

Saint Francis Xavier

3 December



### About Saint Francis Xavier

Saint Francis Xavier was born in the Basque country of Spain in 1506. He met Ignatius Loyola when he was a student in Paris, and he was ordained priest in 1537. He became one of the first Jesuits after Saint Ignatius of Loyola. In 1541 the Pope sent him as part of a mission to India, and he spent the rest of his life in the East, where he preached the Gospel in Goa and Malacca. He made many converts and fought against the exploitation of the native population by the Europeans. He also spent two years on a successful mission to Japan, laying the foundations of many Christian communities. Each place he visited he won many converts to the faith and left behind organized Christian communities. In 1552, after entering China secretly to preach the Gospel there, he died of fever and exhaustion on the Chinese island of Shangchwan.

### What can we learn from Saint Francis Xavier's life?

Saint Francis Xavier took Christ wherever he went. He left his homeland to preach the name of Christ in countries where he would not have spoken the language of the people. Somehow, he found a way to communicate with them, because his love of Christ was so deep and great. We are not all called to leave our homeland to preach the Gospel. However, we are called each day to preach the Gospel by the practice of our faith and also by the way we treat each other. In preaching the Gospel, Saint Francis Xavier did not disturb the natives and that perhaps is his greatest success story.

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Collect

O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier won many peoples to yourself, grant that the hearts of the faithful may burn with the same zeal for the faith and that Holy Church may everywhere rejoice in an abundance of offspring. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Mark 16:15-20

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them:  
**'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.**  
He who believes and is baptised will be saved;  
he who does not believe will be condemned.  
These are the signs that will be associated with believers:  
in my name they will cast out devils;  
they will have the gift of tongues;  
they will pick up snakes in their hands,  
and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison;  
**they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'**  
And so the Lord Jesus,  
after he had spoken to them,  
was taken up into heaven:  
there at the right hand of God he took his place,  
while they, going out, preached everywhere,  
the Lord working with them  
and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

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## Antiphon

What I say to you in the darkness speak in the light, says the Lord,  
what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

## Hymn for Feast of Saint Francis Xavier

**“Go out to every nation,  
my Good News you must tell.”**

These words of Christ our Saviour  
**in Francis’ heart did dwell.**

He left behind his homeland  
to travel far and wide,  
in lands where Christ was not known,  
to make Christ their true guide.

Saint Francis Xavier, through life  
you suffered from poor health;  
on fire with the Gospel  
Christ was your only wealth.

Tending to sick and infirm  
and spending time in prayer,  
you showed your love for Jesus  
and those who needed care.

You call us every day, Lord,  
Your Gospel we must preach,  
like Francis Xavier to those  
Your Word is still to reach.  
In this way we will witness,  
and show our love for you,  
tending to needs of neighbours,  
preach Your Word in ways new.

Tune: Cruger 76.76D

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

## Other Music Suggestion

[Pescador de Hombres](#)

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