

BLESSED EDWARD OLDCORNE



Blessed Edward Oldcorne was born in York 1561 and studied to be a doctor. He left England to study in France and also went to college in Rome to train to be a Priest.

In 1588 he risked his life by returning to England with a small group of other priests and they spent their first night hiding in a wood.

In 1589 Edward was sent to the home of the Abington family who lived at Hindlip Hall, 3 miles outside Worcester. He risked his life many times by venturing out from his hiding places to speak to people and bring them back to the Catholic faith.

In the years that followed the persecution of Catholics got even worse.

Edward developed throat cancer which was very painful, however on a pilgrimage to St. Winifred's well in Wales he put a stone from the water in his mouth, fasted and prayed, he was not cured but he gained enough strength to continue his preaching.

In 1591 Queen Elizabeth said that all priests should be driven from the land as they were all spies for the King of Spain! However, priests including Edward, still risked their lives travelling the country to ensure people could attend Mass. By 1592 so many priests had been tortured and martyred that very few were left!

In 1606 the Sheriff of Worcester went to Hindlip Hall with over 100 armed men to search it. They soon found the hiding places for the items used in the Mass but it took a further two weeks before Edward Oldcorne and Fr. Garnet were forced to emerge from their hiding place.

Edward Oldcorne was charged with treason, accused of being involved in the Gunpowder Plot. He was tortured on the rack for 5 days and was eventually executed by hanging at Red Hill on April 7th 1606.

His feast day is celebrated on January 27th.