

Reflection Friday Week 20 St Pius X 2020

If we truly love the Lord, we will want to bring and be good news to others just like **Pope St Pius X (1835 - 1914)**. He was born in the village of Riese, near Venice, one of ten children of a very poor family. He was ordained a priest at 23. He was successively bishop of Mantua and of Venice, and was elected Pope, against his wishes, in 1903. As Pope, he sought to *“restore all things in Christ.”* He insisted on the separation of Church and State, and banned the formation of political associations that claimed exclusive religious sanction for their political programme, whether of the Left or of the Right. He revised the code of Canon Law, founded an institute for scriptural studies, and initiated the revision of the Latin translation of the Bible (the Vulgate) and the reform of the liturgy. He lived in great poverty even when he was Pope, and preached sermons every Sunday in the courtyards of the Vatican, to any who would listen. In his simplicity and goodness of heart, he performed miracles even when he was alive, and the clamour for his canonization started immediately after his death, on 20th August 1914, broken-hearted at the outbreak of the First World War. Pius X was groundbreaking in his reforms of the Church – a breath of fresh air. In celebrating his feast, as we do each year, we echo the truth of the psalmist as he did in life: *“I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.”* He also opened to all the faithful, whatever rank and condition of life, frequent and daily Communion, as a practice earnestly desired by Christ our Lord and by the Church. Anyone in the state of grace, who approaches the Holy Table with a right and devout intention (*recta piauque mente*) should not be prohibited. We have so much for which to thank this Pope.

MARCUS: Happy birthday, Bob. I have a poem for you.

BOB: Cool! Let me hear it!

MARCUS: Don't worry about the past — you can't change it. Don't worry about the future — you can't predict it. And don't worry about the **present** — **I didn't get you one!!**