

St Nicholas Owen

MORNING PRAYER

Monday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

This week we reflect on our house saints, and remember to think of them as our patrons; They have a job to do in heaven for each one of us!

Saint Nicholas Owen came from a humble background. He was born around 1550, into a pious Catholic family in Oxford. Two of his brothers became priests and one was a printer, but Nicholas became a carpenter, like his father. Nicholas was very small, and was nicknamed '*Little John*'. Like all of his family, Nicholas devoted himself to the Church, which was being heavily persecuted. He spent his time helping the head of the Jesuits in England, called Fr Henry Garnet. Together, they would visit all the Catholic priests in hiding, and because he was such a brilliant carpenter, Nicholas began making ingenious places where priests could hide away in Catholic houses, known as 'priest-holes'.

Before making any priest-hole, he would kneel down and spend some time in prayer for the priests who would hide there, including his own brothers.

People say that there are many priest-holes made by St Nicholas that still haven't been discovered.

PRAYERS

Let us ask our patron Saint Nicholas Owen to pray for us, and help us realise that however much we might seek worldly praise, nothing can compare with being held in God's high esteem.

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

St. Philip: **Pray for us.**

House Saint: **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

St Nicholas Owen

Tuesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Nicholas Owen was arrested three times for his faith, but was released each time, because the authorities didn't think he was important.

As an expert hider of people, he was the mastermind in helping a famous priest escape from the Tower of London, and then he too went into hiding for the last time.

Spies reported that Nicholas and some priests were hiding in a particular house, and for twelve days they searched the house but couldn't find the hiding places.

Eventually Saint Nicholas was starved out of his own priest-hole, along with another priest in hiding.

They had been living on one shared apple.

Another Jesuit priest said of Saint Nicholas *"I verily think no man can be said to have done more good of all those who laboured in the English vineyard. He made it possible for hundreds of priests and fellow Catholics to survive persecution"*.

PRAYERS

Let us take inspiration from St Nicholas Owen to pray for the gift of courage, and never give in to despair.

May we dare to stand up for the truth when those that surround us are swayed by cowardice and fear.

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who stand up for our faith in Parliament and in Government.

May St Nicholas Owen pray for them in heaven as we pray for them on earth.

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

St. Philip: **pray for us.**

House Saint: Pray for us.

In the name...

St Nicholas Owen

Wednesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

When the authorities realized just who they had caught, the Secretary of State, William Cecil said “*It was incredible how great was the joy caused by his arrest. Who knows how many he has hidden in his dark holes all over England!*”

Because Owen knew so much, they decided to torture him viciously, stretching his body so much on the rack, that his guts burst open and he died under torture.

He never revealed any names of priests or their hiding places.

PRAYERS

We pray for those who have been elected to govern our country. May they promote a culture which we would recognise as Christian.

Lord hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who left our school last year, and will start their studies at College or University. May they find the courage to bear witness to their faith.

Lord hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

St. Philip: **Pray for us.**

House Saint: **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

St Nicholas Owen

Thursday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ROSARY REFLECTION

Today, let us offer a decade of the Rosary for members of Owen House, that we are inspired by the courage of our House Patron.

SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Pilate released Barabbas for the crowds; and after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

1x Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. **Give us this day....**

10x *Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary...*

1x *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was....In the name..*

Friday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FRIDAY PRAYER

Now let us say together a famous prayer written by Saint Ignatius Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits, called

THE ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me

Body of Christ, save me

Blood of Christ, inebriate me

Water from the side of Christ, wash me

Passion of Christ, strengthen me

O good Jesus, hear me

Within thy wounds hide me

Permit me not to be separated from thee

From the wicked foe defend me

At the hour of my death call me

And bid me come to thee

That with thy saints I may praise thee For ever and ever.

Amen.