

## With the Blessed Virgin Mary

**8 September=the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin.....**In 1722 this feast was chosen in Boucieu by Father Vigne and the Sisters for the celebration of their first Vows in the Congregation of the "Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament". They had prepared for it with a ten-day retreat, guided by Peter Vigne.

**September 15 = Our Lady of Sorrows.** Pierre Vigne dedicated a Chapel to her under that title, as part of the Way of the Cross in Boucieu. In his Memoir he wrote: "*Mr. Drevêt, Vicar, General gave me permission...to say Mass and bless beforehand the chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin*" It is very likely that in this year 1722 Father Vigne, the Sisters, neighbours and pilgrims gathered there in thanksgiving and to entrust to Mary all their intentions, which undoubtedly were many!

**Why not accompany them too** and entrust to Mary all that we carry in our hearts...and the peace that is so necessary in our world.

**The month of October=the month of the Rosary.** Peter Vigne accompanied the Brotherhood of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, which he started as soon as he arrived in Boucieu. It counted at least 240 members, from Boucieu and the surrounding area...For what purpose? To bring together Christians, to awaken the faith and keep it alive in every person and in all families, counting on the maternal intercession of Our Lady.

### MARY

Mary believed in the fulfilment of the words the Lord had spoken to her

(cf. Lk 1:45)....

Thus we see that "**Mary is completely at home with the Word of God**; with ease she moves in and out of it. She speaks and thinks with the Word of God; the Word of God becomes her word, and her word issues from the Word of God. To her, then, we can say with confidence: "**Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, to hope, to love with you.** Show us the way to his Kingdom!"

Benedict XV! 12-09-2008.

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT CONVENT

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Return often to Mary during  
these two months.

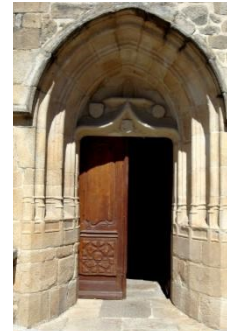


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In many countries throughout the world, these months mark the return to work and to education. Soon, we long for a life that is more peaceful, more relaxed with less stress and we look for "remedies" that are sometimes not very adequate or satisfactory. **Peter Vigne points us the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the place where we can find true peace.**

***A pause..stillness..peace*** *Jesus, my Saviour and my God....never did you give us a more wonderful manifestation of your love than in the Blessed Sacrament. In this Mystery, your love for us is awe inspiring and miraculous: but how do we repay you?.. with ingratitude? It is certainly in this Mystery that you are up against all the hostilities and mockeries of humankind.*



*Jesus, in the Tabernacle how often are you left alone? ..... and in many churches during the day it is rare to find someone there in adoration.*

*One often sees people passing right in front of the door of the church, not deigning to go in and spend a few minutes with you in quiet prayer. But in general, when one goes to Church is it to seek and adore you? Some rush in and out again without even noticing that they are in your divine*

*Presence. They look all around at everything except the altar and the tabernacle where you dwell.*

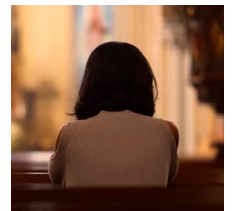
*...But while we reserve great respect and honour for famous people and social celebrities, how do we really treat you?*

*...And finally, since it is your joy to be with us in the Blessed Sacrament it will also be our joy to visit you and converse with you in the language of heart and spirit.*

*Thanksgiving and glory to you Lord Jesus present for us in the Holy Eucharist!*

PBL t.2, 33-37

*Vigne méditation*



## A pause..and a fresh start.

This text by Peter Vigne was chosen for September, WHY?. It's true, we're not in Holy Week to commemorate the Last Supper and neither are we in June for the feast of Corpus Christi but simply because Peter Vigne reminds us that the Presence of Jesus in his "Blessed Sacrament" is a daily reality. Just like meeting family, friends, work colleagues or fellow students etc. so too you can meet Christ, whenever you want and your own self too, deep within your heart of hearts.



And **SINCE WHEN** is that possible? Since He gathered his friends, the apostles and disciples, for a last meal together, before his death on the Cross.

It was the "**LAST SUPPER**"...an important moment for them and for the Church, because the "the Church makes the Eucharist and the Eucharist makes the Church" in every generation. (It was therefore sad to see that it becomes an "object of

derision and mockery", as pointed out by the French Episcopal Conference at the opening of the Olympic Games!)

**When you feel the need for silence and peace**, or to distance yourself from the din and clamour of the world around you,... you can, of course explore the many forms of relaxation techniques currently on offer even those that are not always recommended!. However, Peter Vigne wishes to guide you towards the real Presence of Jesus, who is there, permanently, for you and for all. **Go, visit him "chez-lui" in the Church where** he awaits you. "*Your friend will always welcome you, it's his nature. Know this, when you visit the Lord you will not be judged but welcomed*" says A. de St-Exupéry. Go then, step into his house and there you can have "a heart to heart" conversation with him or remain in stillness, quietly listening in peaceful calm. This will give you the energy and momentum to "**make a fresh start**" and take on life with all its difficulties and joys during this stage of the year that opens up before you. B.R.

### More forceful witness

.... Christians ought to be committed to bearing more forceful witness to God's presence in the world.

**We should not be afraid to speak about God and to bear proud witness to our faith.** The "*culture of the Eucharist*" promotes a culture of dialogue, which here finds strength and nourishment.

It is a mistake to think that any public reference to faith will somehow undermine the rightful autonomy of the State and civil institutions, or that it can even encourage attitudes of intolerance.

John Paul 11 M.N..D. 26

## 20 years since the beatification of Peter Vigne.

On **October 3<sup>rd</sup>** we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beatification of Peter Vigne. Many of our readers and friends will remember the moving celebration in Rome, in St Peter's Square, and the moment when John Paul 11 declared him Blessed. In relation to the five new blessed he stated emphatically: "*They let themselves be guided by the Word of God as by a bright safe beacon that never ceased to illuminate their path*". And speaking of Fr. Vigne he added this: "**Contemplating Christ present in the Eucharist and in his saving Passion, Fr. Peter Vigne was led to be a true disciple and a faithful missionary in the Church. May his example give the faithful the desire to draw from the love of the Eucharist and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament the audacity for the mission!**"

➤ We find this beautiful comment in the representations which were made in 2003 in recognition of the Virtues of Fr. Vigne.

".....**the life of the diocesan priest Peter Vigne** develops in the apparent simplicity of a daily life without great signs or external events. His life expresses a continuous fidelity to his Christian and priestly vocation and a total dedication to following the will of God... **Once he has discovered what God's will is for him, he follows it without hesitation**, obeying the movements of divine grace. It is from there that his charity and his apostolic consecration are born, which have no other goal than total love of God and of the poor.

.... **It is a fact of great relevance**,... it is part of the history of secular or diocesan priestly holiness, often forgotten or little valued, but which constitutes the backbone of the continuous evangelisation of the ancient European Christian peoples down to contemporary modern time. Some figures like Saint Vincent de Paul before him, or the Holy Curé d'Ars, after him, receive great attention but **a figure like this humble priest, devoted and dedicated to the missionary apostolate** in the countryside of a France, then in deep religious conflicts and divisions, and now in a latent process of dechristianisation, **belongs to this history of diocesan priestly holiness** that we must rediscover".

