

Reflections Friday 2nd Week Advent 2022

Today we also celebrate the feast of **Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin** born about 1474 in Cuauhtitlan in the kingdom of Texcoco, Mexico. As an adult he embraced Christianity and he and his wife were baptized. In 1531 the Mother of God appeared to him, on the hill called Tepeyac near Mexico City, and told him to ask the bishop to build a church on the spot. Through the purity of his faith, his humility and his fervour, a church was built in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe (celebrated on 12th December). He left everything and devoted himself to the care of the sanctuary and the reception of pilgrims until his death in 1548.

One of the great challenges we face is trying to fit God into our image of him. However good that may be and however open we are, God can come to us in ways we least expect. For Juan Diego God came to him through Mary and he responded openly and lovingly, and helped bring about the conversion of his country to Christ.

St Augustine created a form of evening prayer that included a reflection on the good and positive elements of the day for which to thank and praise God. This will help finish the day on a positive note and open us to the different ways in which we encounter God. It also opens us to the goodness within ourselves and in others that otherwise would go unnoticed.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity, that our praise and thanksgiving might echo throughout our daily lives. Draw us together in mission, that the hope and thanksgiving within might be the song we sing and the melody of our lives. Draw us together in service and thanksgiving that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity.

What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born? They had a weigh in a manger!