

Reflection Friday Week 25 St Pio of Pietrelcina 2022

St Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968) was born in Pietrelcina, southern Italy. He joined the Capuchin friars at 16. Ordained a priest seven years later, he spent fifty years at the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo, where he was greatly 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 receiving the stigmata. Over 100,000 people attended his funeral.

St Paul's words to the Galatians could have equally been spoken by Padre Pio: *I have been crucified with Christ, and I live now 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.*

His stigmata is testimony to this. Padre Pio is an exemplary example of one who handed over his life completely to Christ. Amidst all the miracles and the exemplary life of Padre Pio his real contribution to the Church, to faith and to God is that he chose to be an instrument of God in bringing so many souls back to the Christian family, the Church and to faith.

Be moved by his wisdom:

- *Prayer is the best weapon we possess, the key that opens the heart of God.*
- *Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. Our Merciful Lord will listen to your prayer.*
- *You must speak to Jesus also with the heart, besides the lips; indeed, in certain cases you must speak to him only with the heart.*
- *Have you not for some time loved the Lord? Do you not love him now? Do you not long to love him forever? Therefore, do not fear! Even conceded that you had committed all the sins of this world, Jesus repeats to you, 'Many sins are forgiven thee because thou hast loved much!'*