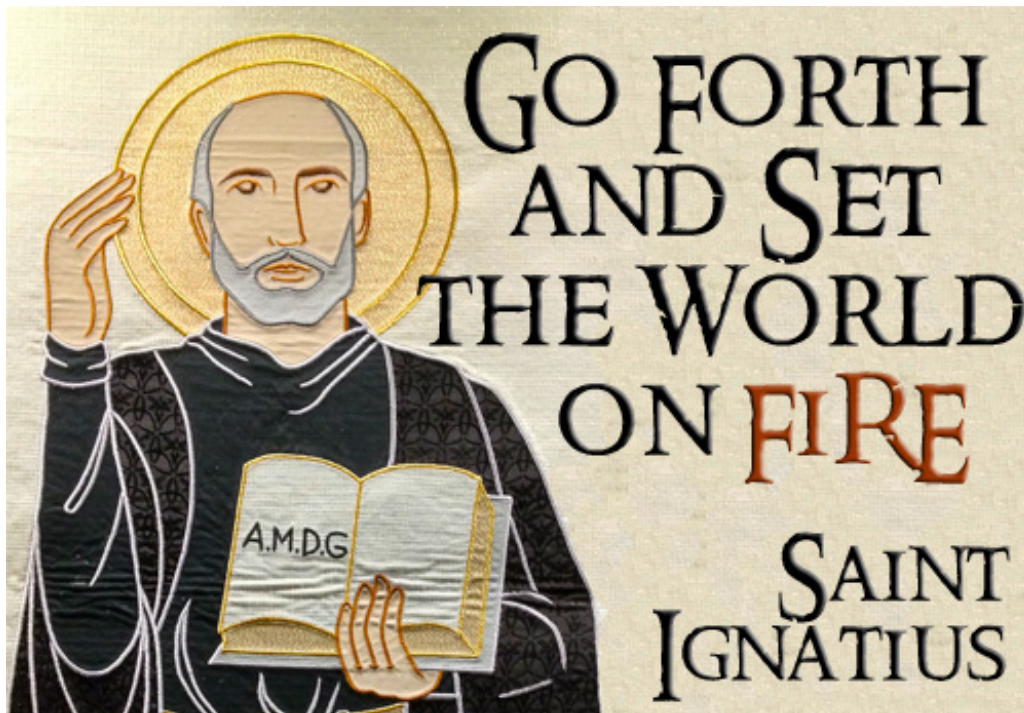


St Mary's, Inverness
The RC Diocese of Aberdeen: SC005122]
The Year of St Ignatius
20 MAY 2021 >31 JULY 2022

FIFTY-SECOND IGNATIAN REFLECTION
IGNATIUS AND THE RESURRECTION : THE GREAT COMMISSION



Ignatius challenges and inspires us for Mission in the great imperative given by the Risen Lord when, at Mount Tabor, He sent out the disciples with the power and authority to win the world for God.

Go therefore
and make
disciples
of all the
nations

**THE
GREAT
COMMISSION**



Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:14-20, Luke 24:50-53

USING THE EXERCISES : Ignatius and the Companions, brought many to experience the Life of Christ, a Resurrection Experience.

In the Fourth Week of the Spiritual Exercises Ignatius invites us to reflect prayerfully on the Mystery of Easter.

The Resurrection of Jesus. *Resurrexit ! He is Risen !*

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

It became customary to begin with the prayer

Anima Christi.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me.

Within your wounds hide me.

Do not allow me to be separated from you.

From the malevolent enemy defend me.

In the hour of my death call me,

and bid me come to you,

that with your saints I may praise you

forever and ever. Amen.

(Translation by George E. Ganss, SJ)

In the Easter period different appearances of the Risen Jesus are recorded. The continuity of Jesus the Christ into history through the Resurrection touches us all. We become involved in His soul, His bodily

anguish and His spirited graciousness. The words of St Paul point towards the existential nature of our faith : ***“For me, living is Christ”*** [Philippians 1.21] Elsewhere St Paul affirms this ***“It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.”*** [Gal.2.20]



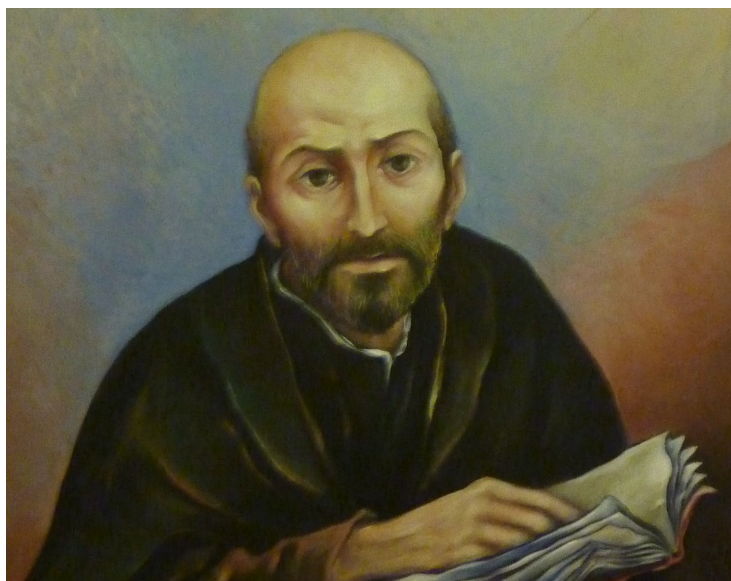
On the Road to Damascus Saul the persecutor of the early Christians fell from his horse and then he experienced the Risen Christ whose challenge resulted in a profound conversion. Saul the Persecutor became, through his experience of the Risen Christ, Paul the first great missionary to the nations.

Resurrexit! He is risen! This proclamation, the Good News, brings new life in the Risen Christ to those who in faith receive the grace of Baptism. In his ***Autobiography*** Ignatius records the stages of his own conversion to 'New Life in Christ'. The worldly, vain-glorious, proud and ambitious gentleman-at-arms became a humble disciple of Christ. What had begun in Baptism had been nurtured, cherished and revived after the impact of the life-changing injuries at Pamplona in May 1521. During his convalescence at Loyola through reading a Life of Christ, the Lives of the

Saints, and the graces of prayer Inigo Lopez became. Known as Ignatius of Loyola a great Pilgrim and Missionary for Christ..

In The Spiritual Exercises we walk with Ignatius in the Pilgrim Journey of Faith sharing in his hard-won spiritual insights and the gracious generosity of God.

The Spiritual Exercises presuppose a period of thirty-one days, four weeks of prayerful exercises in which an Ignatian guide accompanies a person making a Retreat.



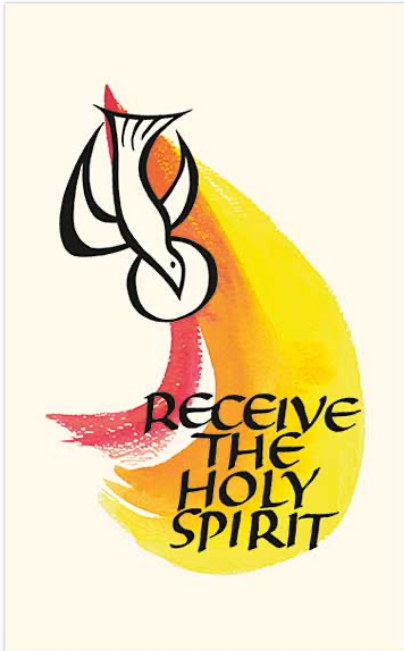
In our daily life we are able draw on the spiritual resources of the Ignatian Way to deepen our own understanding of God's way with us.

We are on a Pilgrim Journey and Jesus walks with us. As Pope St John Paul said, "***We are an Easter people and 'alleluia' is our song,***"

In the Easter period Ignatius sets out his meditations under thirteen Apparitions, appearances of the Risen Lord. We have reflected on the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh of the Apparitions .

We recall that on the evening of the first Easter Day the disciples, without Thomas, were sheltering behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. The Risen Jesus appears to them with the greeting "***Peace be with you.***" Displaying his wounds the disciples

are overjoyed as they realise it is Jesus. ***“On seeing the Lord the disciples were overjoyed”***. Again, Jesus says ***“Peace be with you.”*** Then, breathing on them, He said ***“Receive the Holy Spirit”***, and gave them the authority to forgive sins.



Ignatius makes three points for our consideration.
First point – The disciples, except for Thomas were gathered together, for ‘Fear of the Jews’”
Second point – Jesus appeared to them, the doors being closed, and standing in their midst said, ‘Peace be with you’.

Third point – He gives them the Holy Spirit saying to them: “Receive the Holy Spirit; Whose sins you shall forgive they shall be forgiven them, and whose sins you shall retain, they are

retained.”

THE EIGHTH APPARITION : [John 21 ;1-27]

First point - Jesus manifested Himself to seven of his disciples who were fishing. They had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. At His command they cast forth the net and now they were unable to draw it up for the great number of fishes.

Second point – John recognised Him by this miracle, and said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” Peter cast himself into the sea and came to Christ.

Third Point – He gave them part of a broiled fish and bread to eat. After He had questioned Peter three times on his love for Him, He commended His sheep to him, saying “feed my sheep”.



POINTS TO PONDER :

- Jesus has gone back to Galilee, now He meets them where they are at the Lake, getting on with their work. They had reverted to their employment before they had been called by Jesus to be '*fishers of men*'. Having caught nothing all night they do as He says. The net was very full, yet it remained intact. Whether we are at home , at recreation or at work Jesus finds us where we are. He is always an attractive teacher beckoning us towards Him by generosity – sheer gracious concern for our good.
- Just as in the Gospel story his present-day disciples, now as then, eat with Him. He is the Host at every Mass- He feeds us with Himself {*Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour / ICTHUS the Greek for 'Fish'*} The Fish Symbol was found engraved in the walls of the earliest Christian assemblies in Rome, in the subterranean catacombs. Jesus in the Resurrection shows Himself to be "ICTHYS". Reverence for Jesus in the Holy Sacrament of the altar brings us together into our Common Life calling us to devotion and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.



The Ninth Apparition [Matt.28: 16-20]



Ignatius invites us to reflect:

First Point – At the command of the Lord, the disciples went to Mount Tabor.

Second Point – Christ appeared to them, and said : “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Third Point – He sent them to preach throughout the world, saying: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”



Points to ponder :

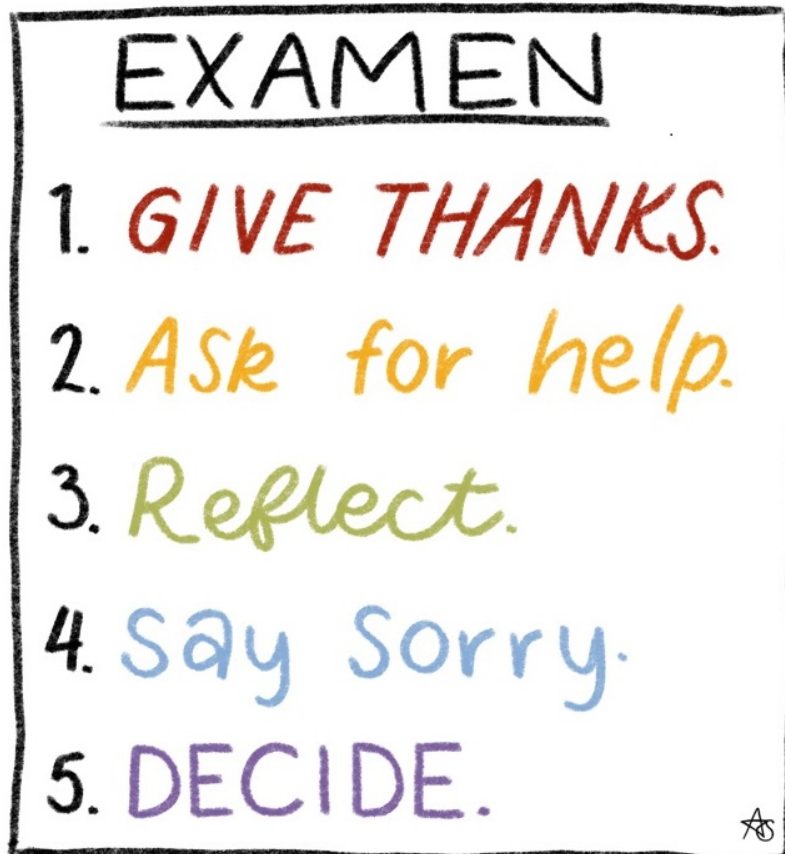
- In the Resurrection period, after the first Easter Day, Jesus is dynamic : He comes and goes and takes people with Him in understanding the New Life. The disciples were told to leave behind the circumstances of Jerusalem and go to Galilee where Jesus would meet them. 'Trust' is the keynote here – the disciples are attracted by the power and teaching of Jesus and they are willing to be led and be persuaded by Him. We learn to trust and be prepared to go out of ourselves to seek Jesus. Whoever seeks finds!
- The creative energy of Divine Life empowers Jesus in every aspect of His being. He is generous with this power – it is creative and transformative : it heals, it encourages, it raises-up, it reconciles. God-is-in-Christ, reconciling the world to Himself. In our world of time, in the here and now, He has no hands but our hands to embrace the world.
- All nations, everywhere, here, there and always! That is the task of the Great Commission : to bring about a New World in which people everywhere are brought by the power of the Gospel to Baptism. Being Baptised in the Three-fold Divine Name, The Most Holy Trinity, leads to the imperative and challenge. In Baptism we are raised up into the New Life of the Risen Christ. We are anointed as Prophets, Priests and Kings – to hear the Gospel and to proclaim it by what we say and what we do. The task of the Church is, by Baptism, to bring the whole world to a knowledge of God's Saving Power. It is nothing less than a New Creation, the Life of the Resurrection. We are in the vanguard of this : ***"We are an Easter People and 'Alleluia' is our Song"***. How are we doing?



THE EXAMINATION OF OUR LIVES [THE EXAMEN]

Daily Examen:

Looking with quiet sincerity and simplicity of heart at the day



GETTING READY FOR THE GIFT OF SCRIPTURE

We place ourselves in the presence of God.

- We ask the Holy Spirit to settle our minds and open our hearts.
- ***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of Thy love. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.***
- Our conversation with God begins as we express our gratitude for our blessings and by expressing our sorrow for personal sin.
- We ask that The Holy Spirit may enliven our reading and understanding.

***Come, Holy Spirit, our souls inspire
and lighten with celestial fire;***

That our hearts may burn within us as the words of scripture take shape in our imaginative prayer.

- We place ourselves into the scene of the Scripture : what we see, what we hear, what it feels like, what we smell, what we might taste.
- Reading silently or aloud we form the words as they take shape in our creative imagination

Passage for Spiritual Reflection : St Mark 6. 7-13 [RSV]

The Mission of the Twelve

⁷ And Jesus called to him the twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He

charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;⁹ but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics.¹⁰ And he said to them, "Where you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place.¹¹ And if any place will not receive you and they refuse to hear you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet for a testimony against them."¹² So they went out and preached that men should repent.¹³ And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.



Points for Consideration :

- Those who are called are sent out : the missionary imperative is at the heart of being with Jesus. Two by two gives support and encouragement. Do we have missionary companions?
- Authority is given to every baptised Christian : recall the anointing as Prophet, Priest and King ; recall the prayer over the ears and lips that we will hear and in hearing respond by what we say.
- Keeping things simple is at the heart of Mission.
- 'Repentance', turning lives around is at the heart of the Ignatian exercises. We either follow the King or the Adversary. We turn away

from all that is evil, corrosive and destructive and turn to all that is good, encouraging and life-enhancing. Where are our "hearts"?

- Overcoming 'evil' is our everyday task.
- The Healing Ministry of the Sick : The Church has long been innovative, establishing hospitals, hospices and communities to care for addictions. There is a need to support these initiatives and to encourage visiting of the sick, the lonely and the housebound.

A Period of Silence in which we pray with St Ignatius, talking conversationally to the Lord Jesus, thanking Him for being 'Our Daily Bread'

"The Suscipe"

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.

"For those who love, nothing is too difficult, especially when it is done for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Ignatius Loyola

The Lord's Prayer



Jesus Mercy, Mary Pray

Praise God Always