

Reflection Saturday 1st Week Advent - St Juan Diego 2023

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin was born about 1474 in Cuauhtitlan, the kingdom of Texcoco, part of present-day 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 have a church built 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.

Happy are those who hope in the Lord. St Juan Diego certainly placed all his hope in God just as Mary did at the Annunciation. Mary inspired Juan throughout the whole of his life. Let us ask Mary to accompany us through this Advent season so that we become more open to the presence of God in us and around us and be inspired and challenged by that presence. We have the encouraging words of Isaiah today to help and reassure us of the desire of God to help and support us so that we may become ever more faithful and true followers of Jesus.