



An invitation to take time to join in spirit with many others in
Personal Prayer.

In October we are asked to pray for young people and their vocations.



Stained glass at Loyola Hall Liverpool

Called and Chosen

Catholic Schools' Week
in our diocese
9th -15th Oct
see the NORES website
nores.org.uk

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, born 1491 died 1556

Venerable Mary Ward, born 1585 died 1645

St. Ignatius was a bright young man who loved the latest fashion and gossip at the court of Castile in Spain. He enjoyed drinking and socialising with the other knights until he was seriously injured in a battle. Whilst convalescing at his sister's he read the lives of the saints and found a fresh challenge in the service of our Lord. At first he had no clear idea of what the outcome of this calling would be or the Congregation of Jesuits he would later form. Gradually he found a deep peace in his heart by seeking to focus each day on orienting his desires and choices to the will of God. For Ignatius this went far beyond the duty of obedience to a total giving of himself to the service and glory of God and acceptance at all times of the love and grace of God.

The Ven. Mary Ward from Yorkshire never met St. Ignatius but admired his spiritual life and writings. She felt strongly called to establish schools for girls where they could receive quality education. She met with very strong opposition from both the church and the state but persisted in listening to the desire within her to follow God's call.

XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops 3rd-28th Oct.

Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment



Following the guidance of St. Ignatius, my preparatory prayer will be to ask for the grace that all my thoughts, words and actions, what I have done and what I hope to do, may be directed to the greater service and glory of God.

This month as we are asked to set aside a regular time for prayer and if possible to do this at the beginning of the day. We might ask for God's grace as we briefly look at the working day ahead and then in a general way spend time offering it to God.

We can ask for God's grace to have the basic attitude that all the actions and decisions of the coming day will be oriented to giving glory and service to God. This is not the same as asking God to support our plans with a smooth running day but asking for the grace to live a life focused not on our own achievements but one that leads to greater communion with God and which resonates in the deep peace of the heart.

