

Saint Ignatius of Loyola Friday 31 July



About Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491 - 1556)

Ignatius was born in Loyola in the Spanish Basque country. He was a soldier but was wounded in the battle of Pamplona (against the French) at the age of 30. During a long period of convalescence, he read about the life of Christ and a collection of lives of the saints and decided to emulate them. During this time of convalescence, he discovered that his true vocation was to devote his life wholly to God. He was as systematic about this as he had been about his military career: **he spent a year's retreat in a Dominican friary, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and then set about learning Latin.** Before making his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he laid his military equipment before a statue of Mary at Montserrat, and spent several months in a cave near Manresa.

After enrolling in the University of Paris, he gathered six companions together, who would become the first members of the Jesuit Order (the Society of Jesus). In 1534 Ignatius and these six companions bound themselves to become missionaries to the Muslims in Palestine. By the time they were ready to set out, war made the journey impossible and so the group (which by this time had increased to ten) offered their services to the Pope in any capacity he might choose. Some of these men were ordained and they were assigned various tasks.

Ignatius was the first Superior General of the Jesuits and held that post until his death. He is known for writing the Spiritual Exercises, a systematic step-by-step retreat that can be followed by anyone

What can we learn from Saint Ignatius of Loyola's life?

If you want to be a saint, then you need to be around saints. Saint Ignatius' early life was one that did not focus on God. Yet, God always has a way of bringing us around to Him and His way of thinking. For Ignatius, this happened in a rather dramatic way. He was hospitalised and had nothing to read other than about Christ and His Saints. Ignatius used his time of convalescence wisely and laid down his arms to focus on the Lord. Often in our own life things go completely pear-shaped, especially when we are so sure of ourselves. God is even surer of ourselves than we are, and He does not let an opportunity pass by of using us for his greater glory and good in the world. So, as we adapt to the new normal during (and post) COVID-19,

Saint Ignatius of Loyola Friday 31 July



let us not use the time given to us to focus on what we can't do, but rather look out for the opportunities where we can bring Christ to others, especially those who are homebound and sick.

The Jesuits have been rather influential in the world, establishing schools, universities and parishes. They have also given us many saints, including Saint Francis Xavier, who is one of the co-patrons of Australia. With regards to liturgical music, we were given the gift of the Saint Louis Jesuits, and much of their music has come to be part of our mainstream liturgical music repertoire. In Australia, we have our own Christopher Willcock who has contributed much to the liturgical music repertoire in this country and beyond.

Collect

O God, who raised up Saint Ignatius of Loyola in your Church to further the greater glory of your name, grant that by his help we may imitate him in fighting the good fight on earth and merit to receive with him a crown in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them.

'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple.

Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola
Friday 31 July



‘And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, “Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish.” Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.’

Antiphon Cf. Lk 12: 49

Thus says the Lord: I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish that it were kindled!

Prayer: Suscipe of Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.
You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.
Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/prayer/traditional-catholic-prayers/saints-prayers/suscipe-prayer-saint-ignatius-of-loyola/>

Saint Ignatius of Loyola Friday 31 July



Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola

1. Saint Ignatius of Loyola,
your life from Christ did stray.
Then Christ allowed you to be hurt,
so you would learn His Way.
2. As you were healing from your pain
about Christ you would read,
and the lives of his Saints as well,
and this would plant a seed.
3. All that we do should never be
in pursuit of our praise,
instead render glory to God,
with joy all of our days.
4. Saint Ignatius, may we like you
give up what we don't need;
and daily die to our own selves
and from earth's ways be freed.

86.86 CM

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

Music Links to the Scripture Readings

[Take Lord, Receive](#) - John Foley SJ

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Jerusalem Bible Translation of Scripture used in Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III* (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). All rights reserved.

COLLECT and ANTIPHON: *Roman Missal 2010* © International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

REFERENCES: *Sourcebook 2017*. © Liturgy Training Publications 2017. All rights reserved.
Universals App: 31 July 2020