

Vigil for the liturgical feast of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

23rd September 2025

PEACE IS JESUS IN OUR MIDST

Presentation

The text of this year's vigil has been prepared at a time of great international turmoil, bringing violence and death to many parts of the world. We wish to renew together our faith in Christ, the only One who can truly bring peace through His presence, helping us to renew our hearts.

The initial adoration invites us to remember that, like Padre Pio, we too are called to be peacemakers, offering ourselves to the Lord so that He may make us worthy of this mission.

We lift our prayer to Jesus, the King of Peace, and to all the saints.

This is followed by an act of faith in Jesus and a meditation encouraging us to live the joy of peace and commit ourselves to spreading it among us.

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and silent adoration

ADORATION: WITH JESUS, VICTIMS FOR PEACE

From the Writings of Padre Pio

My very dear Father,

Listen, now, to what happened to me last Friday. I was in the church making my thanksgiving after Mass, when I suddenly felt my heart wounded by a fiery dart, so sharp and ardent that I thought I should die.

I have no suitable words to convey to you the intensity of this flame. I am quite powerless to describe it. Do you believe it? The soul which is the victim of such consolations becomes dumb. It seemed to me as if an invisible power were plunging my whole being into fire. Dear God! What fire! What delight!

I have experienced a great many of these transports of love, and for some time have remained, as it were, outside this world. On the other occasions, however, this fire was less intense, whereas this time another moment, another second, and my souls would have been separated from my body and would have gone to Jesus.

Oh what a wonderful thing it is to become a victim of divine love!

Leader We do not adore a distant God, but a God who became man and offers Himself as our food, to touch our bodies, to dwell within us. We cannot worship and invoke the Lord with words alone; like Padre Pio, we must open our hearts to Him, so that our entire lives may be instruments of peace.

Pause for silent adoration

HYMN

ACT OF FAITH: LET US PRAY TO THE GOD OF PEACE

Leader Peace is not a dream, something that might one day come true; peace is a promise, it is the presence of the God of peace in our midst. Adoring the Lord in the Eucharist helps us to renew our faith and our hope in God's visit among us.

From the book of the prophet Isaiah (62,1-12)

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.

The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: "I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink your wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in the courts of my sanctuary."

Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 70

You, O Lord, are our hope

In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame!

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

incline your ear to me, and save me!

Be to me a rock of refuge,

to which I may continually come;

you have given the command to save me,

for you are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.

For you, O Lord, are my hope,

my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;

you are he who took me from my mother's womb.

My praise is continually of you.

I have been as a portent to many,

but you are my strong refuge.

My mouth is filled with your praise,

and with your glory all the day.

Do not cast me off in the time of old age;

forsake me not when my strength is spent.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Leader The Padre Pio Prayer Groups were founded during the Second World War in response to the invitation of Pope Pius XII to pray for peace. Prayer for peace, especially through the intercession of Mary, is the great mission Padre Pio has entrusted to all his spiritual children.

Celebrant Brothers and sisters,
The Lord Jesus is present among us in the Eucharist. In communion with our Pope Leo and with all people of goodwill, let us call upon Him to grant the world true and lasting peace.

Grant a new heart to our society, that we may rise above selfish-interests, unjust claims, resentment born of past wounds, and ambitions rooted in pride and the thirst for power, so that respect for every human life and each person's freedom may be restored to the center.

Let us pray

Inspire our hearts to become instruments of Your providence, that we may come to the aid of those who suffer from hunger and injustice because of war or the cruelty of those who govern them.

Let us pray

Stretch out Your hand of blessing over all who are defenseless: prisoners, those unable to claim their rights, the marginalized, and all victims of our divisions.

Let us pray

Pour out Your mercy upon those who grieve for the wounds of war or the death of their loved ones. May they find in peacemakers both concrete assistance and comfort in their sorrow.

Let us pray

Celebrant Let us invoke the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Pio, and all the saints, that they may accompany our prayer of intercession:

Mary, Mother of the poor *pray for us*

Mary, Refuge of the weak *pray for us*

Mary, Virgin of help *pray for us*

Mary, Queen of peace *pray for us*

Saint Pio, herald of God's mercy *pray for us*

Saint Pio, comfort of the suffering *pray for us*

Saint Pio, who offered yourself as a victim for peace *pray for us*

All holy men and women of God, who were peacemakers *pray for us*

HYMN

PERSONAL MEDITATION: THOUGHTS OF PEACE

From the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Philippians (4:4–9)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Homily by the Celebrant and pause for silent personal meditation

RESOLUTION: THE PRAYER GROUPS AS PEACEMAKERS

Leader Too often we live in contradiction: we speak of peace, we pray for peace, but in daily life, even in our Christian communities, there are divisions, envy, and gossip that certainly do not help us to live in peace. Let us open our hearts to become, first of all, peacemakers ourselves.

From the Address of Pope Leo XIV to the Italian Episcopal Conference (June 17, 2025)

The relationship with Christ calls on us to develop a pastoral focus on the theme of peace. Indeed, the Lord sends us into the world to bring his same gift: “Peace be with you!”, and to become its creators in everyday life. I am thinking of parishes, neighbourhoods, areas within the country, the urban and existential peripheries. There, where human and social relationships become difficult and conflict takes shape, perhaps subtly, a Church capable of reconciliation must make herself visible. The apostle Paul urges us, “If possible, on your part, live at peace with all” (Rm 12:18); it is an invitation that entrusts a tangible portion of responsibility to every person. I hope, then, that every diocese may promote pathways of education in non-violence, mediation initiatives in local conflicts, and welcoming projects that transform fear of the other into an opportunity for encounter. May every community become a “house of peace”, where one learns how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced and forgiveness is cherished. Peace is not a spiritual utopia: it is a humble path, made up of daily gestures that interweave patience and courage, listening and action, and which demands today, more than ever, our vigilant and generative presence.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be with you always *And with your spirit.*
Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Celebrant: As a sign of peace during this Vigil, let us remain in adoration and, if possible, kneel, praying sincerely and wholeheartedly for someone with whom, for any reason, we are not currently at peace.

HYMN OF PEACE

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN (*Tantum Ergo*)

Let us pray

Lord Jesus Christ, who left us the memorial of your Passover in the sacrament of the Eucharist, let us adore the holy mystery of your Body and Blood with a passionate faith, in order to always feel the benefits of redemption in us. You are God ...

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.
Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints. Amen.

HYMN