

Today is Thursday the 23 September, the feast of St Pius of Pietrelcina, Padre Pio, in the 25th week of Ordinary time.



Today's reading is from the Gospel of Luke

Luke 9:7-9

Now Herod the ruler heard about all that had taken place, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the ancient prophets had arisen. Herod said, 'John I beheaded; but who is this about whom I hear such things?' And he tried to see him.

The Gospel of the Lord... Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ .

"Herod the ruler": do you find a shiver going down your spine when you hear that name? All the members of that family (and this is the son of the appalling Herod the Great) are "mad and bad and dangerous to know". But Herod is interested in Jesus: "he was perplexed". Do you sometimes feel perplexed by Jesus?

Some people thought that Jesus might be John the Baptist, raised from the dead, or Elijah (who did not die but was taken up into heaven), or a prophet. Was he any of these things, in fact? What do you think is the best way of describing Jesus?

Now listen as the passage is read to you again, notice that Herod "tried to see him"; then ask, "why did Herod try to see Jesus? What was he looking for in him? What are you looking for in Jesus?"

Finally, see if you can gather up the feelings that are stirring within you, and turn them into a prayer to Jesus.

Let us pray.... +

Father,

preserve in our young people
a sense of wonder at the marvels of life.

Bless them,

that they may grow in your love
and in concern and service
for the good of others.

Teach them to discern good from evil

that they may grow
in integrity of character,
and develop a true sense of values
through following Jesus,
your Son and our Brother. Amen.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Pray for us!



**LIVE
IN OUR
HEARTS
FOREVER**

