

## AUGUST 15 THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

"O Lord, I am your servant, and I am honoured to be considered a child of Mary, incomparable Virgin, who regarded herself as your servant".

>>Like Peter Vigne let us go to Mary taking inspiration from the following prayer by St. John Paul 11

**O Mary, bright dawn of the new world Mother of the living,**  
to you do we entrust the cause of life  
**Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers**  
**of babies not allowed to be born,**  
**of the poor whose lives are made difficult,**  
**of men and women who are victims of brutal violence,**  
**of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference**  
or out of misguided mercy.



Peter Vigne's statue of Our Lady

**Grant that all who believe in your Son**  
may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love  
to the people of our time.

Obtain for them the grace to **accept**  
that Gospel as a gift ever new,  
the joy of **celebrating** it with gratitude  
throughout their lives and the  
courage to **bear witness to it** resolutely,  
in order to build, together with all people of good will,  
the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God,  
the Creator and lover of life.

**MAILBAG:** "Thank you for Reflections 3-4 on SAINT JOSEPH. It brought together Blessed Peter Vigne, Pope Francis and...St Joseph who was present at the unique apparition at Knock, Ireland, 21 August 1879. The National Sanctuary of Our Lady of Knock was elevated to an **International Sanctuary of Special Eucharistic and Marian Devotion** by Pope Francis. There, in silent prayer St Joseph is present, "a father in the shadows", the "quiet man" head



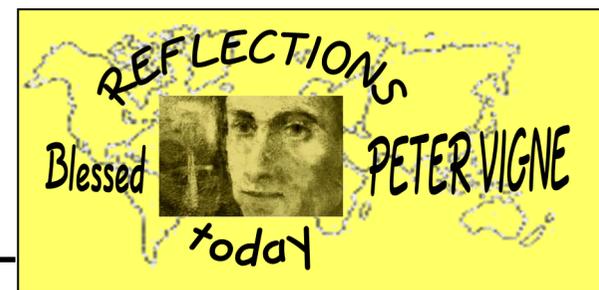
bowed in reverence and prayer....Nevertheless, Joseph must have been strong yet gentle to support Our Lady and guide the Child Jesus. I like to imagine **Blessed Peter Vigne having many would intimate conversations with St. Joseph** as he journeyed through the hills and valleys of the Ardèche en route from one mission to another!

St. Joseph be our guide today.

Sr. Christina Fitzgerald IRELAND



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Two of Peter Vigne's special anniversaries are highlighted during these months: his birth and Baptism in August and his death in July. During these two months we continue our focus on the witness of his life and his ardent teachings. The feast of "**Blessed Peter Vigne**" celebrated on July 8 is a wonderful opportunity for praise and thanksgiving. How could we fail to say THANK YOU to God for such an ardent missionary, a witness so close to us and so passionate about the love of Christ. Perhaps what he wrote in the Dedication of one of his books, tells the story of his life too.

## Jesus Christ true Source

*"To JESUS CHRIST, my Sovereign Lord, present in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. To whom should I dedicate this small book if not to JESUS CHRIST who received from his Father all authority on earth as in Heaven and to whom we too belong, St Paul tells us.*

***You, my Saviour are its subject, it owes its origins to you, the true source.***



*Therefore it is only right and fitting that it should **return to you.***

*Prostrate then before your adorable majesty, with profound respect and affection **I consecrate** it to you. Even though it is brief and my words of praise seem inadequate and insufficient, nevertheless just as the babbling of infants do not displease their parents so may this small publication written to make you known loved and served, be acceptable to you.*

***I beseech you, my adorable Saviour, to bless it abundantly so that all it***

contains may be a source of hope and light to enlighten souls and guide us on our way through life. May it set hearts on fire with love for you, a love that will surely lead us to the eternal happiness for which we are created. Amen

*Vigne p. mission*

## Your life, GIFT and LIGHT

Peter Vigne's life was a gift for the Church and for each one of us. All life is gift to be received and defended. On our journey through life it is good to meet people whose lives are "lights" just as Peter Vigne's was for all those he met and helped on his way.

**Human life is a journey.** Towards what destination? How do we find the way? Life is like a voyage on the sea of history, often dark and stormy, a voyage in which we watch for the stars that indicate the route.

**The true stars of our life** are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope.

Certainly, **Jesus Christ is the true light**, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But **to reach him we also need lights close by—people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way.**

*Benedict XVI Spe Salvi 49*

**Man and his life appear to us not only as one of the greatest marvels of creation: for God has granted to man a dignity which is near to divine (Ps 8:5-6). In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God's glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ.**

We are called to express wonder and gratitude for the gift of life and to welcome, savour and share the Gospel of life....

*John Paul II Evangelium vitae 84*



Lord, you made Blessed Peter Vigne an ardent preacher of the love of Christ, revealed on the Cross and made present in the Eucharist.

May we, who contemplate the same mysteries, be sent forth to **proclaim the Good News** of salvation to all.

This we ask through Jesus Christ your Son.

In 1737 Peter Vigne wrote a Rule of Life. This "small book" as he called it, was written for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, founded in Boucieu in 1715. Admittedly, the dedication relates only to the book but one can easily see it as a dedication of the life of the author mainly during the months of July and August, which celebrate his birth and death. Peter could say in relation to his birth in **PRIVAS on August 20, 1670 and his baptism on August 24** "they come from you, my Saviour....the true source". Deeply touched by the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus Christ he never hesitates to speak of that infinite love during his missions. As one might expect, many people would have seen him "prostrate with profound respect and affection" before the Blessed Sacrament.

His prayer for his mission was always the same, whether that mission was "fervent and very useful" or it brought him "much grief and heartache": he offered all his missionary work to the Lord: "I offer and consecrate it to You".

The unique character of his vocation led him to the poor and simple folk who needed his presence, his message and his celebrations. To be close to them he chose a style that was plain and simple and could be easily understood by "these good country people". What it says in the dedication about his book applies equally to his life which was always: "to make you known loved and served".

"I beseech you, my adorable Saviour to pour out you abundant blessings". How many times Fr. Vigne must have repeated that prayer of intercession for the Congregation, for the pilgrims who made the "Great Journey" of the Stations of the Cross in Boucieu, for each parish and for all those who participated in the missions he preached! Even to the last one at **RENCUREL in July 1740**, where he arrived exhausted but still wanting to go ahead with the mission so that it would "produce so many rays of light.....and set hearts on fire with love". On July 8, drawing his last breath Peter presented his life to God having offered it daily with the love he received from the Eucharist, celebrated and adored. That love led him to "eternal happiness for which we are all created".

**What does his life say to us today?** How can we receive and make ever more fruitful those rays of light it never ceases to spread? What beautiful "work of art" is he inviting us to make of our lives? Peter Vigne assures us that God is and will always be its source and joy at every stage, easy or otherwise .... B.R.

**"Because the source of life is in you, my God, and in the light of your glory we shall see light"** P. Vigne

*The work of a lifetime  
August 1670 - July 1740*

The remains of a shoe worn by Fr. Vigne

