

PAX - WITH THE GOSPEL FOR OUR GUIDE
POST-PENTECOST I 2023
Covering the period from Pentecost Sunday until August 31.

SECTION ONE: Reading and Reflection

Theme: The act of thinking. Thoughts.

A monk asked a Desert Father: 'What should I do? My thoughts torment me, saying: 'You can neither keep a fast nor work; at least go and visit the sick, for that is a work of charity.' The Desert Father said: 'Go, eat, drink, sleep, - only don't leave your cell.'

In acting confidently against his tormenting thoughts, he conquered them. Gradually he got back to work and into his monastic routine. Another Desert Father said, 'Stay in your cell and your cell will teach you everything.'

Let's talk about the cell which is the heart of a monastic. The cell, which is the heart, is the dwelling place of God.

Meister Eckhart, whose wisdom is well-known to us, takes the cell of the heart and says: 'As you are in your cell, carry this same frame of mind into the world – into its turmoil and fitfulness.'

Thoughts!

A lot of the time we could do without them. Hebrews says, 'The word of God is alive and active. It cuts like any double-edged sword, but more finely. It can judge the secret emotions and thoughts.'

And Philippians: 'If there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and the peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and thoughts.'

And again, Philippians: Fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise.

These are inspiring texts and point to the fact that negative thinking may have been a reality in the Philippian church. The author of Hebrews is also aware of thoughts. Our thoughts cannot escape the discerning power of God's word.

SECTION TWO: Further Reading and Reflection

I recommend two books: (1) "A Vision for Renewal. The Social Teaching of Pope Francis", by Fr. Michael Casey. (St. Paul's Publications, 2022). Some of the chapters address current issues:

- Synodality
- Inclusivity
- Eastern Churches
- Australia's First Nations
- Immigration
- Our Common Home – shared responsibility.

(2) *The Monastic Heart, 50 Simple Practices for a Contemplative and Fulfilling Life*, by Sr. Joan Chittister.

“The cell which is my heart is about having a place where everything in my heart, all the thorns in my soul can be worked through over and over again. It is a private place where others do not intrude.” (Sr. Joan, “The Monastic Heart”).

SECTION THREE: About the Rule of St. Benedict.

St. Benedict doesn't speak directly about thinking or thoughts, but in chapter 4, the Tools for Good Works, we are schooled not to bear false witness against others, (Matt. 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20). Take time to read these texts as one would approach *Lectio Divina* – slowly and thoughtfully. Benedict speaks of ridding our hearts of all deceit (vs. 24), and never giving a hollow greeting of peace. We are told: “Do not grumble or speak ill of others. (vs.39 and vs. 40).

All of these exhortations of St. Benedict come from his wisdom and knowledge of the human heart, the results of negative thinking. Thinking is an act; we have a choice. Some days, it is an hour-by-hour effort. Even minute by minute effort.

In 1938, Jean Paul Satre wrote: “My thought is me: that is why I cannot stop. I exist by what I think...and I can't prevent myself from thinking. (Nausea, 1938). No, we can't prevent ourselves from thinking, but we can choose what we think.

John Stuart Mill, the great thinker of the 19th century, wrote in his autobiography of 1873: “No great improvements in the lot of humankind are possible until a great change takes place in the fundamental constitution of their modes of thought.” What is my typical mode of thought?

SECTION FOUR: Community History

Reading our Chronicles in the early years at Pennant Hills, I find there is an important explanation about what some historians call the phasing out of Lay Sisters. In fact, they weren't phased out at all. Firstly, vocations to the Lay sisters fell in numbers. Secondly, the age of the Lay Sisters rose. At our Subiaco Monastery, Mother Mildred Potts, fourth elected Prioress, had eased their physical work by limiting the scrubbing of the cells of the Solemnly Professed Nuns, to only the cells of the old Solemnly Professed. She thought that those who weren't old could clean their own cells. Lay sisters grew old and died. The last two were Sr. Mary Bernadette Hughes

and Sr. Miriam Murray. Sr. Miriam Murray was alive when I entered in 1982. She died during the relocation period when we moved from Pennant Hills to Jamberoo. Mother Mildred Potts is remembered for her kindness to the community, and for the way she removed heavy burdens from their work loads.

SECTION FIVE: Liturgy

MAY

28: Pentecost Sunday

29: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (Memorial)

31: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)

JUNE

01: St. Justin Martyr. M

03: St Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs. (Memorial).

04: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. 34th Anniversary of the Blessing and Opening of Jamberoo Abbey

05: St. Boniface

11: The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). St. Barnabas is not celebrated this year. (Memorial)

13: St. Anthony of Padua (Memorial) We take St. Hilda of Whitby on this day. It is Mother Hilda's feast day.

16: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Solemnity).

17: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial)

18: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

21: St. Aloysius Gonzaga

22: Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More. (Memorial in Australia, Opt. Memorial in New Zealand).

24: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist (Solemnity)

25: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

28: St. Irenaeus (Memorial)

29: Sts. Peter and Paul (Solemnity)

JULY:

02: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

03: St. Thomas (Feast).

09: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

11: St. Benedict. (Feast for Benedictine Monastic women and men – 'Benedictine Monastics')

15: St. Bonaventure

16: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

22: St. Mary Magdalene (Feast)

23: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. This day is the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, and in Australia, it is Bible Sunday.

25: St. James (Feast).

26: Sts. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial)

29: Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus

30: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

31: St. Ignatius of Loyola

AUGUST

01: St. Alphonsus Liguori (Memorial)

03: St. Dominic

04: St. John Vianney (Memorial)

06: The Transfiguration of the Lord (Feast). This is also the day when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

The Transfiguration is celebrated on the Sunday. It replaces the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

08: St. Mary of the Cross (Solemnity in Australia. Feast in New Zealand)

09: St. Edith Stein

10: St. Lawrence (Feast)

11: St. Clare (Memorial).

13: 19th Sunday in Ordinary time. The Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe is not celebrated this year because it falls on a Sunday.

14: St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe (Memorial)

15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

20: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

21: St. Pius X. (Memorial)

22: Queenship of Mary

24: St. Bartholomew (Feast).

27: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. THIS IS SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY. (St. Monica is not celebrated this year).

28: St. Augustine (Memorial)

29: The Passion of St. John the Baptist

30: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

31: St. Aidan of Lindisfarne

The Liturgy from September 1 up to the First Sunday of Advent will be in the next edition of this Oblate Booklet.

SECTION SIX - Your Community

Congratulations to:

Christina "Aelred" Perez, of Subiaco, Western Australia; Joanna "Hildegard" Hayes of Brisbane, Queensland, and Catriona "Faustina" Nunan of Albion Park Rail, N.S.W. These three sincere and very dedicated women made a commitment as Oblates of our community on 1st April this year.

Death Notice: Oblate Doreen (Rita Mary) Soballa died on 28th April. Doreen made her Oblate commitment on September 15, 1996.

Doreen came to Australia in June 1964. She settled in Bondi Junction, where she met her husband. And made friends with Oblate Elizabeth Anderson. She was married in Eastertide, 1965, and Elizabeth Anderson was her bridesmaid. Doreen and Elizabeth

came to many Oblate meetings and weekends, until it was no longer possible for Doreen to drive the distance from western Sydney.

Let us pray for Oblates who are ill, or in nursing home care, and making the final part of their earthly journey.

THE NEXT OBLATE RETREAT IS ON 11th and 12th November.

Arrival: Friday 10th.

Oblate ceremony will take place at Mass on 11th November. There will be retreat talks on Saturday and Sunday.

My email address is: oblatedirector@jamberooabbey.org.au Please let me know if you want to make a commitment on that weekend in November. Please let me know what "name" you are taking on this occasion. You will need to purchase an oblate medal and put it on a chain or a ribbon so that the Abbess can put it over your head during the ceremony. Medals can be purchased from Sr. Joanna (abbey gifts and books). Her email address will be on our website.

WE WISH YOU THE RICHEST BLESSING OF PEACE ON YOUR FEAST DAY

May 31: Jo Elizabeth Wickens, Sr. Elizabeth Funder

June 5: Rev. Cameron Boniface Freese; Jeff Boniface Smart and Arno Boniface Struzina.

June 11: Brian Barnabas McKinlay, Jan Barnabas Trevenen and Rosalie Barnabas Jacques.

June 12: Abbess Hilda Scott (St. Hilda of Whitby).

June 13: Therese Anthony Harding

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: Sr. Caritas Rodrigues

The Immaculate Heart of Mary - Sr. Marie Grace.

June 22: Katherine Thomas Lindsay, Margaret Thomas More Whetham.

June 29: Tony (Peter) Baynie, Peter (St. Paul) Wrigley

June 23: Frances Mildred Cormack.

June 24: Carmen Giovanna Xuereb

June 30: Annette Cuthbert Dawes

July 03: Douglas Thomas Fitzpatrick, and Nicholas Thomas Gomez

July 11: Ian Benedict Macdonald, Valerie Benedicta Dickson, Ken Benedict Press, Patrick Benedict Sleight, Marianne Benedict Scarf, Sonia Benedicta Aquilina, Russell Benedict Collins, Margaret Benedicta Houen, Geraldine Mary Benedicta Doyle, June Benedicta Jenkins, Garry Benedict Gleeson, Ellen Benedicta Woods, Brenda Benedicta Verbeek, Benedetta Marina di Mattia, Dorothy Benedicta Taylor, Chantal Mary Benedicte Jacquier, Patricia Benedict Thomas, Rosslyn Teresa Benedicta Rice, Matthew Benedict Ransom, Ivan Benedict Fitz, Claire Benedict Lanigan, Debra Benedicta Verbeek, Elizabeth Benedicta Arblaster, Felicity Benedict Giles

July 14: Dorothy (Veronica Guiliani) Touzell

July 15: Pamela Henry Herrick (St. Henry II, Patron of Oblates)

July 16: Fr. Wayne Stanhope, O. Carm. (Abbey Chaplain).

July 20: Valerie Margaret Johnson (Margaret of Antioch).

July 22: Sr. Magdalen Mather, Margaret Mary Magdalen Oomens, Kerri Mary Magdalen Olson, Pamela Magdalen Hassell. Marilyn Mary Magdalen Caruana, Phyllis

Magdalen Rodriguez, Judith Mary Magdalen Pickering, and Reshika (Mary Magdalene) Fernando
 July 25: Peter James Lambert-Brown
 July 26: Daphne Anne Spelter
 July 29: Sr. Joy Martha Jensen, Deborah Martha Pike and Wendy Mary Young, Christine (Mary of Bethany) Gilbert
 July 31: Fr. John (Ignatius) Anderson.
 August 8: Carol (Mary of the Cross) Xuereb
 August 9: Anne (Edith) Fry, and Hilary (Teresa Benedicta of the Cross) Scarce.
 August 11: Sr. Clare Gamble, Shirley Clare Basham, Rev. Ann Clare Dittmar McCollim and Marie Clare Manning
 August 15: Sr. Maria Frances Slade,
 August 20: Bernard Quinn, Fr. Peter Bernard Sheehan, Lee Ann Bernardine Wein, Dean Bernard Godric Piryak
 August 23: Victoria Rose Sultana
 August 27: Colleen Monica Fletcher
 August 28: Juan Augustine Lorente, and Monica Augustina Rodriguez, Colleen Augustine Cashman, Monica Augustine Hunt
 August 31: Leslie Aidan Whittet.

LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER AS OUR ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR:

May 24: Ivan Benedict Fitz
 May 25: Phyllis Magdalen Rodrigues, Clare Therese Sydenham, Jeanette Therese McHugh, Phillip John Wilson.
 May 30: Wendy Godric Orrock.
 June 1: Fr. Mark Podesta.
 June 3: Matthew Benedict Ransom
 June 6: Lorraine Mary Irmina Stilo
 June 8: Brenda Benedicta Verbeek, Judith Catherine Brown, Helene Miriam Mackey, Rev. Catherine Julian Eaton.
 June 11: Bernadette Scholastica Packer.
 June 12: Christine Gertrud Phillips, Lenka Gregoria Melville, Catherine Frances Turek, Peter Damian McElhone, Alfred Anselm Breznik, Rhonda Scholastica Kinsela, Debi Gertrud Russell, Isabel Frances Vicary.
 June 14: Jean Julian Reid
 June 14: Bishop Brian Gregory Mascord
 June 22: Valerie Benedicta Dickson, Dorothy Benedicta Taylor
 June 23: Aaron Placid McElhone, Margaret Benedicta Houen, Carmen Giovanna Xuereb and Josephine Antonia Petrie.
 June 24: Libby Therese Denny, Catherine Scholastica Ransom
 June 25: Varcha Giles Sidwell, Bernadette Mary Maher, Paul Godric Griffiths, Colleen Monica Fletcher, Nancy Hilda Sage
 June 28 : Sonia Veronica Pleines
 June 29 : Sr. Julian Barbara Garwood
 June 30: Rev. Nigel Thomas Wright

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: Anthony Anselm Tarleton, Ewa Mary Grajewska.

July 1: Sarah Louise Emmanuelle Kirsop and Rev. Sharon Lioba Baird.

July 9: Pam Magdalen Hassell

July 10: Lee Ann Bernardine Wein

July 11: Rev. Ian Patrick Crooks and Margaret Julian Crooks. Rosslyn Teresa Benedicta Rice, Ellen Benedicta Woods

July 12: Margaret Mary Magdalen Oomens

July 18: Melanie Syncletica Phillips

July 19: Susan Nano Dickson, and Elizabeth Benedicta Arblaster.

July 22: Kerri Mary Magdalen Olson

July 25: Sr. Joy Martha Jensen

July 26: Anne Sophia Norrie and Denis Nicols

August 6: Kilian Veronica de Lacy.

August 8: Anne Edith Fry

August 9: Hilary (Teresa Benedicta of the Cross) Scarce

August 10: Anthony John Smith and Vilma Elizabeth Smith.

August 15: Noella Mary-Emmaus Sheerin, and Michelle Anne Mary Higlett.

August 18: Marie Clare Manning

August 22: Laura Gertrud Moya, Marianne Benedict Scarf, Irene Patricia McAllister, Josette Elizabeth Wickens, Antoinette Gertrud Jenkins, Assunta Benedicta Aquilina, Wilfrid Ambrose Moon, Nereda Gertrud Blake. Ralph Anthony (Placid) Kershler.

August 24: Wendy Begu Fisher-Hudson

August 29: Leslie Aidan Whittet, Susan Columba Marmion Lambert, Peter James Lambert-Brown.

August 31: Pamela Hannah Winter

SOLEMN PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES:

Corpus Christi: Sr. Agnes Manly

Sacred Heart: Sr. Antonia Curtis, and Sr. Maureen Therese Woodhouse.

July 11: Sr. Therese Gilmour, Sr. Mary Bernadette Sunarjo

August 6: Sr. Mary Veronica Chandler

August 23: Sr. Caritas Rodrigues

MAY ETERNAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM AND MAY THEY REST IN PEACE:

May 29, 1876: Sister Mary Ann Hogan

May 31, 1966: Sr. Mary Clare Bocher

June 2, 1924: Mother Austin Marum (the first Child of Mary in Australia). The ceremony was held at our school. She and another twelve-year-old girl were accepted by the nuns without payment, - this was a request of Archbishop Polding. The school didn't open until 1851.

June 2nd, 1987: Sr. Marian Bourke

June 4th, 1976: Sr. Mary Gertrude Flannery

June 8th, 1905: Sr. Mary Scholastica Therry

June 9th, 2011: Sr. Janice Robertson

June 10th, 1973: Sr. Mary Bernard Bryant.

June 13th, 1988: Sr. Miriam Murray

June 16th, 1920: Sr. Mary Paul Fairland
 June 16th, 1932: Sr. Mary Stanislaus Egan
 June 18th, 1861: Sr. Mary Aloysius Shortall
 June 18th, 1980: Sr. Mary Audrey Bourke
 June 18th, 2008: Oblate John Anselm Jamieson
 June 22nd, 2011: Oblate Gabriele Angelica Harders
 June 23rd, 1994: Oblate Clare Scholastica Empen
 June 23rd, 2001: Oblate Dr. William Canice Hudson
 June 23rd, 2012: Oblate Jean Edmond Peter Antoine
 June 27th, 1972: Sr. Mary Bede Muschialli
 June 28th, 1894: Mother Mary Placid Loughnan
 June 29th, 1932: Mother Mary Justina Merewether
 July 2nd, 1888: Sr. M. Elizabeth Dwyer,
 July 5th, 2008: Oblate Billie Jude Balson.
 July 10th, 1891: Sr. M. Bridget O’Sullivan
 July 15th, 1943: Sr. Mary Scholastica Sugrue
 July 15th, 1985: Sr. Mary Boniface McConnell
 July 19th, 2009: Oblate Henning Maximilian Harders
 July 22nd, 2003: Sr. Marie Gregory Forster
 July 24th, 1952: Sr. Mary Ann Harrington
 August 9th, 1968: Mother M. Mildred Potts, Fourth Elected Prioress of our community.
 August 11th, 1950: Sr. M. Annette Cunningham
 August 22nd, 2012: Oblate Teresa Benedict Pozniak.
 August 24th, 2006: Mother Benedicta Philips, first Abbess of the community.
 August 31st, 2005: Sr. Joy Reynolds

SECTION SEVEN: Saints

St. John Climacus, in his “Stairway to Paradise”, speaks to those of us who find ourselves sitting and thinking over the insults and hurts that have come our way. He says: “The memory of insults is the residue of anger. It keeps sins alive, hates justice, ruins virtue, poisons the heart, rots the mind, defeats concentration, paralyses prayer, puts love at a distance, and is a nail driven into the soul. Remembrance of Jesus’ passion will heal your soul of resentment, by making it ashamed of itself when it remembers the patience of the Lord. Forgetting offences is a sign of sincere repentance. If you keep the memory of them, you may believe you have repented but you are like someone running in your sleep.

SECTION EIGHT: For reflection

“A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices.” (William James). Am I one of these people?