



Saint Richard Gwyn

Born *circa* 1537: Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire. Oxford & St. John's College, Cambridge

After Cambridge, around the year 1562, Richard became a schoolmaster in Flintshire and Denbighshire. He had six children by his wife Catherine and became a scholar of some repute. When the first priests came to Wales for the mission, Richard was converted to the Catholic faith.

Richard was first arrested in 1578 in Wrexham, but managed to escape. He was arrested and imprisoned several times, during these internments he wrote poetry in the Welsh tongue and penned five carols and a funeral ode, which have more recently come to light. He was condemned to death at the Wrexham Assizes in October 1584 for treason. On his way to execution he said to his fellow inmates, 'Weep not for me, for I do but pay the rent before the rent day.' On the scaffold, Richard acknowledged Elizabeth as Queen of England but refused to recognise her as the head of the Church, even though this submission would save his life. He was hanged, drawn and quartered on 15th October 1584 at Wrexham.

Iesu, trugarha wrthyf

Richard's last words, in Welsh (Jesus, have mercy on me).