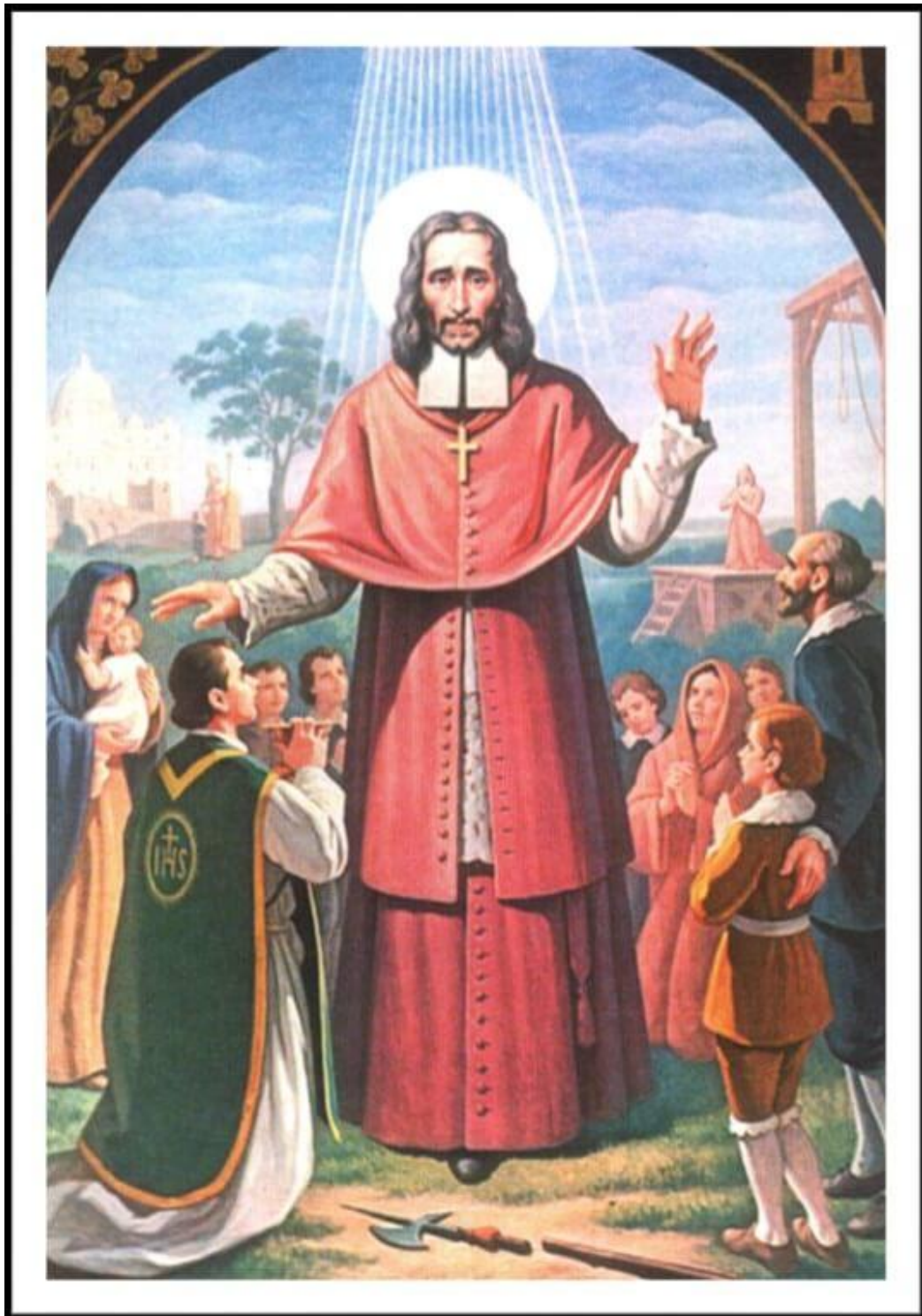


St. Oliver Plunkett School Resources 1625-2025



St. Oliver Plunkett 1625-2025

WHO IS ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT?

DATE OF BIRTH:

1st November 1625

BORN:

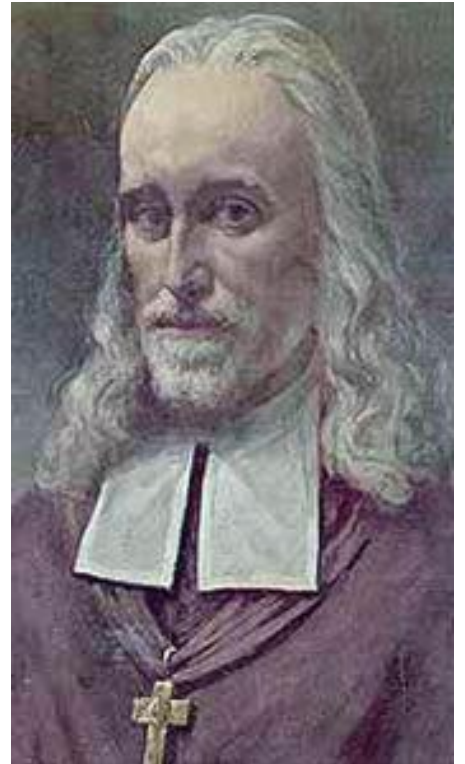
Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

PATRON SAINT:

Peace and Reconciliation
Drogheda

FEAST DAY:

1st of July



ORDAINED PRIEST

1st January 1654: in the Chapel of Propaganda College, Rome

CONSECRATED ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH:

1st December 1669: 1st Sunday of Advent, in Ghent, Belgium

RETURNED TO IRELAND FROM ROME:

March 1670 during a period of greater tolerance for Catholicism following the Restoration of Charles II.

ARRESTED & IMPRISONED:

6th December 1679, Dublin

CHARGES:

High Treason for promoting the Catholic faith and conspiring with the French to overthrow the English monarchy. 1681, London

MARTYRED:

1st July 1681 at Tyburn, London. St. Oliver was the last Irish martyr in England.

ST. OLIVER'S PATH TO SAINTHOOD

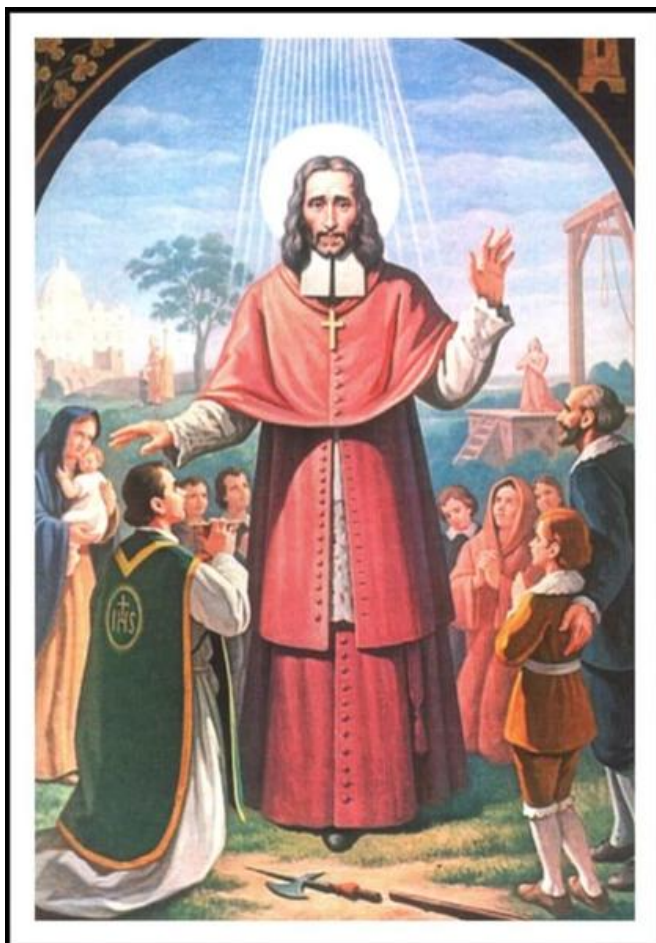
9th December 1886: Declared 'Venerable' and the cause for beatification began.

17th March 1918: Declared Martyr on St. Patrick's Day.

23rd May 1920: Beatified in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, on Pentecost Sunday. He became known as Blessed Oliver Plunkett.

1st April 1958: Miraculous cure of Mrs Giovanna Martiriggiano in Naples. (See Miracles)

12th October 1975: Canonised in St. Peter's Square, Rome, by Pope Paul VI. Oliver is now called St. Oliver Plunkett.



This is the Canonisation tapestry which hung from St. Peter's Basilica in Rome during the canonisation ceremony in 1975. Full of symbolism it was painted by Professor Alfovino Missori a noted Italian artist.

EXPLORE PLACES THAT SHAPED ST. OLIVER'S LIFE:

Loughcrew, Co. Meath -birthplace 1st November 1625.

Chapel of Propaganda College, Rome

Ordained Priest 1st January 1654

Ghent, Belgium

Consecrated archbishop of Armagh in St. Bavo's Cathedral on 1st December 1669.

Drogheda, Co. Louth

1670 established a Jesuit College in Drogheda. In 1673, the college was burned to the ground and Oliver went into hiding.

Dundalk, Co. Louth

St. Oliver was arrested for trial in Dundalk on 6th December 1679.

Dublin Castle

St. Oliver was imprisoned in Dublin Castle before being transported to England.

Newgate Prison

In October 1680, he was transferred from Ireland to London and imprisoned in Newgate Prison to await his trial.

Westminster

His trial took place in Westminster. He was found guilty of high treason in June 1681.

Tyburn:

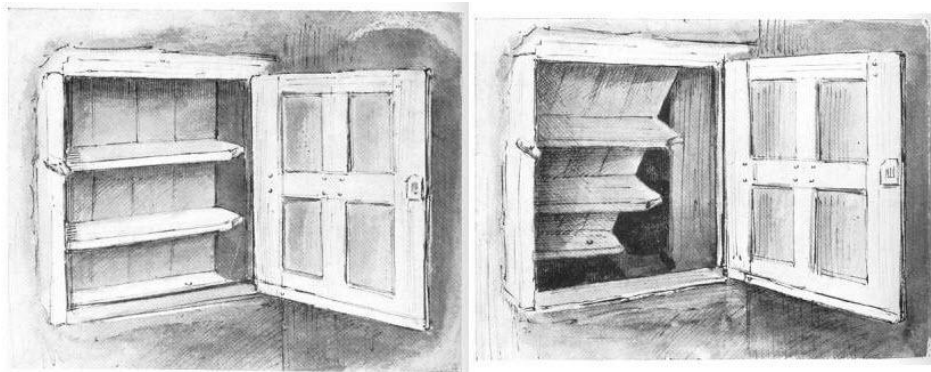
On 1st July 1681, he was drawn from Newgate Prison to Tyburn for his execution.

Downside Abbey, Somerset -Where his remains rest.

Lamspringe, Germany -St. Oliver's relics were securely kept and venerated.

What are 'Priest Holes'?

A priest hole is a hidden room or secret chamber built into houses during the 16th and 17th centuries to hide Roman Catholic priests from capture by 'priest hunters' or government officials. These hides were constructed by sympathetic families to conceal priests from capture, torture, and execution during times of severe anti-Catholic laws following the English Reformation. St. Oliver is believed to have used hiding places in Killartry, Co. Fermanagh and Mullaghbawn, Co. Armagh. These hides were ingeniously built into the architecture of the house, often behind secret doors, in chimneys, or within bread ovens, to be invisible to outsiders.



False door behind cupboard

What charges were brought against St. Oliver?

In 1679 Archbishop Plunkett was arrested on a charge of high treason for conspiring to bring 20,000 French soldiers into the country and raising taxes through the clergy to support 70,000 men in rebellion. The whole plot was unproven. False witnesses testified against him, but a jury in Ireland, made up entirely of Protestants would not convict him. He was transferred to London and tried there for treason. The jury there found him guilty in just fifteen minutes and in June 1681 he was condemned to death.

What miracles are attributed to St. Oliver?

Relics of St. Oliver Plunkett were preserved for people to venerate.

In Paris it was observed that "the flesh, skin, hand, fingers, and nails of St. Oliver's left arm were all as perfect and fresh as though still living."

In 1958, Mrs Giovanna Martiriggiano was expecting a child and was gravely ill in hospital in Naples. A sister of the Irish Medical Missionaries of Mary, St. Cabrini Quigley from Donegal who was working in the hospital, prayed throughout the night to Blessed Oliver and she made a complete recovery without the need of any further medical intervention.

What is a relic?

A relic is a physical part of a saint's body or a possession of a saint. It connects the believer to the saint and their lives and inspires their faith. Relics are categorized into three classes:

First Class is a part of the saint's body (like bone or hair)

Second Class is an item the saint owned (such as a piece of clothing),

Third Class is an object that has touched a first or second-class relic or the saint's body.

People venerate the relic by kissing it, touching it, praying before it, seeking the saint's intercession or blessing.

Places in the Diocese of Meath Associated with St. Oliver Plunkett

Churches:	Church of St. Oliver Plunkett, Kilcloon Church of St. Brigid & St. Oliver Plunkett, Oldcastle
Schools:	St. Oliver Plunkett's National School, Navan St. Oliver Plunkett's Post-Primary School, Oldcastle St. Oliver's Community College, Drogheda Scoil Oilibhéir Naofa, Kilcloon
Streets	Oliver Plunkett Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

Prayer to St. Oliver Plunkett

Glorious Martyr, Saint Oliver, who willingly
gave your life for your faith,
help us also to be strong in faith.
May we be loyal like you
to the See of Peter.

By your intercession and example
may all hatred and bitterness
be banished from the hearts
of men and women.

May the peace of Christ reign
in our hearts,
as it did in your heart,

even at the moment of your death.

Pray for us, for Ireland and the whole World.

AMEN.

Symbols Associated with St. Oliver Plunkett

Candle:

Representing St. Oliver's unwavering faith, shining brightly even in the face of persecution and darkness.

Palm Branch:

An ancient symbol of martyrdom and victory over death, reflecting St. Oliver's ultimate sacrifice for his faith.

A Letter or Scroll:

Symbolising St. Oliver's pastoral letters and writings, which reveal his deep care for his people and his commitment to peace and reconciliation.

Chains:

Representing his imprisonment and suffering, yet also his resilience, hope, and unbreakable spirit.

Bishop's Crozier and Mitre:

Signifying his role as Archbishop of Armagh, his leadership during times of persecution, and his spiritual authority in guiding the Church in Ireland.

Bible:

Symbolising his faith and unstinting commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel in Ireland.

Shrines of St. Oliver Plunkett

St. Peter's Church, Drogheda



St. Brigid and St. Oliver Plunkett's Church, Oldcastle

Ballybrack/Ardpatrick, Co. Louth

Downside Abbey, Somerset, England

Tyburn, London, England

Westminster Cathedral, England

Poor Clare Convent, Arundel, West Sussex

Lamspringe, Germany

St. Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent, Belgium

Worth Abbey, England

How is St. Oliver Plunkett's Memory Preserved?

Relics

Statues (St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh)

Stained glass windows

Paintings

Places of pilgrimage

Annual Novenas and festivals

Stamps



The Life of St. Oliver Plunkett

S D L Y H H N H T S I Q S Y X
C E O O X C I Z U G Q D L E Z
A X P W U D K X I Z K O K F Z
T Z C S N G N Z S Y M L D A C
H T R E U S H T Z P T D R S B
O I T N X F I C R O M C O R M
L Q Y A X E F D R P H A G P E
I P B M R J C E E E O S H R A
C L U S A M C U R W W T E I T
R U R F N R A R T I F L D E H
D N N M K Q T G E I N E A S S
U K E V E I E Y H I O G U T A
N E J W N K F R R G X N N I I
P T L Q A O X B G M B G X M N
U T O C O W T R E A S O N O T

EXECUTION

DOWNSIDE

ARMAGH

MARTYR

PRIEST

POPE

LOUGHCREW

DROGHEDA

CATHOLIC

TREASON

MEATH

OLDCASTLE

PLUNKETT

SUFFERING

TYBURN

SAINT



QUIZ

1. What was St. Oliver Plunkett's main role in the Catholic Church?
 - A. Archbishop
 - B. Priest
 - C. Cardinal
 - D. Nun
2. In which century did St. Oliver Plunkett live?
 - A. 16th
 - B. 17th
 - C. 18th
 - D. 19th
3. Why was St. Oliver Plunkett imprisoned and eventually executed?
 - A. For being involved in political uprising
 - B. For refusing to stop preaching the faith
 - C. For committing a crime
 - D. For his support of the Irish Volunteers
4. Where is St. Oliver Plunkett shrine ?
 - A. Dublin
 - B. London
 - C. Rome
 - D. Drogheda
5. What did St. Oliver study in university?
 - A. English
 - B. law
 - C. maths
 - D. history

**SAINT
OLIVER
PLUNKETT**



MASS FOR THE FEAST OF ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT

1ST JULY 2025

First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16

The Lord God says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I shall bring them out of the countries where they are; I shall gather them together from foreign countries and bring them back to their own land. I shall pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in every inhabited place in the land. I shall feed them in good pasturage; the high mountains of Israel will be their grazing ground. There they will rest in good grazing ground; they will browse in rich pastures on the mountains of Israel. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Or

First Reading

1 Peter 3:8-18

You should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing. Never pay back one wrong with another, or an angry word with another one; instead, pay back with a blessing. That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing yourself.

Remember: Anyone who wants to have a happy life and to enjoy prosperity must banish malice from his tongue, deceitful conversation from his lips; he must never yield to evil but must practise good; he must seek peace and pursue it. Because the face of the Lord frowns on the evil, but the eyes of the Lord are turned towards the virtuous. No one can hurt you if you are determined to do only what is right; if you do have to suffer for being good, you will count it a blessing. There is no need to be afraid or to worry about them. Simply reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have.

But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 30 (31):3-4,6,8,17,21

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me. **R./**

Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord.
As for me, I trust in the Lord:
let me be glad and rejoice in your love. **R./**

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your love.
You hide them in the shelter of your presence
from the human plotting. **R./**

Gospel Acclamation

James 1:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy those who stand firm when trials come.
They have proved themselves,
and will win the crown of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:11-16

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.'

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

‘I am the good shepherd;

I know my own and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Today, as we gather to honour St. Oliver Plunkett, faithful shepherd and courageous martyr, we ask for God’s grace through his intercession.

Inspired by his unwavering faith, we bring our prayers before the Lord with trust and hope.

1. For Pope Leo, Bishop Tom, and all bishops: that they may lead the Church with wisdom, courage, and a spirit of peace, following the example of St. Oliver’s steadfast faith. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For Christians everywhere: that we may live as faithful disciples of Christ, embracing the call to witness with love, integrity, and hope of Christ, even in challenging times. **Lord, hear us.**
3. In this time of renewal and reflection in our Church, may the courage and resilience of St. Oliver inspire us to stand firm in faith, speak the truth with compassion, and work for justice and peace in our communities. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For all who suffer persecution for their faith, and for those facing trials of conscience and conviction: may they find strength and consolation through the intercession of St. Oliver, who remained faithful even unto death.
Lord, hear us.

5. For our parish community and the diocese of Meath: that we may honour the legacy of St. Oliver by fostering a deep love for the Gospel and a vibrant spirit of hope in our families, parishes, and diocesan life. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For all our departed relatives and friends, and especially those who, like St. Oliver, bore the cross of suffering with faith: may they now share the joy and peace of eternal life in God's presence. **Lord, hear us.**

Celebrant: Almighty and ever-living God, you strengthened St. Oliver Plunkett to be a fearless witness of faith, hope, and love in the face of adversity. Strengthen our hearts with the same courage, that we may live faithfully and work for the renewal of your Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Quiz Answers

1. Archbishop
2. 17th
3. For refusing to stop preaching the faith
4. Drogheda
5. Law

Sources:

Picture: Catholic Paper Goods

Picture: Noah Gutierres

www.saintoliverplunkett.com

Archdiocese of Armagh

www.education.com