

## Reflection Saturday Week 24 St Padre Pio 2023

St Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968) was born in the small village of Pietrelcina in southern Italy. He joined the Capuchin friars at the age of 16. He became a priest seven years later and spent fifty years at the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo, where he was very much 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.

Jesus is very clear that it is how we live our lives that is the most important. The story of the last judgement confirms this. Nothing is said about keeping the rules??

Did St Pio know in his early days what God had in store for him? Probably not. Yet, St Pio responded with utmost devotion, abundant generosity, dedication and love. And the Jesus that filled his life provided the grace for him to do this.

### **Let us be inspired by his words of 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.

Endeavour to unite the simplicity of children with the prudence of adults.

Do not be so given to the activity of Martha as to forget the silence of Mary. May the Virgin who so well reconciled the one with the other be your sweet model and inspiration.

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.

God loves us all with an infinite love and, when he punishes, he does so with reverence, almost fearing to hurt.

God "absolutely cannot reject the sincere desire to love him."

The heart of our Divine Master has no more amiable law than that of sweetness, humility, charity. Often place your confidence in Divine Providence and be assured that sooner heaven and earth shall pass away than that the Lord neglect to protect you.

Do not worry over things that generate preoccupation, derangement and anxiety. One thing only is necessary: to lift up your spirit and love God.

To fail in charity is like wounding God in the pupil of his eye. What is more delicate than the pupil of the eye? To fail in charity is like failing against nature.