

# FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints  
Catholic Academy Trust



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

## The Feast of English Martyrs

On May 4th, the Catholic Church in England celebrates the feast of English Martyrs – the 40 Catholic lay and religious men and women who stood firm and died for their faith at a time of religious persecution.

The English Reformation in the 16th century began with Henry VIII. In response to his disagreement with the Pope, Henry broke away from Catholicism and the authority of the Catholic Church in Rome, and a new Church of England, or Anglican Church was created.

The repercussions continued for many years and in the time of Elizabeth I, it became more and more difficult to follow the Catholic faith. Priests had to disguise themselves and many courageous Catholics risked their lives to practise their faith and look after visiting priests.

### **gather together**

Together with your family, take a moment to gather in a quiet space. Light a candle and watch the flame flicker as you remember that Jesus is the light of the world and He will light the way for us.

### **Scripture**

**Psalm 32:3-5**

*Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.*

### **Reflect**

As you reflect on the word you have heard, let's take a moment to find out more about some of the English Martyrs.

#### **St Nicholas Owen**

St Nicholas Owen was a carpenter and he found a clever way to serve God- making places for priests to hide. St Nicholas Owen



saved lots of priests who hid in the hidey holes that became known as 'priest holes'. Let's remember St Nicholas Owen's great skill and courage.



#### **St Anne Line**

St Anne Line ran a secret guest house that gave Catholic priests a safe place to sleep and good food to eat. In her home there were special hiding places for prayer books, priest vestments and the communion Chalice – and

even a hiding place for priests. Let's remember St Anne Line's kindness and courage.

#### **St Cuthbert Mayne**

St Cuthbert Mayne was a priest who disguised himself as a servant in a rich house in Cornwall.

There, he carried out his priestly duties, saying Mass for the family and nearby Catholics.

He encouraged lots of people in their faith.

Let's remember St Cuthbert Mayne's bravery and faith.



### **Pray**

Almighty ever-living God, who gave the English Martyrs the grace of suffering for Christ, come in your divine mercy we pray, to the help of our own weakness. That as your Saints did not hesitate to die for your sake, we too may live bravely and be courageous in speaking your name.

We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen

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