

Reflection Thursday Week 25 St Pio of Pietrelcina 2021

St Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968) known as Padre Pio was born in the small village of Pietrelcina, southern Italy, and joined the Capuchin friars aged 16. Becoming a priest seven years later, he spent fifty years at the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo, where he was sought after as a spiritual advisor, confessor and intercessor. Many miracles were popularly ascribed to him during his lifetime. He died a few days after the fiftieth anniversary of his receiving the stigmata. Over 100,000 people attended his funeral.

Padre Pio personified the words of St Paul in his letter to the Ephesians. *“Now I live with God. I have been crucified with Christ, and I live not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me. The life I now live in this body I live in faith: faith in the Son of God who loved me and who sacrificed himself for my sake.”* He became so much like Christ that he bore the stigmata. He lovingly, courageously and faithfully picked up the cross Jesus offered him and became the instrument of healing, forgiveness and support to many thousands of people and continues to do so. Listen to his wisdom.

- *“Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips, but with your heart. In fact, on certain occasions, you should only speak to Him with your heart.”*
- *“Walk in the way of the Lord with simplicity and do not torment your spirit. You must hate your defects but with a quiet hate, not troublesome and restless.”*
- *“Have patience and persevere in the holy exercise of meditation; be content to begin with small steps till you have legs to run, better still wings to fly.”*

Work Wisdom:

- If it wasn't for ***the last minute***, nothing would get done.
- Laugh at your problems, everybody else does.
- The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you are born, and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.