

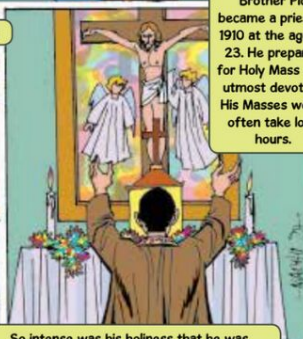
ST PADRE PIO

Feast: 23 September

At the age of five, Francesco Forgione started seeing visions of his guardian angel, Jesus and Mother Mary. He dedicated his life to God, doing hard penances so young.



Brother Pio became a priest in 1910 at the age of 23. He prepared for Holy Mass with utmost devotion. His Masses would often take long hours.



At 15, he joined the Capuchin Order of the Friars Minor.

He is truly a special one.

He is Pio. You should see him praying. He is very pious and full of love for Jesus.



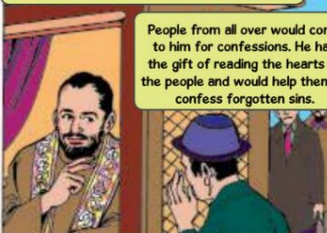
One day Fr Karol Wojtyla came to see him.

Fr. Karol Wojtyla later became Pope John Paul II in 1978.

You will one day rise to the highest post in the church



So intense was his holiness that he was blessed with the stigmata (five wounds of Jesus on one's body). He was the first priest to have this in the history of the church.



People from all over would come to him for confessions. He had the gift of reading the hearts of the people and would help them to confess forgotten sins.

One night a man dreamt of Padre Pio.

Fr. Pio, my father is very sick. Can you pray for his healing?

Your father will get well soon.



His father got well that same night.

People often came to him requesting prayers.

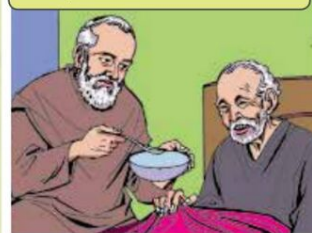
Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.



He had a special devotion to Mother Mary and would recite many Rosaries a day.

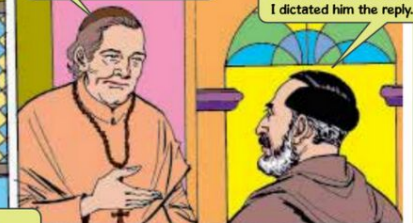


Padre Pio spent his entire life in the monastery. He loved the poor and suffering, in whom he saw Jesus and offered his prayer and penance for conversion of sinners.

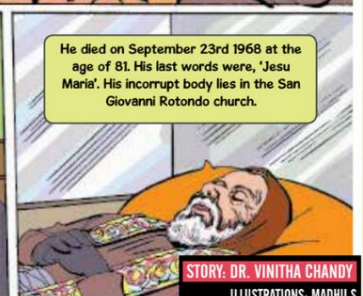


Who helped you to translate and write that letter?

My guardian angel translated the letter and I dictated him the reply.



He died on September 23rd 1968 at the age of 81. His last words were, 'Jesu Maria'. His incorrupt body lies in the San Giovanni Rotondo church.



STORY: DR. VINITHA CHANDY
ILLUSTRATIONS: MADHU S