



PARISH BULLETIN St Kieran's, the Catholic Church in

*Campbeltown and Islay
Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain*

23rd April 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

Sunday, 23rd April, *Third Sunday of Easter*, Holy Mass, 10.00am.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

Conference: Monday, in the hall at 10.30am.

Devotions: Wednesday: Mid-morning Prayer, 9.50am

Friday: Adoration and Mid-morning Prayer, 9.30am.

Saturday, 29th April, *Vigil Mass*, 6.00pm

Sunday, 30th April, *Fourth Sunday of Easter*, Holy Mass, 10.00am.

St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Bridgend, Islay.

Sunday, 7th May, Holy Mass, 4.00pm

Sunday, 21st May, Holy Mass, 4.00 pm

Hymns

Proclamation

SHEET Let there be love (Mayhew)

Offertory

320 Lord, accept the gifts we offer (Mayhew)

Post Communion

498 Soul of my Saviour (Mayhew)

Final

14 Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks (Keys)



Psalm response

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

*The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.*

Take Five

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

Monday, Apr 24, 2023

EASTER WEEKDAY

Seek what is hidden

Only God can satisfy the spiritual hunger in our heart and soul – the hunger for truth, for life, and for love. Jesus also spoke about *the works of God* and what we must do to be doing *the works of God*, namely *to believe in God's Son whom he has sent into the world*. Jesus offers a new relationship with God which issues in a new kind of life: A life of love and service, and the forgiveness of others which corresponds to God's mercy and kindness; a life of holiness and purity which corresponds to God's holiness; and a life of submission and trust which corresponds to the wisdom of God. This is the work which Jesus directs us to and enables us to perform in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is not just right but also good for you to hunger for the bread which comes down from heaven and thirst for the words of everlasting life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29. "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent."*

Tuesday, Apr 25, 2023

FEAST OF SAINT MARK, EVANGELIST

Mark left his mark

Mark wasn't a direct disciple of Jesus but was quite active in the Early Church. He was closest to Peter, the latter returning to Mark's mother's house after escaping prison. According to Saint Jerome: "Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, wrote a short gospel at the request of the brethren at Rome embodying what he had heard Peter tell. When Peter had heard this, he approved it and published it to the churches to be read by his authority." Mark's short, action-packed gospel highlights the immediacy of Jesus' actions; Mark also uses the word *eutheos* — Greek for "right away" — more than 40 times. How might the Spirit be tapping you to act with immediacy?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20. "Jesus appeared to the Eleven and said to them: 'Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.' "*

Wednesday, Apr 26, 2023

EASTER WEEKDAY

Don't skip this meal

The Catholic Church teaches that the

"Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life." As such, it is essential to feeding our spirit and showing us the way to holiness. The very act of listening to the Word, sharing our gifts, and breaking bread with others during Mass is a foretaste of God's reign, where all are welcome to the table. We desperately need a Eucharistic Revival to encourage all to encounter Christ in the Eucharist and feel healed, converted, and called to spread love of this life-giving experience to others.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40. "Jesus said to the crowds, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger.' "*

Thursday, Apr 27, 2023

EASTER WEEKDAY

The real deal

Today's Gospel has a eucharistic theme, with talk of "living bread" and "flesh for the life of the world." One way the Church emphasizes the Eucharist is its insistence on the Real Presence, that is, the core belief that the bread and wine consecrated at Mass truly are the Body and Blood of Christ. They are not just symbols but, as Saint John Damascene wrote, the "actual deified body of the Lord." If wrestling with that concept makes your head hurt, know that the church also acknowledges this is a "mystery" — something the mind cannot fully grasp. Leave it to the heart to understand.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51. "The bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."*

Friday, Apr 28, 2023

MEMORIAL OF SAINT LOUIS GRIGNION DE MONTFORT, PRIEST

What's in your wallet?

Stored in coin wallets, pockets, purses, jewellery boxes, and glove compartments are many hundreds of little beads. Some are held together by string or wire, others fashioned into metal "decade" rings with laminated instructional cards. No matter what form they take, each reminds us of a special prayer of the Catholic Church, the Rosary. Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort, known for his love of the Rosary, always made sure to teach people to pray the Rosary in whatever method best helps them enter into the mysteries of the life of

Christ. What's your unique way of praying the beads?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59. "[Ananias] answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' "*

Saturday, Apr 29, 2023

MEMORIAL OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA, TERTIARY, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Stand firm in your calling

Sometimes in the process of growing up you have to stand your ground with your parents.

While they love you and are owed your devotion, they don't always know what's best for you. Catherine of Siena had to stand firm against the objections of her parents in order to fulfil her deepest calling, which was to the religious life. A wise choice on her part, and the entire church has benefited enormously as a result. The church has expressed its collective appreciation to her by bestowing the rare title of "doctor of the church" upon her.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69. "You have the words of eternal life."*

Readings for the Third Sunday of Eastertide

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

Peter speaks confidently to his fellow Jews about the Resurrection of Jesus

Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

The fear of the netherworld can have no place in one who holds fast to God.

1 Peter 1:17-21

Ransomed by the Blood of Christ, our faith and hope are now in God.

Luke 24:13-35

We cannot recognise the presence of Christ without a share in the breaking of the bread.

Words on the Word

We still hope - and in all things it is better to hope than to lose it (J.W. Goethe).

* *

The disciples of Emmaus are good advisers for the path of our life, because we also experience similar surprises and disappointments. Into their lives an immense hope appeared, like a beautiful dream. The prospect of a different, new life opened before them; the ideal of Christ captivated them. His teachings consumed them, love of God and love for each other, forgiveness, healing in soul and body. They saw a different world and, in this world, they wanted to live with Christ. No one had ever taught like Him in the Sermon on the Mount, especially about the word "blessed" – which also means "happy" – which has become the essence of the agenda of Christ's disciples. No speech preached on earth has ever been more shattering. What was previously commonly called white is now not called grey or dark, but simply black. It is so, because Jesus said so, and they believed Him. They also believed that He would create a kingdom here – a state where such a law would prevail. They had dedicated their lives to this cause. Now they'd seen Jesus arrested and crucified. Beautiful dreams shattered.

Real life cannot be reduced to just making, consuming, counting, stocking the fridge and solving crossword puzzles; there is one problem that affects every human being, and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry called this: explaining the meaning of one's existence: "one must give meaning and hope to one's existence."

Such a meaning and hope was given to the disciples of Christ by Himself, but now He is gone. "On the cross He was silenced forever" – so it seemed to the travellers.

But behold, He approached them as they wandered, and set their thinking in a whole new direction: do you understand that the Messiah and Redeemer had to suffer for the nation,

had to be killed? Can't you understand that the Lord God, who has performed so many miracles in the life of the Chosen People, did not leave His Son in bondage to death? It is not God's power that ends at the cross, but it is human wisdom that ends at the cross. Together with human wisdom, pride, and knowing it all, sin and death are defeated. In such or a similar way, the Traveller they encountered explained to His disciples what was said about Him in the law and in the prophets, most clearly what was in the prophet Isaiah. "He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:3-7).

Jesus our Saviour had to pass along this path, for how could He have more fully convinced us how much the Father loves us.

In such hours when our human joy and hope are extinguished, when we are filled with disappointments and bitter thoughts, shouldn't we too hear the voice of Christ joining our lives and saying, "Be strong and hope. Didn't I also have to follow the same path you are following now? In such moments, let us rather call out to Him full of comfort: Lord Resurrected, stay with us, because the sun is setting for us and it is night, and You give light and hope".

*Our roads lead to Emmaus every day –
It's too hard to recognize you and it's hard to believe
that you are always a cripple, an old man or a pauper
persistent, importunate and tragically poor.
Our roads lead to Emmaus every day –
We talk about you learnedly and tenderly:
you hear us and - with the hope of the cross crossing chasm –
you ask for a Cyrenian favour and . . . you fall silent.
Our roads lead to Emmaus every day –
We enter the temple to see You in the Host,
so as not to recognize You in our neighbours who pass by,
to redeem ourselves from a difficult sacrifice: out of love.
(M.J. Kononowicz)*

The Risen Jesus lives and works in the Catholic Church. His divine omnipotence manifests itself, among other things, in miracles performed through the intercession of the saints. For example, the spectacular miracles that Jesus performed thanks to the intercession of St. Padre Pio, amaze intellectuals and scientists, and call non-believers to conversion.

**Signs that the
Risen Jesus
is Active in the
World**

Padre Pio has repeatedly emphasized that only God and the Mother of God can heal, and that he was only an unworthy mediator of God's action. The sick, who, after being treated by the most famous specialists, had lost all hope of recovery, out of despair turned to Padre Pio for help. The healings that took place as a result of his prayers amaze the world of science to this day.

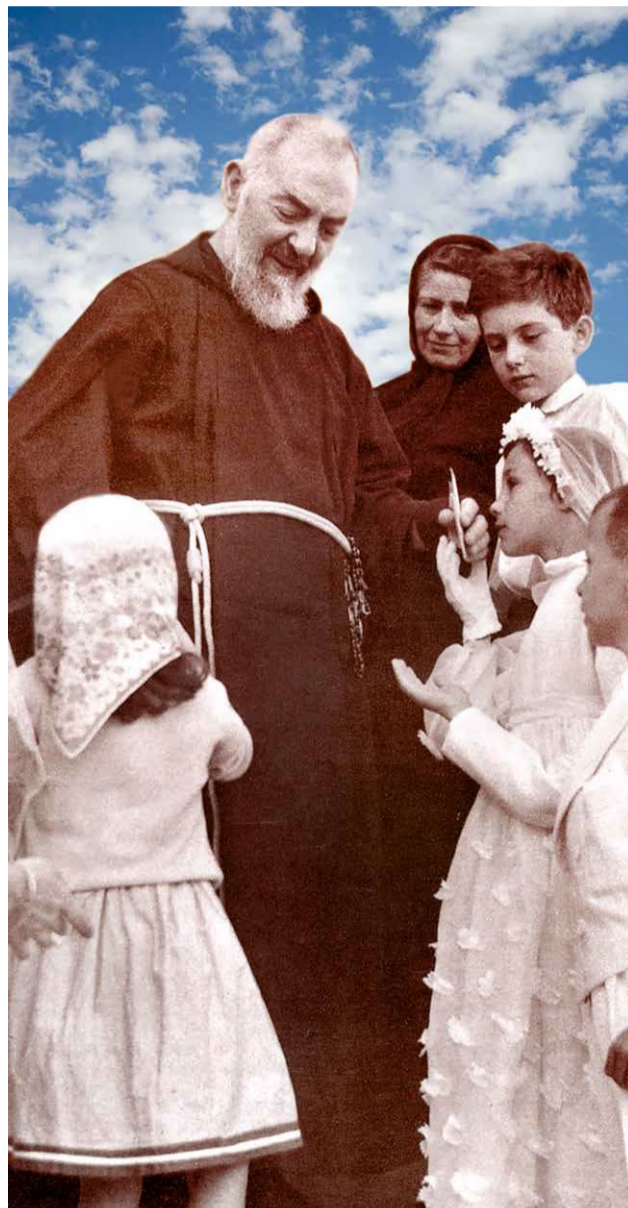
Suspension of the Laws of Nature

Gemma di Giorgi from Agrigento was blind from birth because she was born without pupils. At the age of seven, she went with her grandmother to Padre Pio to receive her First Holy Communion from him. After receiving the Lord Jesus from Padre Pio, a miracle happened – Gemma suddenly began to see perfectly, and remains able to do so to this day, even though the woman still has no pupils. This is a truly amazing fact, especially for scientists, because in Gemma's case the laws of nature are in a permanent state of suspension.

Multiple scientific studies have confirmed the fact that Gemma di Giorgi can see perfectly, despite the lack of pupils. We are dealing here with an ongoing miracle. We stand before the secret of the omnipotence of God Himself, for whom nothing is impossible.

Another case of the suspension of natural laws through the intercession of Padre Pio was in the case of the railway worker Giuseppe Canaponi. Canaponi had suffered the partial destruction of his left leg as a result of an accident, and walked with crutches because he couldn't bend his leg.

After a confession with Padre Pio, a miracle happened: Canaponi regained the ability to bend his leg and walk normally. This fact shocked the medical world and was discussed at the congress of orthopaedic surgeons in Rome. X-rays and other examinations of the man's limb showed that even though Canaponi had regained full movement, the leg had not changed organically, and from a medical point of view it was still



Padre Pio stressed that only God and Our Lady can heal, and that he is only an intermediary of God's deeds

impossible to bend it even minimally. **Contrary to all laws of biology, Canaponi regained full walking, running, and jumping ability – the same as he had before the accident. It was another ongoing miracle of the suspension of natural laws.** There is no logical or scientific explanation for this amazing fact. Mary, of Galway Ireland, experienced extremely strong temptations, intrusive thoughts, and doubts about the real

presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. After several weeks of internal struggle during the Holy Mass the woman prayed for Padre Pio's intercession, asking for his help. At one point, to her great amazement, she saw a shining figure of a monk. This vision was very short-lived. Later, when the priest was breaking the Host at a Holy Mass, the woman smelled an unusually strong and beautiful fragrance, as if all the flowers of the world had created a symphony of the finest scents in honour of Christ's presence in the Eucharist. Mary confessed that this event completely changed her life, because thanks to the intercession of Padre Pio she regained a strong faith in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and the Holy Mass became the most important event of each day for her.

In November 1995, Consiglia de Martino of Salerno was miraculously healed through Padre Pio's intercession. Based on the fact of her miraculous healing, the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints issued a decree concerning the miracle, which was the last necessary condition for Padre Pio's beatification. Consiglia, a 46-year-old mother of three, fell ill on October 31, 1995. A growing, orange-sized tumour appeared on her neck, causing her pain and difficulty in breathing. While in the hospital, on the night before the planned surgery, Consiglia, weeping, prayed for Padre Pio's intercession: "I am asking you to ask God for my healing. Do it for my husband and my children." After this faithful prayer, the woman could smell a wonderful scent of flowers. She understood that this was how Padre Pio had let her know about his presence. She

felt the touch of an invisible hand on the sore spot. The pain disappeared immediately. When she woke up in the morning, the tumour was gone. Instead of carrying out the planned surgery the baffled doctors subjected Consiglia to a detailed examination for four more days, after which they declared there had been a complete recovery inexplicable to medicine.

Padre Pio's Bilocations

Bilocation is a state in which a person is simultaneously present in two different places, sometimes thousands of kilometres apart. Padre Pio had the gift of bilocation, which he used very often to help people in need. When he went to bed, he went to places where Christ sent him. He went to specific people with spiritual support, advice, and help. The phenomena of bilocation cannot be rationally explained. The spirit leaves the body and goes elsewhere, even at times apparently having a physical body, while the original body in many cases still functions as normal. The phenomenon of bilocation in Padre Pio's life is richly documented.

During the Second World War, from September 1943 onwards, pilots of the Allied air forces stationed in the vicinity of Bari would make combat flights and, each time they approached the vicinity of San Giovanni Rotondo, they saw a monk appear in the sky, who would turn the planes around. Many localities in the area were heavily bombed, but not a single bomb fell on San Giovanni Rotondo. **"When the pilots returned after the flight," General Rossini recalls, "they said that at some point a monk appeared to**

them in the sky and the planes immediately changed course on their own."

At first, some were distrustful of these incredible stories. However, as more and more pilots shared similar experiences, the Commander-in-Chief, an American general, decided to personally check into the credibility of these stories.

The commander led a bomber squadron that was to destroy a German ammunition warehouse located near San Giovanni Rotondo. This was another attempted mission – all of the previous ones had failed because of this mysterious figure of a monk who appeared in the sky. Everyone waited anxiously for the flight to succeed this time. When the squadron returned to base, the American general said that when they were close to the bombing target, the figure of a monk suddenly appeared in front of them with his arms raised. Then the bombs in all the airplanes suddenly dropped automatically, falling in the surrounding forests, while the planes turned themselves back to the base. This event became the main topic of conversation throughout the unit. During the discussion, someone suggested that this monk appearing in the sky might be Padre Pio, who was in the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo. The general decided that as soon as the front line shifted, he would personally go there to check it out. When the Germans withdrew, the commander went with a few pilots to the monastery in San Giovanni Rotondo. At the entrance to the sacristy, he noticed that in the group of monks was the one who had turned the airplanes

around. Then Padre Pio approached the general, put his hand on his shoulder and said: "It was you who wanted to blow us all up!" Hearing these words and seeing Padre Pio, the American experienced a spiritual shock. Both men talked for a long time and understood each other perfectly, even though the squadron commander spoke only in English and Padre Pio, who could not speak English, spoke his native dialect. After this meeting, the general, who had been a Protestant, converted to Catholicism.

Another time, after Mass, a man fell on his knees before the monk and with tears in his eyes, came to Padre Pio, who was lingering in the sacristy, saying: "Father, thank you for saving my life!" It turned out that during the war this man, as an infantry captain, was at the front when the battle raged around him. At one point, the man saw that a monk, who was standing a dozen meters away from him, gave him a sign with his hand and said: "Captain, as soon as you can, run from where you are now and stand next to me." The soldier immediately ran to the monk, and at that moment a grenade hit the exact place where he had been standing a moment ago . . . When the officer turned to thank the monk, he was no longer there. After the war, the captain came to San Giovanni Rotondo and discovered that the mysterious monk who saved his life was Padre Pio since he recognized him instantly.

Among the great number of letters sent to Padre Pio, there is also correspondence from the countries of the communist bloc. We learn from this that Padre Pio

often went there in bilocation. He was, among others, in Yugoslavia, with Bl. Archbishop Alojzy Stepinacu during his trial, after which the hierarch was sentenced to 16 years in prison. He also accompanied the Primate of Hungary, Card. Józef Mindszenty while he was being tortured in prison. The secretary of the primate of Hungary said that during his imprisonment in 1956, the Cardinal very much wanted to celebrate Holy Mass. One day Padre Pio appeared in his cell, bringing with him everything that was needed to celebrate the Eucharist. The monk even served the primate at the Holy Mass!

In Czechoslovakia, the communist authorities dissolved religious orders and imprisoned priests. One of the religious communities of sisters continued living a hidden life, but the nuns did not wear habits. During the day, they worked on the land, and at night they gathered to pray together. It

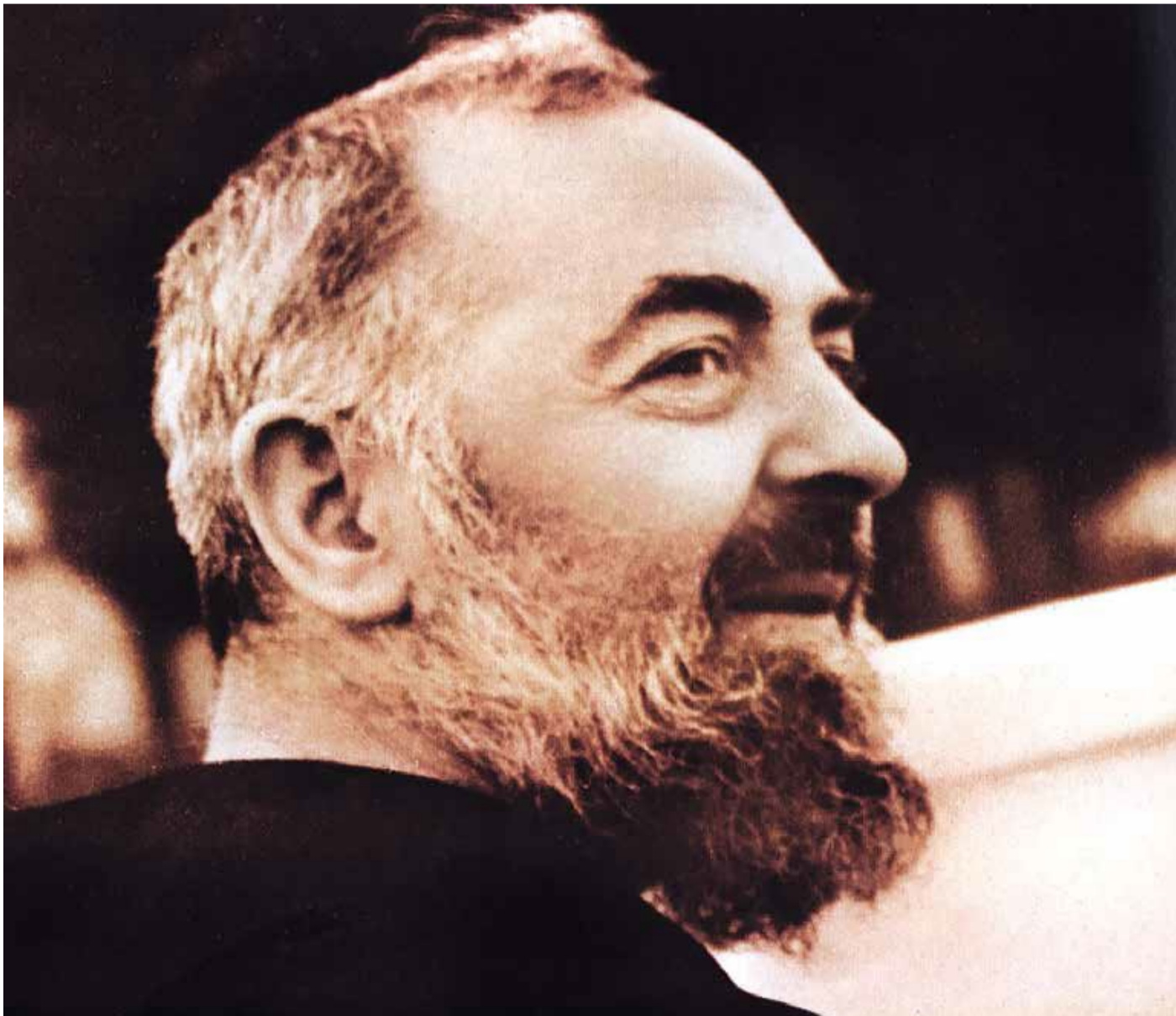
was these sisters who wrote a letter to Padre Pio, thanking him for having come to them especially to celebrate Mass. They were only sorry that Padre Pio had not accepted their invitation to a modest meal. In the letter, the nuns also asked how he made his return trip and whether he had had problems at the border crossing. It follows from this letter that the sisters were absolutely convinced that Padre Pio had left San Giovanni Rotondo and set out on a journey to Czechoslovakia. They didn't know it was a bilocation trip!

Spectacular Conversions!

The greatest miracles that were accomplished through Padre Pio's intercession were conversions. Miraculous changes of hearts took place every day at Padre Pio's confessional. One of the most famous of such incidents was the conversion of the eminent Italian lawyer Cesare Festa, advisor to King Victor Emmanuel III, who rose

to one of the highest positions in the Masonic hierarchy and became the Master of the Lodge in Genoa. This man fought the Catholic Church in an uncompromising manner. After an hour-long conversation with Padre Pio, Festa knelt down in front of the monk and asked to confess, and then at a secret meeting of the lodge he renounced his oath, boldly confessing his faith. Other fierce freemasons, atheists, and nonpractitioners also turned into passionate Catholics under the influence of meeting Padre Pio. Among them were: the famous biologist Ezio Saltamerenda; the most popular TV host of the 1950s Mario Riva; the great Italian cyclist Fausto Coppi; the famous Turin writer Pitigrill; the doctor Michel Boyer, a hero of the French resistance; the militant communists Costante Rosatelli, who was from Velletri, and Italia Betti, who was known as the "Karl Marx' Herod-woman"; world-famous sculptor Francesco Messina; famous comedy actor Carlo Campanini; actor Mario Amendoli; popular actresses Elza Merlini; Liza Gastoni, Lea Padovani, Silvana Pampanini, and many others.

Padre Pio, through his extraordinary signs and miracles, reminds us that Jesus Christ – true God and true man – suffered and died on the cross because of our sins and rose for us and for our salvation. In the life and activity of Padre Pio, God gave mankind a very clear sign calling for conversion, to find God through persistent and trusting prayer and suffering. **"God is sought in books,"** wrote Padre Pio, **"He is found in prayer. Crises in faith result from a lack of prayer. God is**



The greatest miracles that happened through the intercession of Padre Pio were the miracles of conversion

not found in books, but in prayer. The more a person prays, the more he finds God and the more his faith grows. My children, never neglect prayer. Pray often throughout the day. Only by

praying will you find and experience God's love. Prayer is the bread and the life of the soul, the breath of the heart, an encounter with God. When you experience states of distrust,

doubt, fear, or suffering, you need to turn to the Lord in a special way in prayer and you will find in it strength and encouragement."

The wisdom of Fr. Gabriele Amorth

I would like to give two simple recommendations to young married couples. The first is to develop immediately the habit of praying together. This will lead to greater harmony and will keep away many evils. The second is to extend this good habit to your children and bring them to church — even when they are little and even if they cry and run around the church. One is educated in the church through osmosis. They will be grateful when they are grown, and so will you.

Prayer



Please pray for those who are sick, in need or have asked for our prayers: Lilian Cox, Madge McWhirter, Sarah Carmichael, Catherine Walker, Ailsa Stewart, Meg Douglas (Mull), Doleen Durnin, and Russell Carroll.

Please remember in your prayers Archie Wilson (1943), Frances Campbell (1995), Thomas Carlin (1986), Grizel Williams (2009) **and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.**

News and Events

Tea and coffee in the hall after Sunday Mass. Our visitors are most welcome, please come along.

Donation of books for the Book Sale still welcome.

With Him

In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. (J 14:20)



In the Easter season let's explore what it means to be in union with the Risen Christ. In these present times, individual identity is contentious and problematic. There is a crisis of identity. And yet, Christ offers everyone a unique and shocking truth about us all – and it's a free gift.

Theme: Identity

Monday 24th April, at 10.30am

All welcome

St. Kieran's Hall, Kirk Street

Presented by Roddy Young



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