

St Mary's, Inverness
The Year of St Ignatius
20 MAY 2021 >31 MAY 2022

THIRD REFLECTION : TO BE A PILGRIM



Our Lady of Aranzazu



The Modern Shrine at Aranzazu

Context : While recovering from his life-changing injuries received at the Siege of Pamplona Ignatius spent months at the family home, the Castle at Loyola. His reading and reflections led Ignatius into a new relationship with God. As he said in his Autobiography " he felt within himself a strong impulse to serve our Lord" and when recovered 'to set out on his journey'. This was to be a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

Leaving home, with one of his brothers, [Pero who was by then ordained as a priest] Ignatius set out on the first stage of his pilgrimage, a Vigil of Prayer at the Shrine of Our Lady of Aranzazu.

Aránzazu in Cantabrian-Basque language relates to the finding by a Shepherd of a holy image of the Virgin in a thorn bush. Watching such a beautiful and shiny image of Our Lady on a throne in a thorn bush, the shepherd-boy said with affection in his heart: Arantzazu? 'How is it that the Queen of the Angels, Mother of God, advocate for the sinners, refuge for the distraught, to whom so much veneration and adoration is owed, You, My Lady, in a thorn bush?'

At this shrine of Our Lady Ignatius sought the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary for his pilgrim journey to Jerusalem, seeking the graces and the moral purpose to continue with the good resolutions that he had made at Loyola during his convalescence and conversion.

It is likely that at this overnight Vigil Ignatius made a vow of chastity.

Writing in 1554 to St Francis Borgia, [4th Duke of Gandía S.J. (1510–1572)], Ignatius referred to this night vigil as a time of great grace for strengthening his resolve on this journey. {There is a relic of St Francis Borgia sj in the reliquary within the altar at St Mary's, Inverness}.

A Marian Prayer :

O Mary, mystic rose, whose lovable heart, burning with the living fire of love, adopted us as thy children at the foot of the Cross, becoming thus our most tender Mother, make me experience the sweetness of thy motherly heart and the power of thine intercession with Jesus, in all the dangers that beset me during life.



Prayer : Examen : Looking at the week of Pilgrimage with the Ignatian Reflections we might look at our own recollections. Have we managed to find the time to reflect on what 'moments of conversion' we may have experienced in life? There may have been critical moments which bring us depressing and anxious feelings, and there are surely also other times when we have felt embraced and comforted, strengthened and supported by gracious thoughts, or the kindness of others? ~We need time to savour and cherish the 'good'.

POCKET EXAMEN

The Ignatian Examen is a 5-step method for reviewing your day and giving thanks to God.

1. CENTER

Take a moment to become aware of God, myself and my surroundings.

2. GRATITUDE

What am I especially thankful for today?

3. REVIEW

What brought me joy? What challenged me?

4. TURN TO GOD

What could I have done or said differently?
How can I improve?

5. LOOK FORWARD

In what spirit do I want to enter tomorrow?

CAMPUS
MINISTRY

Looking forward with grace,
following the Way, seeking the Good.
Today and tomorrow, we embrace
the Lord Jesus :
'Jesus, I trust in You'.

We walk, in our prayerful journey as
pilgrims with Ignatius the Pilgrim.

An Ignatian Offering of Life :
Suscipe - a prayer of radical,
self-less offering of every aspect of
ourselves.

*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.*



Scriptural Reflection : Mary, Mother of the Church. [St John 19. 25-34]

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

We should simply imagine ourselves there, standing watching and listening. In the harrowing sadness, the anguish of dying is assuaged by the words of Jesus, tenderly entrusting His Mother to the Church. Pondering these words we can take them into our hearts and minds. As we do so we can appreciate the immediacy of Mary's loving, yet sorrowful Motherhood. Perhaps our thoughts might help us to see Mary set below the thorns that were grievous on the brow of Our Lord? The Shepherd Boy of Aranzazu catching, in his hawthorn bush insight a glimpse of Our Lady of Sorrows, yet also Mother of the Church.

A Period of Silence in which we pray with St Ignatius seeking understanding and insight. We resolve to continue our Pilgrimage.



Jesu, I trust in You

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus Mercy, Mary Pray

Praise God Always !