

21 June

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

Memorial

Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-1591) was born at Castiglione, Italy. He joined the novitiate in Rome when he was not yet eighteen, and gave himself with single-mindedness of purpose to achieve the ideals expressed in the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola, displaying a remarkable toughness of character. In 1591, during his philosophical studies in Rome, an epidemic of the plague broke out. Together with other Jesuits, Gonzaga committed himself unreservedly to helping the most wretched and repulsive plague victims. Consequently, he contracted the disease himself and succumbed to it, a true “martyr of charity”. Aloysius has been declared the Patron Saint of Youth.

As in the Roman Missal, except for the Proper Preface.

Entrance Antiphon (RM)

Cf. Ps 24 (23): 4, 3

The clean of hands and pure of heart
shall climb the mountain of the Lord
and stand in his holy place.

Collect (RM)

**O God, giver of heavenly gifts,
who in Saint Aloysius Gonzaga
joined penitence to a wonderful innocence of life,
grant, through his merits and intercession,
that, though we have failed to follow him in innocence,
we may imitate him in penitence.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

Prayer over the Offerings (RM)

**Grant us, O Lord,
that by the example of Saint Aloysius,
we may take our place at the heavenly banquet,
clothed always in our wedding garment,
so that, by participation in this mystery,
we may possess the riches of your grace.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Preface: The life of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, dedicated totally to God

V/. The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

V/. Lift up your hearts.

R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. It is right and just.

**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.**

**For in Saint Aloysius,
poor in spirit and ever exulting at the designs of your heart,
you gave us a wonderful example of your love:
when as a youth
he renounced vain honours and earthly goods
you clothed him with perfect innocence and,
while he pursued the way of penance,
you made him poor to serve you,
for so great was his love, that he had dedicated all to you.**

**And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints,
we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim:**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...

Communion Antiphon (RM)

Ps 78 (77): 24-25

God gave them bread from heaven;
man ate the bread of Angels.

Prayer after Communion (RM)

**Bring us, who have been fed
with the food of Angels, O Lord,
to serve you in purity of life,
and, following the example of Saint Aloysius,
whom we honour today,
may we persevere in constant thanksgiving.
Through Christ our Lord.**