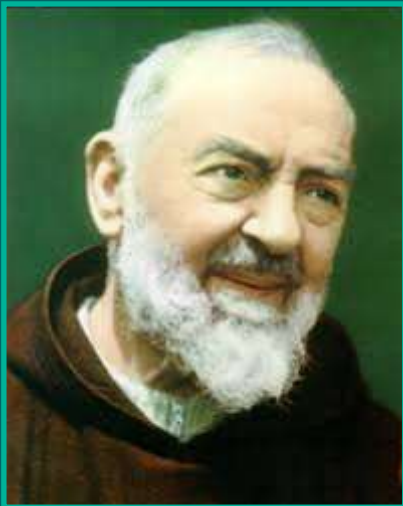


Saint Padre Pio  
(Priest)  
23 September



### About Saint Padre Pio (1887-1968)

Saint Padre Pio was born in the small village of Pietrelcina in southern Italy on 25 May 1887. He joined the Capuchin friars at the age of 16. He was ordained a priest seven years later and spent fifty years at the monastery of Saint Giovanni Rotondo, where he was in great demand as a spiritual adviser, confessor and intercessor. Many miracles were popularly ascribed to him during his lifetime.

While praying before a Crucifix one day, he received the visible wounds of crucifixion that Christ received during his Passion and Death, which are known as the stigmata. After Padre Pio was examined by a doctor, it was concluded that there was no natural cause or explanation for these wounds. Along with the stigmata, Padre Pio had other mystical experiences including bilocation (the ability to be in two places at once), and reading the hearts of those who sought counsel and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. These two miraculous gifts allowed him to lead both the sinner and the devout person closer to God.

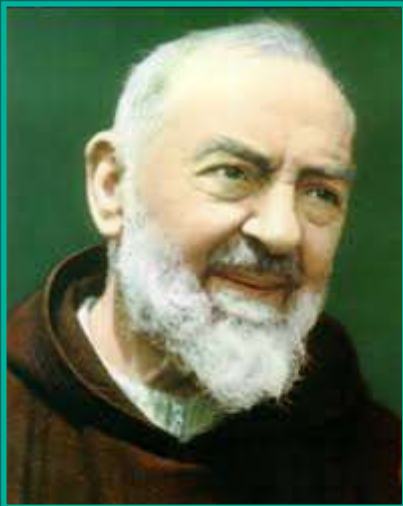
He spent his whole life in prayer and works of mercy, building a hospital to care for the sick. He died on 23 September 1968, a few days after the fiftieth anniversary of his receiving the stigmata. Over 100,000 people attended his funeral. He was canonized by Pope Saint John Paul II in 2002.

### How can we apply Saint Padre Pio's life to our lives today?

Saint Padre Pio was blessed with gifts that most of us could only dream of having. However, he used the gifts that God blessed him with to give glory back to God and to help people. He did not use them for his own advantage or to receive praise. So it is with us, whatever gifts we have been given by the Lord, we must be thankful that we have them and use them for God's glory and to improve the lives of others.

Humility was another gift which Saint Padre Pio possessed. Of his life Saint Padre Pio said: "I am only a poor brother who prays." We too, should not brag about what we can do that others can't, but rather admire others for the gifts which they too have received from the Lord.

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### Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who, by a singular grace,  
gave the Priest Saint Pius a share in the Cross of your Son  
and, by means of his ministry,  
renewed the wonders of your mercy,  
grant that through his intercession  
we may be united constantly to the sufferings of Christ,  
and so brought happily to the glory of the resurrection.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel

Matthew 16:24-27

Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it

Jesus said to his disciples:

**'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine,**

let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.

For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it;

but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life?

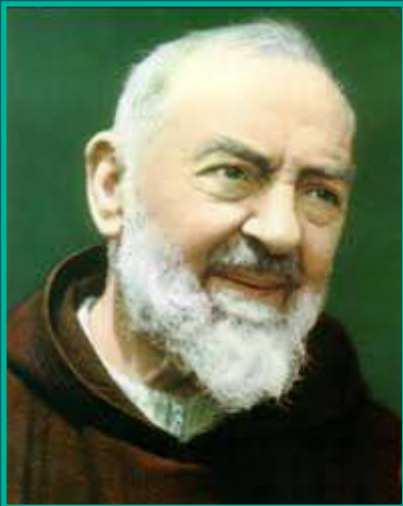
Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

**'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels,  
and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'**

### Antiphon

Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching when he comes. Amen I say to you:  
He will put that servant in charge of all his property.

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## Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Padre Pio

Saint Padre Pi-o, with holy gifts endowed,  
gifts that you would use, never becoming proud;  
giving the glo-ry to the Lord with loud voice.  
In God we now rejoice.

Saint Padre Pio, of the sick you took care,  
combining good works with unwavering prayer;  
**showing to God's flock never-ending mercy.**  
To God all glory be.

Saint Padre Pio, on your body you wore  
the holes of the Cross, which Jesus for us bore;  
**yet you would use these to share in our Lord's Cross.**  
For all else counts as loss.

Saint Padre Pio, may we serve our neighbour  
with joy and gladness, and our faith not waver;  
using divine gifts which from God we receive.  
Amen – yes we believe.

Christe Sanctorum, Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

## Other Music Suggestion

[I have loved you](#) (Michael Joncas)

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