

3 December

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

Feast

Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was born in Navarre, Spain. At the University of Paris he came under the influence of Ignatius of Loyola, and became one of the first nine companions to found the Society of Jesus. As well, he became the first Jesuit missionary, arriving in Goa in 1542, and working on the southeast coast of India. In 1546 he sailed to Malacca, and in 1549, he sailed to Japan. After three years of missionary activity, in 1552 he was back in Goa. He made thousands of converts wherever he went. In April that year he sailed for China, but landed on the lonely island of Sancian in September, in the bay of Canton, off the south coast of China, where he died on 3 December 1552. His incorrupt remains were taken first to Malacca, then to Goa. He is universal Patron Saint of Missions, and Patron Saint of India.

Entrance Antiphon (RM)

Jer 1: 7b-8

To whomever I send you, you shall go;
whatever I command you, you shall speak.
Have no fear before them,
because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

Collect

**O compassionate and merciful Lord,
who opened a door to Asia
for Saint Francis Xavier to preach the Gospel,
send us even to the ends of the earth
that we may bring to its fullness
the joy of the Church, our Mother.
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

**Take, Lord, receive the gifts we offer you,
and set our hearts on fire
with the apostolic zeal
that sustained Saint Francis in proclaiming your Gospel.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Preface: Saint Francis Xavier, fervent messenger of the Gospel

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.**

**For you called Saint Francis,
a son of the emerging Society of Jesus,
and set his heart on fire
with love for you and zeal for souls,
so that, heedless of danger, hardship, and labour,
he would undertake countless journeys,
would proclaim the Gospel to many peoples,
and, by initiating them into the saving mysteries,
would join them to your holy people
through Christ our Lord.**

**Through him the Angels praise your majesty,
Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you.
Heaven and the Virtues of heaven
and the blessed Seraphim
worship together with exultation.
May our voices, we pray, join with theirs
in humble praise, as we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...**

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jer 20: 7-9b

You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped.
But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
I grow weary holding it in,
I cannot endure it.

Prayer after Communion

**Lord Jesus Christ,
who, by your blood, have purchased us for God
from every tribe and tongue,
from every people and nation,
we humbly pray on this feast of Saint Francis
that all be gathered together
at the great banquet in your Father's Kingdom,
the Kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.**

A formula of Solemn Blessing may be used on the feast of Saint Francis Xavier

**May God our Father,
who has gathered us together
to celebrate the feast day of Saint Francis,
sanctify and protect you,
and confirm you in his peace.**

R/. Amen.

**May Christ the Lord,
who in Saint Francis
revealed the renewing power of Easter,
make you authentic witnesses of his Gospel.**

R/. Amen.

**May the Holy Spirit,
who in Saint Francis
gave a sign of fraternal charity,
make you artisans of full communion in the Church.**

R/. Amen.

**And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.**

R/. Amen.