

**Saint Joseph's, Saint Anne's & Holy Family And Saint Patrick's
3rd December 2023, First Sunday of Advent, Year B**

Served By The Discalced Carmelites

Parish Priest: Fr. Louis Aroon OCD email: louisaroon2015@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: Fr. Ligori Alexander OCD email: ligorialex@gmail.com

Tel: 0191 534 2346

Sr. Alphonsus (Parish Sister at St. Patrick's, Ryhope)

Tel: 0191 521 0340

Rev. Bernard Finan SDS (Retired and resident priest at St. Patrick's)

Sunday Mass Readings for December 3 2023: First Sunday of Advent, Year B - Lectionary: 2

Sunday Mass Readings for 3 rd December 2023, First Sunday of Advent, Year B	
1st Reading	Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Alleluia	Psalms 85:8
Gospel	Mark 13:33-37

1st Reading - Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

16B You are our Father, O Lord our Redeemer. Your name is beyond all ages.

17 Why have you allowed us to stray from your ways, O Lord? Why have you hardened our heart, so that we do not fear you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.

19B Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.

2 They would melt, as if thoroughly burned by fire. The waters would burn with fire, so that your name might be made known to your enemies, so that the nations would be stirred up before your face.

3 From ages past, they have not heard it, and they have not perceived it with the ears. Apart from you, O God, the eye has not seen what you have prepared for those who await you.

4 You have met with those who rejoice in doing justice. By your ways, they will remember you. Behold, you have been angry, for we have sinned. In this, we have continued, but we will be saved.

5 And we have all become like the unclean. And all our justices are like a rag of menstruation. And we have all fallen away, like a leaf. And our iniquities have carried us away, like the wind.

6 There is no one who calls upon your name, who rises up and holds fast to you. You have concealed your face from us, and you have crushed us with the hand of our own iniquity.

7 And now, O Lord, you are our Father, yet truly, we are clay. And you are our Maker, and we are all the works of your hands.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. (4) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

2 O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.

3 Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

15 Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine,

16 and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

18 May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

19 Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters:

3 Grace to you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you, for the grace of God that is given you in Christ Jesus,

5 That in all things you are made rich in him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

6 As the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you,

7 So that nothing is wanting to you in any grace, waiting for the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

8 Who also will confirm you unto the end without crime, in the day of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 God is faithful: by whom you are called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia - Psalms 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

8 Show us Lord, your love;

and grant us your salvation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel - Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

33 "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.

34 It is like a man travelling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.

35 Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

36 May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.

37 What I say to you, I say to all: "Watch!"

St Francis Xavier Biography



St Francis Xavier - Feast Day - December 3 2023

Date of Birth	7 th April 1506
Place of Birth	Xavier, Navarre, Spain
Profession	Catholic missionary and co-founder of the Society of Jesus
Place of Work	Belgium
Date of Death	3 rd December 1552
Place of Death	Shangchuan Island, China
Feast Day	December 3 rd
Beatification	By Pope Paul V on October 25 th 1619 in Rome, Papal States

Canonization	By Pope Gregory XV on March 12 1622 in Rome, Papal States
Patron Saint of	Catholic missions African missions Goa, India China Missionaries

St Francis Xavier's Life History

St. Francis Xavier was born on April 7, 1506, at the Xavier (Javier) family castle near Sangüesa, Navarre, Spain, where the native language spoken was Basque.

He is renowned as one of the most significant Roman Catholic missionaries of modern times, playing a pivotal role in the spread of Christianity in India, the Malay Archipelago, and Japan.

He was the third son of the president of the council of the king of Navarre, and Francis spent his formative years in Xavier, receiving his early education there.

As was commonly the practice for younger sons of the nobility, he was destined for a career in the church. In 1525, at the age of 19, he embarked on a journey to the University of Paris, specifically to the Collège de Sainte-Barbe, which was the theological hub of Europe, to initiate his studies.

In 1529, Ignatius of Loyola, also a Basque student, was assigned to share a room with Francis.

Ignatius, a former soldier who was 15 years older than Francis, had experienced a profound religious conversion and was in the process of gathering a group of like-minded men who shared his ideals.

Gradually, Ignatius managed to win over Francis, who initially hesitated, and Francis became one of the seven individuals (others included Peter Faber, James Lainez, Alfonso Salmerón, Nicholas Bobadilla, and Simón Rodrigues) who, in a chapel on Montmartre in Paris on August 15, 1534, made solemn vows to live lives of poverty and celibacy in emulation of Christ.

They also promised to undertake a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and devote themselves to the salvation of believers and non-believers alike. Subsequently, Francis underwent the Spiritual Exercises, a series of meditations lasting about 30 days, which had been devised by Ignatius based on his own conversion experience. These exercises instilled in Francis the motivation that guided him for the rest of his life and paved the way for his recurring mystical experiences.

Once all the members of this group had completed their studies, they reassembled in Venice. There, on June 24, 1537, Francis was ordained as a priest. Despite their year-long efforts to secure passage to the Holy Land, they were unsuccessful. In the spring of 1539, the group, now including new recruits, traveled to Rome to prepare for the formal establishment of the Society of Jesus in 1540. In the meantime, due to their preaching and care for the sick in central Italy, they gained immense popularity, and several Catholic princes sought their services. King John III of Portugal was among these, as he sought dedicated priests to minister to Christians and spread the faith in his newly acquired Asian territories.

When one of the originally chosen individuals for this task fell ill and could not go, Ignatius appointed Francis as his replacement. On the following day, March 15, 1540, Francis left Rome for the Indies, starting with a journey to Lisbon. In the autumn of the same year, Pope Paul III officially recognized the followers of Ignatius as a religious order, naming them the Society of Jesus. On May 6, 1542, Francis arrived in Goa, which was the hub of Portuguese activities in the East. His companion had stayed back in Lisbon to carry out work there. Over the following three years, a significant portion of his time was spent along the south-eastern coast of India, where he lived among the humble and impoverished pearl fishers known as the Paravas. Approximately seven years earlier, around 20,000

of them had converted to Christianity, primarily to gain Portuguese assistance against their adversaries. However, since their conversion, they had been somewhat neglected. Francis, armed with a small catechism he had translated into the local Tamil language with the help of interpreters, embarked on a tireless journey from village to village, providing instruction and reaffirming their faith.

His evident kindness and the strength of his conviction transcended the challenges of language barriers.

Shortly thereafter, the Macuans residing on the south-western coast expressed their desire for baptism. After providing brief instructions, Francis baptized 10,000 of them in the final months of 1544.

He had the foresight that the schools he intended to establish, along with the influence of Portuguese authorities, would help ensure the steadfastness of their faith.

During the autumn of 1545, he became aware of promising opportunities for spreading Christianity in the Malay Archipelago. After dedicating several months to evangelizing within the diverse population of the Portuguese trading hub in Malacca (now Melaka, Malaysia), he ventured further to establish missions among both the Malays and the indigenous headhunters in the Spice Islands, also known as the Moluccas. In 1548, he returned to India, where additional Jesuits had arrived to join him. In Goa, the College of Holy Faith, established several years earlier, was entrusted to the Jesuits, and Francis initiated its transformation into a center for the education of indigenous priests and catechists serving the vast diocese of Goa. This diocese spanned from the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa to China. Francis's attention had now shifted towards Japan, a land that had been reached by Europeans only five years prior. Conversations in Malacca with Anjirō, a Japanese man deeply interested in Christianity, had revealed the cultured and sophisticated nature of these people.

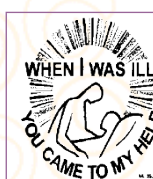
On 15th August, 1549, a Portuguese ship carrying Francis, the newly baptized Anjirō, and several companions arrived at the Japanese port of Kagoshima. His initial letter from Japan, which would be printed more than 30 times before the century's end, reflected his enthusiasm for the Japanese, whom he described as "the best people yet encountered." Francis recognized the need to adapt his methods, as his poverty, which had endeared him to the Paravas and Malays, often discouraged the Japanese. So, he was willing to abandon his simple lifestyle for a more deliberate display when the situation demanded it. In late 1551, with no correspondence received since his arrival in Japan, Francis decided to temporarily return to India, leaving about 2,000 Christians in five communities under the care of his companions. Upon his return to India, administrative responsibilities awaited him as the head of the newly established Jesuit Province of the Indies. Over time, he came to understand that the path to converting Japan passed through China, as the Japanese looked to the Chinese for wisdom. However, he never reached China. On December 3rd, 1552, Francis died of fever on the island of Sancian (Shangchuan, off the Chinese coast) as he attempted to gain entry to a country that was then closed to foreigners.

St. Francis Xavier faced language barriers wherever he worked. He is rightfully acknowledged for his belief that missionaries should adapt to the customs and language of the people they seek to evangelize. He also advocated for the training of native clergy.

He provided ongoing pastoral care for the communities he established. Most of the regions in India where he carried out his mission have maintained a Catholic presence to this day. The missions he founded in the Moluccas and Japan ultimately succumbed to prolonged persecution and martyrdom in the 17th century.

Catholic Sunday Mass Readings Homily - 3rd December 2023, First Sunday of Advent, Year B
3rd December 2023 Sunday Mass Readings Homily Theme: The Coming of Jesus - Luke 12:39-48, Matthew 24:42-51, Mark 13:33-37

Sick Of the Parish:



Please pray for all the Sick in our three Parishes "My Payers and Good Wishes to All."

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