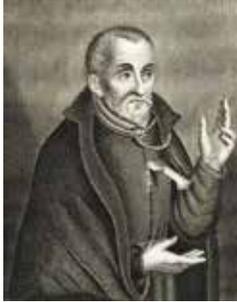




# Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

## St. Edmund Campion



*Saint Edmund Campion.*

*The rope and knife indicate the means by which he was martyred.*

Queen Elizabeth I understood that the priesthood is at the heart of the Catholic Church, so she hoped to destroy Catholicism in England by letting all the old priests die off while preventing the formation of new ones.

Anti-Catholic legislation in many areas was increasing under Elizabeth. For example, the Act of Supremacy of 1559 required those holding public office and those studying at the universities to swear as follows:

*"I, A. B., do utterly testify and declare in my conscience that the Queen's Highness is the only supreme governor of this realm, and of all other her Highness's dominions and countries, as well in all spiritual or ecclesiastical things or causes, as temporal, and that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state or potentate hath or ought to have any jurisdiction, power, superiority, pre-eminence or authority ecclesiastical or spiritual within this realm; ..."*

Many English Catholic academics left England and settled at the University at Douay (then in Spanish Netherlands, now in France) and it soon became a kind of Oxford in exile. Among them was William (later Cardinal) Allen, who in 1658 set up a seminary there for the formation of English priests. Further such seminaries were subsequently set up and began supplying priests for the English Mission. Many of them were martyred. The requirement for Oxford students to take the oath lasted until 1854.

Edmund Campion (24 January 1540 - 1 December 1581) had been a brilliant scholar at St John's College Oxford and later a charismatic and popular professor, known for his talent as an orator. When he was 26 the queen visited Oxford. She was much impressed by him, as were her two favourite courtiers, William Cecil, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Burghley, and Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, who both offered him their patronage. (Cecil described Campion as "one of the diamonds



*William Cecil, attributed to Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger, National Portrait Gallery. One of Elizabeth I's closest advisors, he called Edmund Campion one of the diamonds of England.*

of England.") Though from a Catholic family, Campion had taken the Oath of Supremacy and was even ordained a deacon in the new religion. A glittering career lay ahead.

However, he began to have regrets and turned once again to his Catholic faith, which soon brought him under suspicion. In 1571 he left to join the new English seminary at Douay. Two years later he went to Rome, desiring to become a Jesuit. He then spent several happy years as a Jesuit serving in Austria, but in 1580 was chosen to be part of the first Jesuit mission to England. He arrived at Dover on 16th June, disguised as a jewel merchant.

On 17<sup>th</sup> July 1581 he and two resident priests, Thomas Ford and John Colleton (both Oxford men) were betrayed at Lyford Grange in Berkshire. The house, owned by Francis Yates, was a centre for Catholics, but spies were very active and no place was completely safe.

*Saint Edmund is shown with the instruments of his martyrdom, the rope over his arm and holding the knife used for his disbowelling. Beside him is the Jesuit emblem with the letters IHS.*



22 SEPTEMBER 2019



Two days before their martyrdom, Ralph Sherwin points to the sun, saying "Ah, Father Campion, I shall soon be above yon fellow." - Window at Shrewsbury Cathedral.

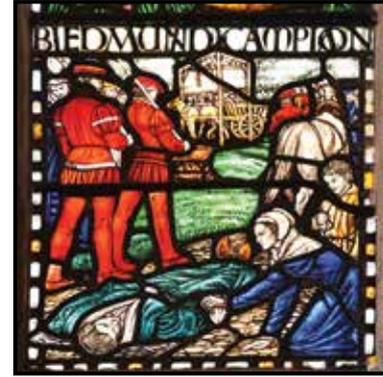
Before his capture Campion published a defence of the Catholic Church and a challenge to Protestant opponents to publicly debate with him. When the debate finally took place, he was a prisoner in the Tower. His opponents, the English Protestant doctors of divinity, had plenty of time to prepare and were well equipped with reference sources at hand. Campion was given no time to prepare, had no resources but his own wit and had recently been subjected to repeated severe torture. He had been racked and his fingernails pulled out. His treatment was so harsh that he thought they intended to kill him by torture.

Nevertheless, many witnesses declared Campion the winner of the debate. Among those present was a young lawyer, Henry Walpole, who later attended Campion's execution and was sprinkled with the blood of the martyr. Walpole decided to follow in Campion's footsteps and was himself martyred in 1595. Another who was present was Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, who subsequently gave up his high life as a favourite courtier to return to the Faith.

He died a martyr in prison. Both men are among the canonised Martyrs of England and Wales. It is true what Tertullian, early ecclesiastical writer, said about the blood of martyrs: *The oftener we are mown down by you, the more in number we grow; the blood of Christians is seed. (Apologeticus, 50)*

The trial was unfair and the outcome inevitable. Campion was the first of three priests to be hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1st December 1581. His companions were Ralph Sherwin and Alexander Briant. Campion was 41 years old, Sherwin 31 and Briant only 28. They were finally canonized in 1970, nearly 400 years after their martyrdom. By the sacrifice of our martyrs and the grace of God we can attend Mass and practice our Catholic faith in this country. It is worth remembering the price they paid and the value of what they died for.

Edmund Campion dragged on a hurdle to Tyburn. Tyburn Tree is in the background. Shrewsbury Cathedral West Window.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** after the 7pm Mass there will be an open house in Honour of First Saturday.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>:** First Saturday Day of Prayer and Family Activities in Honour of the Blessed Virgin from 10.45 am until 5pm.

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# Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

## Weekly Schedule \*

		Ordo	Cathedral	St Winefride's	Mass Intention
Sun	22 Sep	XV Sunday after Pentecost		11.15 Mass	Private Intention
Mon	23 Sep	St. Linus Pope and Martyr, III class, Com. of St. Thecla Virgin and Martyr.	7.30am Mass		Private Intention
Tue	24 Sep	Commemoration of Our Lady of Ransom, Comm.	7.30am Mass	7pm Mass	Private Intention Private Intention
Wed	25 Sep	Feria. (Votive Mass St. Joseph)	7.30am Mass		Private Intention
Thu	26 Sep	Commemoration of Ss. Cyprian and Justina Virgin, Martyrs, Comm.	7.30am Mass 11am Holy Hour		Private Intention
Fri	27 Sep	Ss. Cosmas and Damian Martyrs, III class.	7.30am Mass	6.30pm Confessions 7pm Mass	Private Intention Private Intention
Sat	28 Sep	St. Wenceslaus Duke, Martyr, III class.		10.45 Confessions 11.15 Mass	Private Intention
Sun	29 Sep	On the Dedication of St. Michael Archangel, I class, Comm. XVI Sunday after Pentecost.		11.15 Mass	Private Intention

\* September 29th at 3.15pm Sunday Mass at St. Wulstan's Little Malvern.

\* Changes to usual schedule: Please note changes to Mass times at St Winefride's.