

## **This Week's Liturgy Calendar.**

### **Ordinary Season of the Year. (a) Weekdays – Year 2**

#### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September: Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year. (a)**

In the first reading, from the Prophet Isaiah, we are reminded that God's wisdom and goodness are far beyond our understanding.

In the second reading, from the Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul, writing from prison, tried to put into words what Jesus means to him. He is thinking of his own death and longing for complete union with Christ.

The Gospel passage presents us with a scene where Jesus is talking about the generosity of God that is far beyond anything we know.

#### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September: Feast of St. Matthew.**

Matthew was a tax collector, one of the most despised jobs in Israel. The Gospel today tells us of his call to follow Christ. He acknowledged his sinfulness and repented. He is the author of the first of the Gospels that was written in Aramaic. Later accounts state that Matthew evangelised Persia and probably Ethiopia. He was martyred there and his remains were eventually transferred to Salerno in the tenth century.

#### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September: Tuesday of 25<sup>th</sup> week of the year.**

We turn to the Old Testament for the next series of readings. The first reading is from the Book of Proverbs. Some of these were from the sayings of Solomon – the wise son of David. We are reminded never to refuse kindness, never to plot harm and never to pick a quarrel. The virtuous will receive many blessings.

Jesus continues his parables. We are reminded we are called to witness to the world the faith we have received and not to keep it to ourselves.

#### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September: Memorial of St. Pius Pietrelcina.**

Francesco Forgione, the future Padre Pio, was born on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1887 in Pietrelcina, Southern Italy. At the age of fifteen he entered the Capuchin novitiate at Morcone and was ordained at the age of 23. Due to his frail health, he lived outwith the monastic community, always wearing the distinctive habit. He was sent to San Giovanni Rotondo for a short stay. In fact he spent the rest of his life there. In September 1918, the signs of the stigmata appeared after he had celebrated Mass. These wounds bled continually for fifty years and caused him acute physical pain. Despite this, he made himself available to thousands of people who came to him seeking advice and confession. He died on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1968 and was canonised by Pope John Paul on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2002.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September:      Thursday of the 25<sup>th</sup> week of the year.**

Today the first reading comes from the Book of Wisdom or Ecclesiastes. It is a reminder of the uselessness of human things. They will deceive anyone who puts their trust in them.

Jesus' teaching is causing growing concern and anger amongst the authorities. The plotting against him begins to grow.

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September:      Friday of 25<sup>th</sup> week of the year.**

The first reading is from the Book of Ecclesiasticus. The words are very familiar since they were made into a song. It is a reminder of how little the human mind can understand of God's ways. They are too much for us to grasp in their entirety.

The Gospel repeats a recent Sunday Gospel when the apostles are asked about their understanding of who Jesus is. Eventually Peter proclaims Jesus to be 'The Christ of God.'

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September:      Saturday of 25<sup>th</sup> week of the year**

We continue with the readings from the Book of Ecclesiastes. We are reminded in a very poetic but very forceful way that time marches on for all of us. We are reminded to make good use of the time God has given us.

The Apostles, through Peter, had made their act of faith in Jesus. However, they find it difficult to carry this out because it is hard for them to accept that Jesus must suffer and die.

*Always remember there are two types of people in  
this world.*

*Those who come into a room and say, "Well, here  
I am!"*

*and those who come in and say,  
"Ah, there you are!"*

