

## Reflection Tuesday Week 12 St Aloysius Gonzaga 2022

St Aloysius (b. 1568) was the eldest son of a Mantuan nobleman, who wanted him to be a soldier. Aloysius, however, was determined to be a missionary and ready to die for his faith. He renounced his birth-right in favour of his brother and at 16 became a Jesuit novice in Rome, living the same life of severe austerity and penance he had followed when serving in the courts of dukes and princes. In 1591 an epidemic of plague broke out in Rome, and the Jesuits opened a hospital to care for the sick. Aloysius, still a novice, worked hard in the hospital until he himself caught the plague. He did not recover. His determination to die for the faith was fulfilled. He died at midnight on the 20<sup>th</sup> June with the name of Jesus on his lips.

### Let Saint Aloysius Gonzaga speak:

*"All evangelical perfection is attained by the continual exercise of prayer".*

*"He who truly desires to love God loves only with an ardent and constant desire to suffer for His sake."*

*"In the twilight of our life, we shall be judged according to love."*

*"He who is not a man of prayer will never attain to a great act of holiness, nor will he ever triumph over himself."*

### Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you for giving us St. Aloysius Gonzaga as an example of holiness. Help us imitate the love of you that he showed throughout his life, beginning in his youth. While recovering from illness, he turned his attention to prayer and study of the saints and grew in devotion to you.

Lord, help me always to seek to serve you in my life like St Aloysius. Help me do all that I can to serve God in whatever ways God desires. Amen.