



Jesuit Jubilee Year 2006



A year of services and special events to mark the 450th anniversary of the death of St Ignatius Loyola, 500 years since the birth of St Francis Xavier and Blessed Pierre Favre, and the 400th anniversary of the martyrdom of St Nicholas Owen, Blessed Ralph Ashley, Blessed Edward Oldcorne, and Fr Henry Garnet SJ

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St Francis Xavier

Francis Xavier was born on 7 April 1506, and after meeting Ignatius Loyola and Pierre Favre in Paris, he became one of the seven men who took vows at Montmatre in 1534 that led to the founding of the Society of Jesus. After working among the poor in Italy, he sailed for the Far East in 1541. For the next 14 years, Francis brought the Gospel to India, Japan and other parts of Asia, and is recognised as the greatest Christian missionary since St Paul. He died on the island of Sancian near China on 2 December 1556.

A NOVENA OF GRACE is a nine-day period of prayer and special devotions associated with St Francis Xavier during which participants pray for special intentions.

Jesuit centres throughout the Province will be taking part in a **Novena of Grace** from 4—12 March 2006. Parishioners in Glasgow, Liverpool, Southall and Preston will be joined by the local bishops. A pack including homily notes, a poster and the Novena Prayer is available from 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH; commsofficer@gsbj.org



Blessed Edward Oldcorne SJ being tortured in the Tower of London

Following the plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament that was foiled on 5 November 1605, Catholics were pursued and accused of being accomplices. Among them were Fr Edward Oldcorne SJ and Brother Ralph Ashley SJ. They were arrested in Worcester, tortured in the Tower of London, and eventually executed on 7 April 1606.

Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Birmingham will celebrate Mass at **Blessed Edward Oldcorne School** in Worcester, on Friday 7 April 2006—the 400th anniversary of their martyrdom. More details from the school: 01905 352615



Blessed Pierre Favre

The Society of Jesus is holding an international celebration on Saturday, 22 April 2006, the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Society.

In London, Mass will be celebrated at 2pm at Farm Street Church, to mark the anniversaries of SS Ignatius Loyola and Francis Xavier, and Blessed Pierre Favre.

Pierre Favre (1506-46) is another of the original companions who helped to form the Society of Jesus. He was an effective preacher and giver of the Spiritual Exercises, working in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Germany. He was instrumental in establishing the Society of Jesus in Portugal, and was appointed by Pope Paul III to be one of the papal theologians at the Council of Trent.

Staff and pupils from Jesuit schools in Britain are currently planning a cycle-ride from St Aloysius' College, Glasgow, to Farm Street, via other schools on the way. They plan to arrive in time for the Mass in London on **22 April**. At the same time, staff, pupils and their families are hoping to attend the papal celebrations for the Anniversary Year, by making a **Pilgrimage to Rome**. More information from deputy-headmaster@stonyhurst.ac.uk It is also hoped that two concerts will be held in November 2006—one in Glasgow, the other in London—in which Jesuit schools from throughout Britain will bring together music that they have been rehearsing separately. More details to follow.

In 1605, Ralph Ashley, Henry Garnet, Edward Oldcorne and Nicholas Owen made a pilgrimage to the well of St Winefride in North Wales. The following year, these four Jesuits died for the faith. You are invited to retrace their steps to Holywell, to mark the 400th anniversary of their martyrdom.

The Holywell Pilgrimage: Saturday, 20 May 2006.

Mass is provisionally at noon, followed by a procession to the Well and devotions. There will be a small charge. Further details from 0151 298 1911.

Iñigo Lopez de Loyola—subsequently known as **Ignatius** (of) **Loyola**—was born in 1491, and was a soldier until he was 30 years old. After being injured, he found himself contemplating spiritual matters more, and after a period of reflection in the caves of northern Spain, developed his Spiritual Exercises. While studying for the priesthood in Paris, he met Francis Xavier and Pierre Favre, and the foundations of the Society of Jesus were laid. St Ignatius Loyola died on 31 July 1556.

St Ignatius Day Mass will be celebrated at Farm Street Church in London, and St Wilfrid's Church in Preston, on the evening of Monday, 31 July 2006. Jesuit alumni will be particularly welcome at these occasions.

The Jesuit anniversaries will figure in several other events during 2006, including the Theology Conference at Ushaw during Easter Week, and the ordinations to the priesthood on Saturday, 22 July.

Saturday, 2 December 2006: The Jesuits—the future missions and inter-religious dialogue. A Conference at Heythrop College, London



St Winefride's Well in North Wales



St Ignatius Loyola



For the most up-to-date information about the events mentioned in this leaflet and others, visit the British Jesuits web site: www.jesuit.org.uk

The 2006 Organising Committee

Alan Harrison (Chair), Bernard Parkin, Ged Clapson, Tom McCoog,
Peter Scally, James Conway, Ken Vance and Nick Austin.