

## Reflection Monday Week 17 St Ignatius Loyola 2023

Ignatius (or Iñigo) was born in Loyola (1491-1556) Spain. He was a soldier who was wounded in the battle of Pamplona aged 30. During a long convalescence he read a life of Christ and various lives of the saints, discovering that his true vocation was to devote his life wholly to God. He spent a year's retreat in a Dominican friary, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and set about learning Latin. Such enthusiasm in a layman caused grave suspicion in the Spanish authorities, and he was questioned and imprisoned more than once. Moving to Paris in 1528, he continued his studies. In 1534 Ignatius and six companions bound themselves to become missionaries to the Muslims in Palestine. However, war made the journey impossible and so the group (now 10) offered their services to the Pope in any capacity he chose. A number were ordained then all were given various assignments. In 1540 the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) was formed. Ignatius was the first Superior General remaining until his death. Soon after their foundation the Jesuits faced the challenge of the Reformation: a tough task, the Church being unable to respond. Ignatius accepted the *task "without hard words or contempt for people's errors"*. Ignatius inspired friendship and possessed deep spiritual insight. Ignatius wrote the Spiritual Exercises, a systematic step-by-step retreat open to everyone even non-Catholics.

### Quotes:

- He who carries God in his heart bears Heaven with him wherever he goes.
- Pray as if God will take care of all; act as if all is up to you.
- All the things in this world are gifts of God, created for us, to be the means by which we can come to know him better, love him more surely, and serve him more faithfully.
- My God, teach me to be generous,  
to serve you as you deserve to be served,  
to give without counting the cost,  
to fight without fear of being wounded,  
to work without seeking rest,  
and to spend myself without expecting any reward  
but the knowledge that I am doing your holy will. Amen.