spend quality time with each of the theological teachings here. Make notes, as you would do with Lectio Divina. You may want to express your response in art, dancing, music, sculpture, prose or poetry.

"The name God-with-us, given to our Saviour by the prophet, signifies that two natures are united in one person. Before time began he was God, born of the Father, but in the fullness of time he became Emmanuel, God-with-us, in the womb of his Mother, because when the Word was made flesh and lived among us, he deigned to unite our frail human nature to his own person." St. Bede of England – Bede the Venerable, Homily 5 on the Christmas Vigil.

"We are not angels. We have a body. In the midst of business, of persecutions, of trials...in times of dryness, Christ is our best friend. We see Him, a person like ourselves, we contemplate Him in infirmity, in suffering. It is very advantageous for us, as long as we are in this life, to consider God-made-human." The bride of the Canticle says: 'I sat down under His shadow, he whom I desired.' This 'umbra', shadow, is the Sacred Humanity whereby our gaze is permitted to contemplate the Divinity thus revealed to us." The Incarnation is a Divine mystery; it is the masterpiece of Eternal Wisdom and Infinite Love.  
(Bl. Columba Marmion, "Christ in His Mysteries).

"The Christmas-Epiphany Mystery is the celebration of the transmission of divine light. The liturgical season begins with Advent, a period of intense preparation to understand and accept the three comings of Christ. The first is his historical coming in human weakness and manifestation of his divinity to the world; the second is his spiritual coming in our inmost being through the liturgical celebration of the Christmas-Epiphany Mystery; the third is his final coming at the end of time in his glorified humanity." (Fr. Thomas Keating, "The Mystery of Christ", the Liturgy as spiritual Experience).

"The eternal birth takes place in the inmost depths of our hearts. Let us try to enter into this Advent by the recollection of a profound prayer and by the receptivity of a complete freedom for God. Let us be vigilant, and ready at each moment, in each action, to receive the invitation of the Word, to let ourselves be led by the Spirit in all

our actions and judgments. Thus, Christ will be born in us, little by little, more so every day, ..." (From Advent to Pentecost, Carthusian Novice Conferences).

## **SECTION TWO: Further Reading and Reflection**

The Mystery of the Incarnation.

Raymond Brown gives us a "surprise" – have you noticed? He says:

Only two authors in the New Testament pay attention to Jesus' birth and childhood - Matthew and Luke.

"If it comes as a shock to many Christians to find that Matthew and Luke are our only sources of knowledge about Jesus' infancy, it may be an even greater shock to realize that the two Gospels differ so much. Our Christmas crib scenes intermix details from both Gospels; but if you pick up the New Testament without previous assumptions – without being conditioned by the customary blending of the two stories – you might be dumbfounded by the enormous difference between the first two chapters of Matthew and those of Luke."

According to Matthew: Mary and Joseph live in Bethlehem and have a house there. The coming of the Magi, guided by a star causes Herod to slay children at Bethlehem and the Holy Family to flee to Egypt.

Luke tells us that Mary and Joseph lived at Nazareth and went to Bethlehem only because they had to register there during a Roman census. The statement that Mary gave birth to her child and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn implies that they had no house of their own in Bethlehem. And Luke's account of the peaceful return of the Holy Family from Bethlehem through Jerusalem to Nazareth leaves no room for the coming of the Magi or a struggle with Herod. Such dramatic details, so important for Matthew, have no echo in Luke.

(Raymond Brown, "Reading the Gospels with the Church"). Take time to read Matthew and Luke and do the comparison.

## **SECTION THREE: About the Rule of St. Benedict**

The Rule of Benedict is a Christological Rule: Christ in everyone, Christ in the way everyone is to live. And monastics are first of all those in need of mercy. We come to monastic life because we need healing. Pope Francis says: "In the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God there is also an aspect that is connected to human freedom, to the freedom of each one of us. Indeed, the Word of God pitched his tent among us, those of us in need of mercy. And we all must hasten to receive the grace that he offers us."

"God is 'God-with-us', God who loves us, God who walks with us. Thus, Christmas reveals to us the immense love that God has for humanity. From this too derives our enthusiasm, our hope as Christians, that in our poverty we may know that we are loved, that we have been visited, that we are accompanied by God; and we look upon the world and on history as a place in which we walk together with him...toward a new heaven and a new earth."

Thomas Merton has an offering for us: To live "in Christ" is to live in a mystery equal to that of the Incarnation and similar to it. For as Christ unites in His one Person the two natures of God and of humans, so too in making us His friends He dwells in us,

uniting us intimately to Himself.” (Seeds of Contemplation, chapter 22, ‘Life in Christ’).).

At Christmas, there is a lot of singing about peace, ‘Peace on earth, goodwill to humanity’. Thomas Merton has something to say about peace:

“Instead of loving what you think is peace, love other men and women and love God above all else. Instead of hating all the people you think are warmongers, hate the appetites and disorders in your own soul which are causes of war.”

#### **SECTION FOUR: Community History**

In the last edition of “Pax”, I mentioned the beginning of the School at Subiaco. Boarding schools were “a requirement of distance” in a country as vast as Australia. In our school there were girls from South Australia, Queensland and Victoria. There was a girl from the Sandwich Islands, and one from Samoa. The latter was Emma Coe, one of the sixteen children of her father by various wives. Her mother was Le’utu Taletatale, of the Malietoa family. Her father was Myndersee Coe, trader in Samoa and Special Commissioner of the U.S. President, Ulysses Grant.

#### **SECTION FIVE: Liturgy**

Advent begins a new liturgical year: The Sunday Liturgy readings take Year A, and Weekdays take Year 1. The ‘O’ Antiphons begin on December 17.

I consulted the abbess about whether we are open for Midnight Mass. She answered in the affirmative and told me that our retreat cottages are open for Christmas. 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

27: First Sunday of Advent

30: St. Andrew (Feast)

December

03: St. Francis Xavier (Memorial)

04: Second Sunday of Advent.

07: St. Ambrose (Memorial)

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

11: Third Sunday of Advent.

13: St. Lucy (Memorial)

14: St. John of the Cross (Memorial)

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

18: Fourth Sunday of Advent.

25: Christmas Day.

26: St. Stephen, the first martyr.

27: St. John

28: The Holy Innocents  
30: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

#### January

01: The Solemnity of Mary, the holy Mother of God.  
02: Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen  
03 – 07: Days before the Epiphany  
08: The Epiphany of the Lord.  
09: Baptism of the Lord.  
10-14: Weekdays in Ordinary Time. Week 1.  
For our Oblates in New Zealand, 13 January marks the day when Bishop Pompallier celebrated the first Mass in your beautiful country in 1838.  
11: St. Aelred of Rievaulx  
15: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
17: St. Anthony, abbot.  
18-20: weekdays in Ordinary Time.  
21: St. Agnes  
22: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
24: St. Francis de Sales.  
25: The Conversion of St. Paul.  
26: Australia Day  
28: St. Thomas Aquinas.  
29: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
31: St. John Bosco

#### February

02: The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple.  
World Day for Consecrated Life; Solemnity of Jamberoo Abbey, the Abbey of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple.  
05: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. In Australia, it is “Word of God” Sunday.  
06: St. Paul Miki and companions. In New Zealand, this is Waitangi Day.  
10: St. Scholastica  
12: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. In New Zealand, it is “World Marriage Day”.  
14: Sts. Cyril and Methodius.  
19: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
22: Ash Wednesday.  
Beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.

### Section Six: Your Community

#### Three Death Notices:

1. Colin Woodhouse, father of Sr. Maureen Therese. (October 2022). Colin had celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and died soon after, on the golf course, doing what he loved. He was an outdoors person. He played golf every Tuesday with his friends. It was terrible for Maureen’s mother to answer the door to the police and paramedics, who delivered the news. Please pray for her.
2. We heard as late as September that Oblate Elizabeth (Lioba) Anderson died in January 2022. I had asked Oblate Ralph (Placid) Kershler to go to the Nursing Home and find out if Elizabeth had died. At one stage about five or

six years ago, we received a message to say that Elizabeth was not coping with the weekly Lectio leaflet I sent to her, or the Pax Booklet, so I stopped sending them. This happens to many of our older Oblates, especially if they have trouble with sight and concentration.

3. Oblate Mary (Elizabeth) Locke (2<sup>nd</sup> December 1924 – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022). Mary's Requiem Mass took place at "Our Lady of the Rosary" Catholic Church, Alstonville, Northern New South Wales. Her daughter asked me to stop sending the Pax booklet and the weekly Lectio leaflet to her. It was becoming too hard for her to concentrate. If you know of an oblate who isn't coping with the Pax booklet, please let me know. Mary's daughter Margaret is also an Oblate and came from Seattle this year to see her mother because the signs were there that this visit would be the last. And it was. Margaret and her daughter Jennifer were no sooner home in the U.S. when the news of Mary's dying came to us from her daughter Dorothy. Later Dorothy called at the Abbey to show us some wonderful photographs and to give us Mary's funeral booklet. Mary Locke and our Sister Elizabeth were at school together and were boarders at St. Vincent's Potts Point.

#### **New Oblates:**

21<sup>st</sup> September

Tony (Peter) Baynie of Thornleigh, N.S.W.

Nicholas (Thomas) Gomez of Berowra Heights, N.S.W.

Charbel (Charbel) Khamis of Normanhurst, N.S.W.

Peter (St. Paul) Wrigley, of Mount. Colah, N.S.W.

October 16: Laural (Sarah) Johnson, of Tura Beach, N.S.W.

Please continue to pray for our Sister Clare Gamble, who for over 20 years has run off the Pax booklet for me. Sr. Petra is doing it for us now.

Has anyone heard from Oblate Marj Carroll? Her Pax booklet was returned to me.

#### **Happy Feast Day to:**

##### **December**

06: Robert Arsenius Daly

08: Sr. Maureen Therese Woodhouse, and Oblate Wanda (Immaculata) Kwan

10: Oblate Catherine (Thomas) Corban

24: Oblate Elizabeth (Adele) Quinn

25: Oblates Ethel (Emmanuel) Parriwa-Murray and Sarah Louise (Emanuelle) Kirsop

26: Oblates Robert (Stephen) Basham and Graham (Stephen) McCall

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

29: Fr. Nigel Thomas Wright

##### **January**

02: Marie (Basel) McGuckin, Fr. Dixon (Seraphim) Kenny, Helen (Seraphim) Shorter, and Sandra (Seraphim) Temple

11: Oblate Rob (Aelred) Johnstone

15: Oblates John (Placid) Limbourn and Ralph (Placid) Kershler

17: Oblate John (Anthony) Dunne

21: Sr. Agnes

26: Oblate Brian (Robert) Brennan

## **February**

- 01: Oblate Gabrielle (Brigid) Nicholson
- 10: Oblates Lynne (Scholastica) Middleton, Rhonda (Scholastica) Kinsela, Jacqueline (Scholastica) Collins and Cathy (Scholastica) Ransom
- 13 Oblate John (Gregory) Wynec
- 22: Oblates Peter (Damien) McElhone and Ira (Peter) Wilson

## **Anniversaries of Oblation:**

### **December**

- 03: Patrick Martin Hildegard O'Connor, and Beppi Lioba O'Connor
- 05: Sandra Julian Cooper
- 06: Robert Arsenius Daly
- 10: Catherine Mary Thomas Corban
- 11: Irene Gertrud Bajda and David Alan Brendan Mumford
- 15: Kathryn Mary Proctor
- 16: Rev. Kevin Bede Walsh
- 18: Deborah Martha Pike
- 28: Maria Teresa Elisabetta Gambino.
- Epiphany: Graham Stephen and Mary Hildegard McCall

### **January**

- 09: Elaine Mechtild Alinta
- 11: Rob Aelred Johnstone and Elizabeth Aelred Sheppard.
- 15: Ralph Placid Kershler, Donna Sturgeon, and John Placid Limbourn
- 18: Joan Augustine Lorente, Carmen Teresa Lorente, Georgette Sharbel Najjar, and Peter Bernard Sheehan
- 21: Robyn Hildegard Wein
- 30: Catherine Thomas More Lindsay

## **February**

- 03: Ingrid Ruah Cheng
- 03: Therese Anthony Harding
- 04: Rev. Ann Clare Dittmar-McCollim
- 08: Shirley Clare Basham and Robert Stephen Basham
- 10: Ellen Benedicta Woods
- 11: 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: Sylvia Dymphna Honeysett
- 13: John Gregory Wynec and Robyn Teresa Wynec
- 14: Benedetta Marina Di Mattia.
- 17: Edward Dowsey, Vincenzo Gerardo Cappetta, Elaine Brigid Guy, Wendy Lucy Browning, Barbara Elizabeth Jamieson.
- 18: M. del Carmen Teresa Boharull-Vita and Robert Anselm van Oort.
- 20: Christine Frances Angus, and Patricia Hildegard Benedict
- 27: Colleen Augustine Cashman

## **Anniversaries of Solemn Profession:**

February

02: Sr. Maria Frances Slade, Sr. Hildegard Ryan, Sr. Hannah Massy-Greene  
10: Sr. Clare Gamble and Sr. Joanna Bagot

**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.  
26. 1. 2022 Oblate Elizabeth Lioba Anderson.  
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. Lay Sisters were phased out.

**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**

I am reading one of Fr. Edmund Campion's books at the moment, "A Place in the City". On page 133, he begins the story of a non-canonized saint and martyr, Fr. Ted Harris. Firstly, Rome had committed eastern Papua to the Australian MSC Province.

It was the first Catholic mission pioneered exclusively by Australians. Fr. Ted “was at his station in East Papua when he heard of the fall of Rabaul to the Japanese in January 1942. A few weeks later Australian soldiers began to straggle into his mission, trying to get across to Papua.” When the end of February came, 160 men were there. They were sick, hungry and exhausted. Fr. Ted gave them food and clothes. He even gave his own shoes to one soldier without boots. He dressed their wounds and most importantly, raised their spirits. Then, when their rescue boat came, they all “agreed that he was the most Christ-like man they had ever met.” They wanted him to escape with them. And he said “No”. “I must stay and look after my children.” The captain said to him: ‘A live missionary can do far more than a dead martyr. If you come with us now, you can return after the war and carry on your work.’ And Fr. Ted’s reply is the reply of a saint and martyr, who should be raised to the altars of the church – another Australian Saint: ‘I came here to tell my children what Christianity means. If I deserted them when they were in trouble, how could I ever return and preach Christianity to them again.’ He became a martyr at the hands of the Japanese. In a last letter to his sister he had written, ‘My job is here. Jesus is with me.’

It is Fr. Edmund Campion’s comment at the end that pierces one’s heart: “Few priestly deaths could be so lonely or so unrecorded.”

#### **SECTION EIGHT: For Serious Reflection**

To live by love, is holding you within me, Incarnate Word.” (St. Therese of Lisieux).

Please give the love of Christ to others this Christmas.



Image by Leopoldine Mimovich