

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

FIFTH REFLECTION : THE WAY TO MONTSERRAT



Montserrat : The serrated, 'saw-tooth', mountain above Barcelona, on which is built a Benedictine Abbey, (since the eleventh century) and the Shrine of the Black Madonna.

Context : After the encounter with the Moor, Ignatius' offensive spirit was held in check by his letting-go of the controlling reins of his mule. By letting-go of his anger, the grace of the hidden hand of God averted the murder of the Moor. The mule took Ignatius forward on the road to Montserrat. Passing Saragossa, the Pilgrim made a stop at a town, probably Igualada, [known for manufacturing cloth]. In the Autobiography Ignatius tells us : *"he there wanted to purchase the clothes he intended to wear when he went to Jerusalem. He bought some sack-cloth- it was loose weave and bristly to the touch-and asked them to make it into a long garment that would go down to his feet. He also bought himself a pilgrim's staff and a small hollow gourd and attached everything to the saddle atop his mule".* So now appropriately equipped to be a pilgrim he set out for Montserrat. This had been a considerable journey involving being on the road for about twenty days: since leaving Loyola, via Aranazazu, then Igualada to Montserrat he and his mule covered about three hundred and fifty miles.

On 21 March 1522 mule and Pilgrim began the long climb up the twisting road to the Abbey. Ignatius now began to think about preparing himself for the Feast of the Annunciation on the 25 March. He would prepare his confession and arrange for a Vigil by the altar of Our Lady of Montserrat when he would make the change from being a gentleman-at arms to a Pilgrim-Soldier for Christ.

A Prayer of St Ignatius

*Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to seek reward,
except that of knowing that I do your will.*

Amen.

Examen : It has been quite a journey, travelling with this ‘converted’, yet volatile personality. Crippled yet ardent, perplexed yet persistent, devoted yet damaged, consoled yet quick to take offence, Ignatius the Pilgrim is making strenuous efforts to consecrate his life, conforming it to that of Jesus Christ with the aid of Our Lady, Mary. It is salutary to review our own efforts as we make our own journey, thinking with Ignatius, seeing in his difficulties any pointers to ourselves. God is there in all things, times and places- we seek the graces to see Him where He is in our own everyday lives.



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

An Ignatian Offering of Life

Suscipe - a prayer of radical, self-less offering of every aspect of ourselves

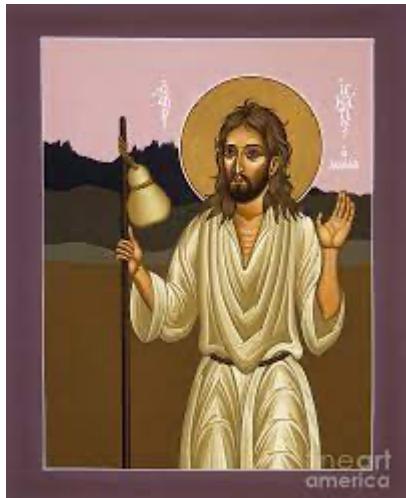
All I have and call my own.

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: Colossians 3.12

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

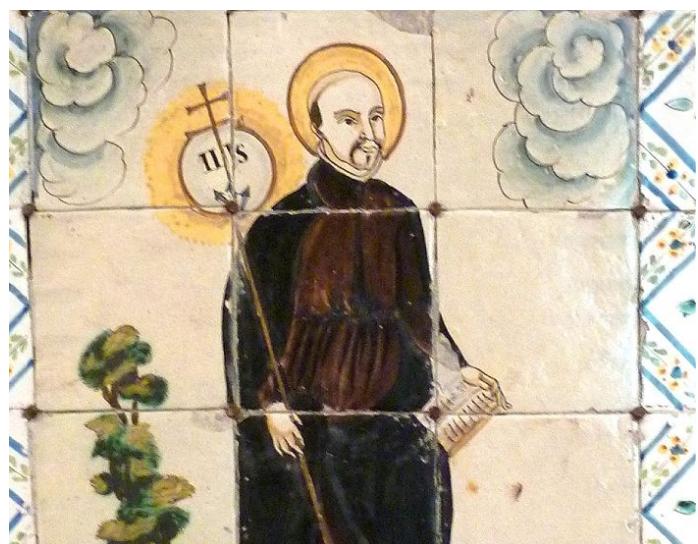
Ignatius bought new clothes : in putting away the robes and garments of nobility and privilege he sought new garments to emphasise his understanding and commitment to a conversion of life. St Paul gives us all some 'dress sense'.

A Period of Silence in which we pray with St Ignatius seeking understanding and insight.



Jesu, I trust in You

Jesus Mercy, Mary Pray



The Lord's Prayer

Praise God Always !