

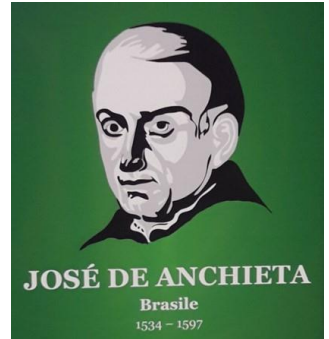


Diocese of Westminster

AGENCY FOR EVANGELISATION  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

## 'Learn From Me'

### Reflecting on the Lives of Saints and Blesseds of Catechesis



*"I came here for you alone"*

## St José Anchieta SJ Memorial: 9<sup>th</sup> June

### Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,  
we thank you for your servant *Saint José de Anchieta*,  
whom you called to preach the Gospel to the people of *Brazil*.  
Raise up in this and every land  
evangelists and heralds of your kingdom,  
that your church may proclaim the unsearchable riches  
of our Saviour Jesus Christ;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

(Adapted from *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints* (2010), page 716)



### Scripture Reflection: Luke 24:36-49

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood in their midst. (He said to them, "Peace to you.") In their panic and fright they thought they were seeing a ghost, but he said to them, "Why are you upset, and how does such an idea cross your minds? Look at my hands and feet, and see that it is I myself! Touch me, and see for yourselves, for a ghost has no flesh and bones as I have!" (As he said this, he showed his hands and feet.) Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, as they were astonished; so he said to them, "Have you anything to eat?" And they gave him a piece of broiled fish. He took it, and ate it before them.

Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke to you when I was still with you: Everything written about me in the law of Moses, in the prophets and in the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, "So it was written: the Messiah had to suffer, and on the third day rise

from the dead. Then repentance and forgiveness in his name would be proclaimed to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. And that is why I will send you what my Father promised. So remain in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

*Christian Community Bible*

- Is there a word or phrase that stands out or remains with you after reading this passage?

## **Biography**

### ***Born :***

19 March 1534 at San Cristobal de la Laguna, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain

### ***Died:***

9 June 1597 at Reritigba (Anchieta), Brazil of natural causes

### ***Venerated :***

10 August 1786 by Pope Pius VI (decree of heroic virtues)

### ***Beatified:***

22 June 1980 by Pope John Paul II

### ***Canonized:***

3 April 2014 by Pope Francis (equipollent canonization)

- Spanish Jesuit who was sent to Brazil, worked with indigenous, especially the Tupi, Tamoyo, and Maramomis Tribes
- Adept at languages, soon learnt Tupi, worked on a grammar and dictionary which was used by Portuguese settlers and missionaries.
- Composed plays/dramas for the children of Maramomis tribe,. They were often written in both Portuguese and Tupi. Anchieta’s dramas are entertaining, but primarily catechetical, similar to the medieval mystery and morality plays. Because these were the first written in Brazil, he is known as the Father of Brazilian literature.
- He was proclaimed Apostle of Brazil, a title for which he is known to this day, by the Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro in the city of Reritiba in the same Church of the College where his funeral was celebrated in 1597.
- Made a saint through equipollent canonisation, not the usual, rigorous process, by meeting 3 criteria: 1) Have Catholics been calling upon the intercession of this holy person for a long time? 2) Since the person’s death, is it still indisputable that he/she lived a virtuous, faithful life? 3) Has devotion to the person since his/her death resulted in any miracles?

## **Features of Fr José’s Work**

### **Travelling**

Of the 44 years that he lived in Brazil, at least 40 can be characterised by constant travelling, beginning in the region of São Vicente and Piratininga, between 1554 and 1564 when the founding and first years of the city of São Paulo took place. . Named provincial in 1577, and later as superior, he visited houses and communities: father of the poor, healer of the sick and those who suffered, counsellor for governors, but above all, friend and defender of the Indians in their villages.

## Language and Literature

- Extensive travel did not hinder José from dedicating himself to Latin classes and the most profound study of the Tupi language, which at the same time allowed him great missionary and catechetical activity.
- in Latin: *De gestis Mendi de Saa*, on founding of Rio.
- the 'sacramental auto' (religious drama) entitled *Pregação universal* (Universal preaching), inspired by the indigenous reception ceremony for illustrious personages, and with which he introduced into the Tupi language the technique of verse and stanza typical of the Portuguese theatre.
- He always knew how to place at the service of the mission his extraordinary gifts of the perfect humanist: his mastery of grammar, his taste for the Latin classics, and his skill in the art of oration.
- With great fruitfulness he composed in Tupi the "*Dialogues of the faith*" (a major catechism for the instruction of the Indians in Christian doctrine), adapted short writings as a preparation for baptism and confession, and completed the grammar of the language most used along the coast of Brazil, Tupi.

## Founder of cities

- With Fr Nóbrega, José de Anchieta took part in the first founding of Rio de Janeiro. The second and definitive founding did not take place until two years later with the help of a team from Portugal led by the governor himself, Mem de Sá

## Friend of Indians

- Always an agent of reconciliation, he became profoundly involved in the dialogue with the Tamoyo Indians up to the point of being taken as a hostage and of living among them as a prisoner for five months. When peace was established with the Tamoyos and he was given his freedom, he still had courage enough to return to São Vicente and write the poem *Of the Blessed Virgin Mother of God Mary*.

## Closing Prayer

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God, our Father in heaven ..... **Have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the World ..... **Have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, Breath of Life ..... **Have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, one God ..... **Have mercy on us.**

Holy Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus ..... **Pray for us.**

Holy Mary, Mother and Queen of our Society ..... **Pray for us.**

Holy Virgin of Montserrat ..... **Pray for us.**

Our Lady of the Way ..... **Pray for us.**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help ..... **Pray for us.**

Holy Father Ignatius ..... **Pray for us.**

St. José de Anchieta, first recorder of the Tupi tongue and its poet ..... **Pray for us.**

All you men, Companions of Jesus who have gone before us in the Lord's service - preaching, teaching, building, pastoring, writing, always more, always better, always with love ..... **Pray for us.**

Christ, for whom we have done little and do less and would do much more ..... **Have mercy on us.**

Christ, bloodied king leading us to victory in the fight with evil ....

**Have mercy on us.,**

Christ, risen glorious in our flesh and journeying with us in our daily world

..... **Have mercy on us.**

God our Father, You called us as His companions to engage in the crucial struggle of our time—for faith and justice, for peace and love. Bring to its fullest in us the work You shaped in Ignatius and his friends—the work Your Spirit has guided through the centuries. Place us with your Son under the banner of the Cross to serve Him alone in His Church. We dare to ask all of this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Excerpt from <https://www.montserratretreat.org/litany-of-jesuit-saints>*

## **Significance for Catechists**

For reflection: What does the life of St José Anchieta say to us as catechists? What can we learn from him?

## **'Take Away' : Going Deeper**

### **Video clips**

<https://youtu.be/z11oINt2ns4> - in Spanish

[https://youtu.be/pZ\\_sZnXqmD0](https://youtu.be/pZ_sZnXqmD0) - in Portuguese

### **Articles**

<https://www.jesuits.global/saint-blessed/saint-jose-de-anchieta/>

<http://www.stigmatiusmobile.org/saint-of-the-month-st-jose-de-anchieta/>

<https://www.crisismagazine.com/2013/jose-de-anchieta-s-j-apostle-of-brazil>

**Academic Articles in 'Journal of Jesuit Studies',** (search for Jose de Anchieta)

<https://brill.com/view/journals/jjs/jjs-overview.xml>

<https://dlm.fflch.usp.br/sites/dlm.fflch.usp.br/files/2004->

[translations\\_of\\_religious\\_texts.pdf](#) - how influenced by Indian culture Inculturation and acculturation in the translation of religious texts: the translations of Jesuit priest José de Anchieta into Tupi in 16th century Brazil

### **Prayers**

<https://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/novenas/p03640.htm>

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2014/documents/papa-francesco\\_20140424\\_omelia-san-jose-de-anchieta.pdf](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2014/documents/papa-francesco_20140424_omelia-san-jose-de-anchieta.pdf)

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## **Acknowledgements**

Biographical notes: <https://catholicsaints.info/> ; <https://catholic.org/saints>

'Journal of Jesuit Studies', dedicated to the study of Jesuit history from the sixteenth to the twenty-first century, including articles on missionary activity and approaches in C16th, in Anchieta's case his methodology of converting the indigenous people between 'subjection' and 'accommodation'.