

## St Pius of Pietrelcina - Padre Pio Memorial 23rd September

St. Padre Pio was an Italian priest who was known for his piety and charity, as well as the gift of the stigmata, which has never been explained. St. Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione, on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy. As a child, he was very religious and by the age of five he reportedly made the decision to dedicate his life to God. From his tender age, Francisco had a peculiar ability. He could see guardian angels, spoke with Jesus and the Virgin Mary. This was not something taught to him, but occurred so naturally that he assumed other people could see them too. At the age of 15, Francisco was finally ready and he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin friars at Morcone. He took the name of "Pio" in honour of Pope Pius I, whose relic he often saw at his local chapel. Brother Pio became a priest in 1910, but was permitted to remain at home because of his poor health. On September 20, Padre Pio was hearing confessions when he felt pain in his hands and feet. He noticed the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, appearing on his hands and feet. The experience was painful. Bleeding occurred. The wounds smelled of roses, and although they continued to weep, they never became infected. Doctors who later examined the stigmata were amazed at their perfectly round shape. By 1919, word began to spread about Padre Pio's stigmata and people came from far away to examine him. His popularity became a source of concern for the Church and the Vatican began to restrict his activities to minimize public interaction. A Church investigation into his stigmata concluded that his condition was not faked. By 1934, the Vatican began to change its attitude towards Padre Pio and he was again allowed to perform public duties. In 1947, Fr. Karol Wojtyla visited Padre Pio who prophetically told him he would rise to the highest post in the Church." Fr. Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II in 1978. Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968. His funeral was attended by over 100,000 people. Pope John Paul II recognized Padre Pio as a saint on June 16, 2002. His feast day is September 23. He is the patron of civil defence volunteers, adolescents, and the village of Pietrelcina.

Bulletin sponsored by Stourbridge Catenians - [www.stourbridgecatians.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgecatians.co.uk)



## Catholic Parishes of St Mary's and Our Lady of Lourdes

St. Mary's Brierley Hill and  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford  
Parish Priest: Fr Shanju John  
The Presbytery, Summerhill,  
Kingswinford, DY6 9JG.  
01384 274520



Email: [stmarylol.blackcountry@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmarylol.blackcountry@rcaob.org.uk)  
Website: [www.stmaryladyoflourdes.co.uk](http://www.stmaryladyoflourdes.co.uk)  
Deacon John Brindley (Retired)

Convent - Daughters of Divine Love 01384 380155

Part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham: Reg. Charity No. 234216

## 24TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A

**17TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **PSALM RESPONSE**

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening,  
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

How precious is your mercy, O God!

The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

**Today is Evangelii Gaudium Sunday -**

**Each of us need to reflect on our life of prayer: what we pray, how we pray and why we pray. Let's try to deepen our own prayer life and love of God and help someone else to pray. Pope Francis has declared 2024 he Year of prayer with particular focus on the Our Father .**

Ordinary A2	Psalter week 1	Intention/Info
<b>Sunday 16th/17th</b> <b>24th Sunday of the year</b>	<b>5pm Mass KF</b> <b>9.45am Mass BH</b>	People of the Parish Pat and David Horner
Monday 18th	<b>10am Mass KF</b>	Private Intention
Tuesday 19th	<b>NO MASS</b>	_____
Wednesday 20th	<b>9am Mass School</b> <b>10am Mass BH</b> <b>10.30am-11am BH</b>	Aborted children Adoration and Confessions
Thursday 21st St Matthew	<b>NO MASS</b>	_____
Friday 22nd	<b>10am Mass KF</b> <b>10.30am-11am KF</b>	Aborted children Adoration and Confessions
Saturday 23rd Padre Pio	<b>5pm Mass KF</b>	Margaret Hutchins
<b>Sunday 23rd/24th</b> <b>25th Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>5pm Mass KF</b> <b>9.45am Mass BH</b>	Margaret Hutchins People of the Parish

Please pray for all those whose have died recently especially those on our September deceased lists and for all those whose anniversaries occur this month. May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Marlene and Tony Lyons, Deacon John Brindley, Ian Manley, Noel O'Reilly, Georgina Kutz, Martha Jones, Mavis Geach, Sheila Rowley, Audrey Berry, Roger Ward, Pauline Bant, Jeanette Amphlett, Dorothy West, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Roy Davies, Chris and Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Rob Bryan, Betty Storey and Connie Birch May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

**Collections** BH 3/9 GA £75.00 Loose £196.35 Maintenance £94.78  
10/9 GA £34.00 Loose £203.47 Catholic Education £87.06 Teas £100.82  
KF 3/9 GA £131.00 Loose £115.60 Maintenance £66.30  
10/9 GA £80.00 Loose £123.10 Catholic education £65.97

**SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for Catholic Evangelisation Fr Hudson's Society.**

**Pope's prayer intention for September - For people living on the margins -** We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

## *Silence....Silence....Silence*

**Church is a place of silence and prayer.**

**So let us try to maintain the silence inside the Church , especially for 10 minutes before and after the Holy Mass. Consider others who wish to pray silently. Friendly chats can be in the porch and official talks in the Sacristy. Thank you for doing this. Fr Shanju**

**Tea/coffee after Mass** - Please join Fr Shanju and stay for tea and coffee after Mass on Saturday evening at KF or Sunday morning at BH for a chat and a catch up.

**Fr Stefan will be saying Mass at KF** on 16th and 23rd of September. We are grateful for his continued help and support. Please make him welcome as always.

**St Mary's 150th Celebration** Tuesday 17th October Mass at 7pm with His Grace the Archbishop followed by a Civic reception at the Civic centre in Brierley Hill. SO we can ensure seating and catering please sign the sheet at the back of Church if you wish to attend.

**Pantasaph trip 23rd September.** Coach will leave Kingswinford at 8.30 am and leave Pantasaph at approximately 5pm. If you have signed up go to the Padre Pio day please pay the £25 costs as soon as possible. There are some seats available still if anyone wishes to join. Please let Fr Shanju know. Thank you.

**Junior Liturgy at St Mary's.** We are now able to restart our Junior Liturgy at Sunday Mass providing there are enough volunteers. Please let Fr Shanju or Stephanie know by 30th September if you are willing to go on a rota to help with this. DBS checks will be required and will be done by the Parish.

**Holy Communion and Confirmation** if you have children not attending a Catholic School who are due to receive their Sacraments, please see Fr Shanju as soon as possible before the end of September.

**40 days for Life - From** 27th September to 5th November prayers will be said outside St Joseph and St Helen's Church in King's Norton not far from the abortion clinic. Since 40 days for Life started over 100 mothers in Birmingham have changed their minds and chosen life after talking to volunteers. Kick-off event is "The Importance of praying in public" Sunday 24th September 4pm at St Joseph and St Helen's Church Hall. 84 Northfield Rd, Birmingham B30 1JG. Rev Calvin Robinson of the Free Church of England will be giving the talk about the importance of praying and witnessing to our faith and pro-life beliefs. All very welcome.