

Reading for the Memorial of St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

23rd September 2026

First reading

Proverbs 30:5-9

‘Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me.’

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die:

Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches;

feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’

or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):29, 72. 89, 101. 104, 163. R105a

Your word is a lamp for my feet, O Lord.

Keep me from the way of falsehood; grant me mercy by your law.

The law from your mouth means more to me than large quantities of silver and gold.

For ever is your word, O Lord, standing firm in the heavens.

I keep my feet from every evil path, to obey your word.

I gain understanding from your precepts, and so I hate all false ways.

Falsehood I hate and detest, but I love your law.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is at hand;

repent and believe in the gospel.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 9:1-6

‘He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.’

At that time: 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. And he said to them,

‘Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.’ And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Short reflection on the reading for today

When Jesus sent the twelve out on their mission, he wanted them to travel light. They should not carry much baggage, but depend on the hospitality of those to whom they preach the gospel. Rather than be fully furnished with everything, they had to rely on the kindness of strangers, to trust in the Lord that others would provide for them.

We all like to be independent individuals, which is a good thing; but we can never be completely self-reliant. We began life dependent on others, and towards the end of our life we may once more be in that position. Yet, even between these two times of high dependence, we depend on others in so many ways. In God's family, we are meant to live in a spirit of give and take. Just think of the many ways that we depend on others for what we do not have within ourselves. It's a mistake to try to go it alone and deny ourselves the help that others are willing to offer. Just as we are expected to love and serve others in any way we can, so we should welcome the service that God provides through the goodness of others. Each has much to give and much to receive. As the Lord wants to serve others through us He also wants to serve us through others.

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

Galatians 2:19-20

'It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.'

Brothers and Sisters: Through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 128(127):1-2. 3. 4-5. R1a

Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be blessed and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the husband who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Sion. May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life!

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 23:9b, 10b

You have one Father, who is in heaven;
and you have one instructor, the Christ.

Gospel

Matthew 16:24-27

'Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.'

At that time: Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.'