

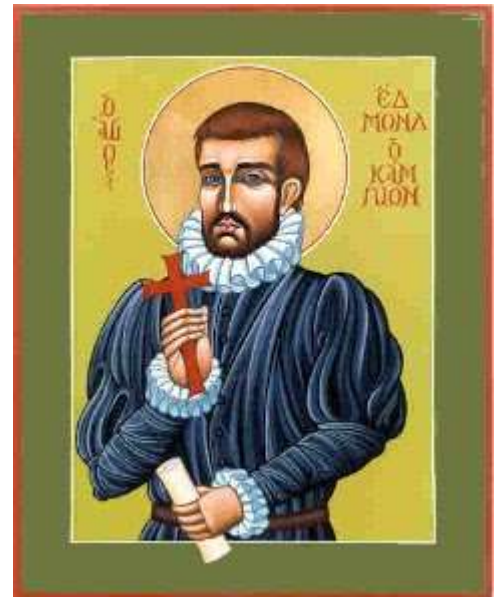
# Saint Edmund Campion

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Campion Prayer	1
Life of St. Edmund Campion	1
The Diamond of England	2

## Campion Prayer

Wherever I may travel  
May I always profess my faith in You, God  
To Whom I owe all my obedience.  
Grant that I may always have the courage:  
To preach the Gospel,  
To speak out against injustice.  
And to face all challenges without fear.  
For by your will,  
I will go where I am sent  
To carry any cross you lay upon me  
And never to despair.  
For the price is paid and the work is begun:  
It is of God; It cannot be overcome.  
So our faith is planted:  
So will our faith be maintained.



---

## Life of St. Edmund Campion

St. Edmund Campion, ministered to Catholics in England at a time of Catholic persecution. Under the Tudor monarchs Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, the Catholic Church was displaced by the Church of England. The English monasteries were dissolved by 1541, and Catholic clergy and laity were persecuted and killed.

Edmund Campion could have been the brightest star in Elizabethan England. He impressed Elizabeth with his welcoming oration when she visited Oxford University in 1569. Under her promised patronage his path to power and prestige was assured. Campion first thought to follow that path, being ordained originally as an Anglican deacon. But his heart was rooted in the Catholic faith. In 1571 Campion traveled to Douai, France, to study in the Catholic seminary. Several years later he walked to Rome, where he was accepted by the Jesuits. The next few years Campion taught in Vienna and Prague.



*“And it turns an ordinary rock into the most beautiful thing on earth. I think that is just an amazing image of God working in our lives.”*

## Life of St. Edmund Campion continued...

Campion could have stayed safely in Prague, but he heard the call to minister to Catholics in England. He could only do this traveling in disguise, celebrating the sacraments in secret, and avoiding the many spies who sought him out. But Campion did not keep his mission a secret. He wrote and circulated the Challenge to the Privy Council to debate him on all issues between Protestants and Catholics. His mission began in 1580 but soon ended with his arrest in 1581.

After his arrest, Campion was convicted of treason. Showing her esteem for his person, Elizabeth I met him, trying to draw him back into the Church of England. Campion remained steadfast in his Catholic faith. Finally, Campion was hanged, drawn, and quartered on December 1, 1581.

Edmund Campion, was declared a saint by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

## The Diamond of England

St. Edmund Campion was referred to as one of the diamonds of England by the Queen's Chief Advisor. This is significant, especially at St. Edmund Campion Secondary School. Have you ever had moments in your life where things did not go the way you had hoped for or maybe the way you planned or prayed for?

Sometimes trials and struggles enter your life and things can get really hard. In that moment, it is easy to ask, where is God in this? What is God doing? I believe the truth is that no matter what it looks like, God is working behind the scenes and He is already turning things around to work everything out for good.

That might look differently than we hoped. But we believe that God takes those trials and those struggles and uses them to refine us, make us stronger and to make us more like Him, which is ultimately more beautiful. That is how a diamond is formed. It is formed underground through periods of intense pressure and heat. And it turns an ordinary rock into the most beautiful thing on earth. I think that is just an amazing image of God working in our lives.

St. Edmund Campion, pray for us.

