



21st Sunday Ordinary Time – 27 August 2023

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MURDERED ITALIAN PRIEST



Blessed Giuseppe “Don Pino” Puglisi “went all the way in love,” Pope Francis said in a letter published ahead of the 30th anniversary of the Sicilian priest’s death at the hands of the Mafia. The blessed was shot and martyred by hitmen under the direction of the Sicilian Mafia group Cosa Nostra on Sept. 15, 1993, his 53rd birthday. Despite threats to his life, for

years the priest had quietly fought organized crime through the education of young people in his parish’s poor Palermo neighborhood. “Following the example of Jesus, Don Pino went all the way in love,” Pope Francis wrote in a letter to Archbishop Corrado Lorefice of Palermo, published Aug. 20. The priest, he continued, “possessed the same traits of the meek and humble ‘good shepherd’: His boys, whom he knew one by one, are the testimony of a man of God who favored the small and defenseless, educated them to freedom, to love life and to respect it.” Francis pointed to Blessed Pino Puglisi’s “practical and profound” wisdom, summed up by his frequent encouragement that “if each of us does something, then we can do a lot.” “Let this be the invitation for everyone to know how to overcome the many personal fears and resistances and to work together to build a just and fraternal society,” the pope said. Puglisi was born on Sept. 15, 1937, to a working-class family in Palermo. He entered the seminary at 16 and was ordained a priest in 1960 at the age of 22. As a priest, he was known for speaking out against injustice, including communism, the Mafia, and problems within the Church. “Father Puglisi was not a typical anti-Mafia priest. He did not organize rallies or make public condemnation of Mafia,” Archbishop Michele Pennisi of Monreale told the National Catholic Register in 2013. “[The] Mafia does not see that kind of priest as dangerous.” Puglisi was considered to be more dangerous “because he educated young people,” Pennisi said. He would convince the boys of the neighborhood not to steal or quit school and encouraged them away from the Mafia, who would often use children to traffic drugs and other illicit materials. On Sept. 15, 1993, Puglisi was apprehended on the street and shot in the neck at point-blank range by hitmen directed by the local Mafia bosses Filippo and Giuseppe Graviano. He died of his injuries. One of the hitmen, who later confessed to the crime, revealed that the priest’s final words were: “I’ve been expecting you.” Puglisi was declared a martyr by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012 and beatified in 2013. Pope Francis visited Puglisi’s former Palermo parish in 2018 to mark the 25th anniversary of the blessed’s assassination. “May the disarming smile of Father Pino Puglisi spur you to be joyful and bold disciples, available first of all to that constant inner conversion that makes you more ready to serve your brothers and sisters, faithful to your priestly promises and docile in obedience to the Church,” Pope Francis said in his letter to priests for the 30th anniversary of Puglisi’s death. “You,” he said, “who daily uphold the responsibilities of priestly ministry in contact with the realities that inhabit this territory, be always and everywhere a true image of the welcoming Good Shepherd, have the courage to dare without fear and instill hope in those you meet, especially the weakest, the sick, the suffering, the migrants, those who have fallen and want to be helped to rise again.” “Young people will then be the focus of your care: They are the hope of the future.”

Courtesy Hannah Brockhaus—Catholic News Agency

Late at the Library - 31 August 7pm–9pm (7-8 Kildare St, Dublin 2)

A free after-hours exploration of the National Library of Ireland. Journey through the venue and its celebrated spaces, using a combination of live literature, music, comedy and site specific performance. Curated by writer and poet, Colm Keegan. MC for the evening will be poet and writer Eoin Rogers.

Change to Sunday Masses

From **NEXT SUNDAY** 3rd September there will be one Sunday Mass in each parish.

James’s St: 10am

Meath St: 11am

Francis St: 12 noon

There is a 6.30pm mass on Saturday in James’s Street and a 6pm Mass on Saturday in Francis Street. These will remain in place until the beginning of December when we re-assess the situation



Dublin Maker - 2nd Sept

Richmond Barracks will be host to Dublin Maker 2023 on Saturday September 2nd from 11am-5pm. Dublin Maker brings together makers, inventors, artists, and technology enthusiasts from all walks of life to showcase their projects, exchange ideas, and inspire the community. For more info visit www.dublinmaker.ie



Biodiversity Festival & Honey Show - 8th to 10th Sept

The Phoenix Park Biodiversity Festival & Honey Show in conjunction with The Federation of Irish Beekeepers’ Association will take place from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September 2023 in the Phoenix Park Visitor centre. This is a free event for all the family to enjoy. There will be a large assortment of honey and bee-related products on display. While the honey judging is taking place, there will be a variety of interesting lectures and guided tours for visitors. Don’t forget your raincoat and your wellies, just in case!

21ST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Penitential Rite

Our God is present in our midst. Let us remember that loving presence.

You call us to recognise your presence in all people.
Lord have mercy

You call us to recognise your presence in those who are imprisoned in poverty, hunger and lack of opportunity. Christ have mercy

You call us to spread your good news. Lord have mercy

May our compassionate God have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!
God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. Alleluia!

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets'. 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God'. Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed

this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

Prayer of the Faithful

Lord, when I am hungry, send me someone who needs food; When I am thirsty, send me someone who needs a drink. Lord hear us

When I am cold, send me someone to be warmed; When I am distressed, send me someone to console. Lord hear us

When I am poor, lead me to someone who is in need; When I have no time left, send me someone whom I might help for a few moments. Lord hears us

When I am discouraged, send me someone to encourage; When I need to be understood by others, send me someone to care for. Lord hear us

When I am grieving for those who have died, send me someone whose grief is overwhelming them. Lord hear us

Lord, when I am content and satisfied, send me someone who is poor and needy that I may see clearly your presence in the world. Lord hear us



Reflection

The Then said a rich man, "Speak to us of Giving."
And he answered:
You give but little when you give of your possessions.
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.
For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow?
There are those who give little of the much which they have - and they give it for recognition and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome.
And there are those who have little and give it all.
These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty.
Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the earth.

From the Prophet by Kahlil Gibran