

Reflection Tuesday Week 28 St John XXIII 2022

Pope John XXIII (1881 – 1963), Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born in Sotto il Monte, near Bergamo, in 1881. He entered the seminary at Bergamo aged 11 and studied at the Pontifical Seminary in Rome. He was ordained priest in 1904. He was appointed secretary to the Bishop of Bergamo. From 1921 he served the Holy See in Rome and in Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece, becoming Apostolic Nuncio to France from 1944 until 1953, when he was created cardinal and made the Patriarch of Venice. He was elected Pope in 1958. He convoked the Roman Synod, instituted the revision of Canon Law, and called the Second Vatican Council, which opened on 11th October 1962. He died on the evening of 3rd June 1963.

Pope John XXIII was a great friend to the Assumptionists working in Turkey who offered him much support and assistance.

Just as Jesus challenged the Pharisees, John XXIII challenged the Church when he opened the 2nd Vatican Council. A challenge that is making greater progress in this millennium. Rather than change our fundamental beliefs, the Council searched for new ways of understanding these truths in order to enrich our faith and bring us closer to God. Much of what Pope Francis is doing is an attempt to realise the vision that Vatican II offered the Church, a vision inspired by the Holy Spirit but left for us to fulfil. Let us respond wholeheartedly and eagerly to the challenge!!