



Prayers for week ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 20TH SEPTEMBER

Monday 20th September

Sts Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and companions.



- The evangelisation of Korea began during the 17th century through a group of lay persons. A strong vital Christian community flourished there under lay leadership until missionaries arrived from the Paris Foreign Mission Society. During the terrible persecutions that occurred in the 19th century (in 1839, 1866, and 1867), one hundred and three members of the Christian community gave their lives as martyrs. Outstanding among these witnesses to the faith were the first Korean priest and pastor, Andrew Kim Taegon, and the lay apostle, Paul Chong Hasang. Among the other martyrs were a few bishops and priests, but for the most part lay people, men and women, married and unmarried, children, young people, and the elderly. All suffered greatly for the Faith and consecrated the rich beginnings of the Church of Korea with their blood as martyrs. Pope John Paul II, during his trip to Korea, canonised these martyrs on May 6, 1984, and inserted their feast into the Calendar of the Universal Church.
- *Today, let us pray to the Lord for peace in the Korean Peninsula, through the intercession of Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and companions.*

Tuesday 21st September

St Matthew the evangelist

- Saint Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ. According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ. From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament.
- *O Glorious St. Matthew, in your Gospel you portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant and as the new Lawgiver who founded a Church of the New Covenant. Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in his Church and to follow his teachings in our lives on earth so that we may live forever with him in heaven. Amen*



Wednesday 22nd September

- **Luke 9:1-6**
- Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money - not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.' They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.
- *What is the dust I need to shake off? What is it that tarnishes me and dulls my shine? I pray that I may keep my focus on the good news and not allow myself to be slowed down by attention to other messages, no matter how compelling.*

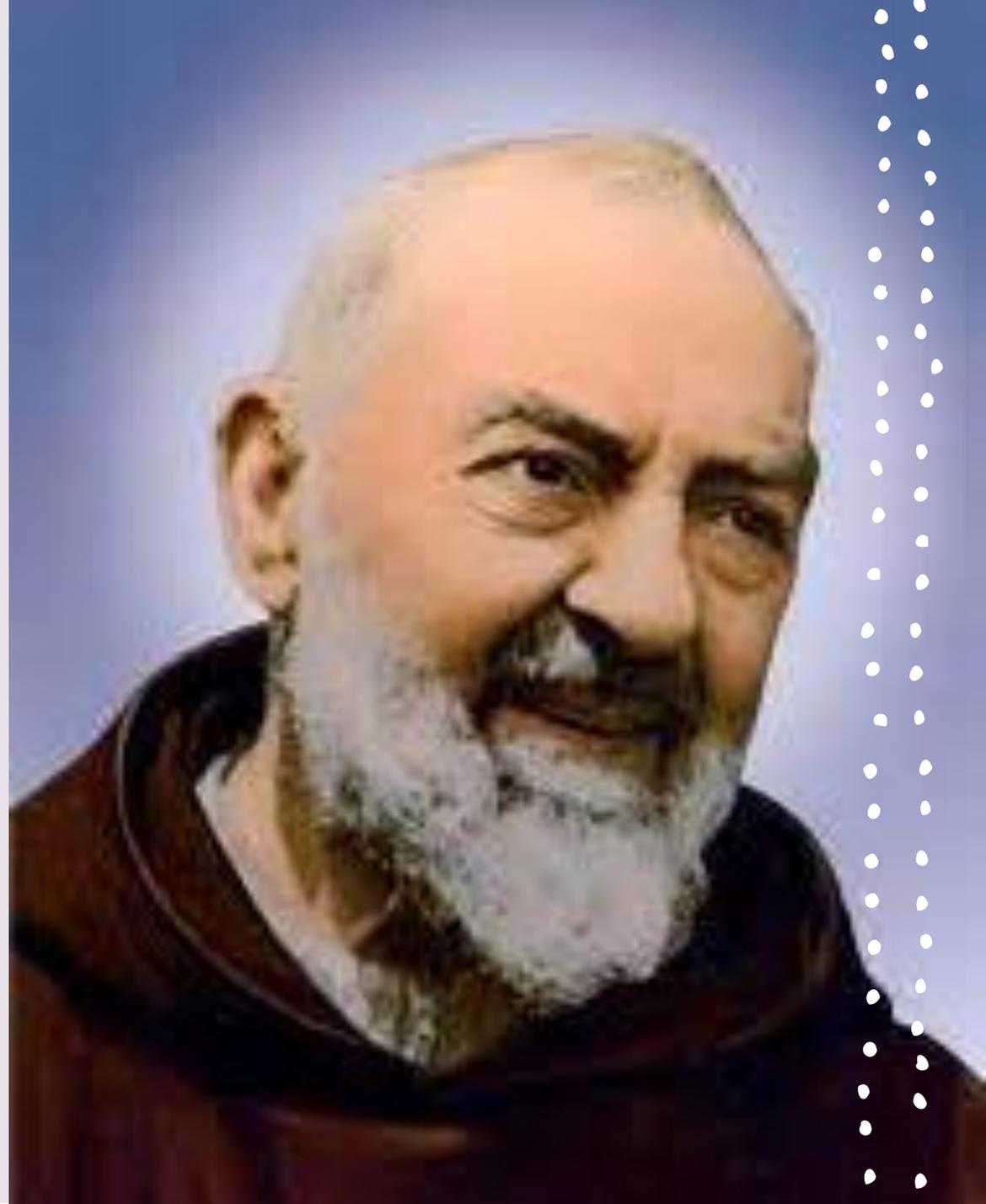
*"And he sent them out
to proclaim the kingdom
of God and to heal."*

cf. Luke 9:2

Thursday 23rd September St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

- St. Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione, on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy. His parents were peasant farmers. He had an older brother and three younger sisters, as well as two other siblings who died in infancy. As a child, he was very religious and by the age of five he reportedly made the decision to dedicate his life to God. 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.
- Today let us try and live our lives by following his advice:

“Pray, wait, and do not worry. Worrying is useless. God is merciful and will listen to your prayer... Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to the heart of God. You should speak to Jesus, not with your lips but with your heart.”



Friday 24th September

- Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.' He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, saying, 'The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.'
- Jesus asks his disciples 'Who do the crowds say that I am'? Let us look at Jesus putting that question; how do I respond today? To what extent is Jesus the norm of my values, actions? To what extent do I make all my decisions with reference to Him?

