

Reflection Saturday 1st Week Advent St Francis Xavier 2022

He was born in the Basque country of Spain in 1506. He met Ignatius Loyola while studying in Paris and was ordained priest in 1537. In 1541 the Pope sent him on a mission to India, and he spent the rest of his life in the East, preaching the Gospel in Goa and Malacca. He made many converts and fought against the exploitation of the native population by the Europeans. He spent two years on a successful mission to Japan, laying the foundations of many Christian communities. In 1552, after entering China secretly to preach the Gospel there, he died of fever and exhaustion on the Chinese island of Shangchwan.

Let him speak to you in his own words:

- *Those who love God are happy and blessed. They do as our Lord himself tells us in the Gospel: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, . . . and thy neighbour as thyself.*
- *Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make them Christians.*
- *Tell the students to give up their small ambitions and come eastward to preach the gospel of Christ.*
- *It is impossible to find a saint who did not take the two Ps seriously: Prayer and Penance.*
- *It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards a person's progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the **spirit of faith** with which it is undertaken.*
- *Speak to them of the great mercy of God... Sometimes people are helped by your telling of your lamentable past.*
- *In you O Lord I have put my trust, let me never be confounded.*