

## **Saint Philip Howard**

**Born 28 June 1557: Norfolk, England. Graduate of St. John's College Cambridge**

Philip Howard was the grandson of the poet Henry, Earl of Surrey, who was executed by King Henry VIII in 1547. His father, Thomas, Duke of Norfolk was executed by Queen Elizabeth when Philip was fifteen years old.

Philip was married to Anne, daughter of Lord Dacre, at the age of fourteen. He became a courtier to Queen Elizabeth then succeeded to the Earldom at Arundel in 1580. Neglecting his wife, Philip

enjoyed all that life at the Royal Court had to offer. He was a handsome, intelligent young man who enjoyed various sports, played backgammon and kept a band of actors to entertain the Queen.

Around this time, Philip's wife converted to the Catholic Faith and Elizabeth had her put under house-arrest for recusancy. Philip was present at the Tower of London in 1581 during Edmund Campion's disputes with the authorities and the experience had a profound effect; more especially as Gregory Martin, Campion's great friend; had been the Earl's own tutor.

When he returned home, Philip struggled with this call to the Catholic Faith. Eventually, Philip made his decision and sought the opportunity to be reconciled to the Catholic Church. Queen Elizabeth banished him from Court but Philip, undeterred, was reconciled on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1584.

To protect his family and enable them to practice in safety, the Earl arranged for them to go to Flanders. He wrote a letter of explanation to the Queen, avowing his allegiance. This was to be delivered after his departure. In the event, Philip's intention was betrayed and he was arrested at Littlehampton on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1585.

Philip was imprisoned in the Tower of London; there he remained for three years until the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. During the ensuing furore, Philip was accused of 'Praying for the success of the Spanish fleet'. Defending himself in court, Philip repudiated the accusation and swore to 'serve the Queen against all Princes, Pope and Potentate whatsoever' adding, 'that I have committed no treason and that the Catholic and Roman Faith, which I hold, is the only cause (so far as I can in any way imagine) why either I have been thus long imprisoned, or for which I am now ready to be executed'.



Philip was found guilty, but not executed for fear that he would be made a martyr. He was returned to the Tower, where he remained incarcerated for eleven years. When he requested to see his wife and son, the Queen assured him he would not only see his family, but also have all his estates and position restored if he would 'but once go to the Protestant service'. He refused.

Over the fireplace in Beauchamp Tower, Philip inscribed:

*'Quanto plus afflictionis pro Christo in hoc saeculo, tanto plus gloriae cum Christo in futuro'*

*Arundell – Jun 22 1587*

'The more affliction we endure for Christ in this world, the more glory we shall obtain with Christ in the next'. The inscription can still be seen.

At noon on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 1595, Philip died at the age of thirty-eight, possibly of malnutrition. He was buried with his father and grandfather, within the grounds at the Tower. His wife was able to claim his remains thirty years after his death. His remains were eventually laid to rest at Arundel, in the Fitzalan Chapel; but his relics were re-interred in Arundel Cathedral in 1971.