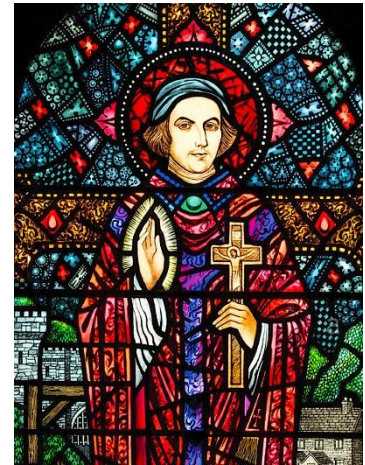


Saint Edmund Arrowsmith

Edmund was born in 1585 at Haydock, Lancashire, England. His family were consistently harassed for being Catholic. In 1605, aged 20, Edmund left England and went to Douai to study for the priesthood.



He was **ordained** (became a priest) in 1612 and took the college oath declaring that he would work as a missionary priest in England. He returned to Lancashire and stayed for a time at a farm near Brindle. He said Mass near Brindle at the old missionary altar. It looked like an ordinary oak wardrobe. When it was opened, it revealed an altar and all the objects needed for Mass. If priest-hunters arrived, the door would be closed and locked and the priest would slip into a hiding-hole.

Edmund joined the **Jesuits** (the society of Jesus), whose work he admired. He was sent to the College of St Aloysius which consisted of twenty Jesuits working in Lancashire. They did not live in one college or building but travelled on horse back, staying at different inns. They tried to organise their work to meet the needs of all the Catholics in Lancashire.

Father Arrowsmith managed to avoid capture for four more years. Eventually he was betrayed and captured. He was summoned to court and found guilty of high treason for being a priest. The judge condemned him to be hanged and disembowelled.

On 28th August 1628 he was led through the castle yard. He said to the crowd, "Bear witness that I die a Catholic; let my death encourage you to go forward in the Catholic faith". Then he forgave all those who had brought about his death. His last words were "Bone Jesus" – good Jesus.

Discuss in pairs:

- **What sacrifices did this saint make?**
- **Why do you think this saint is a good role model?**
- **What 3 words would you use to describe your House Saint?**