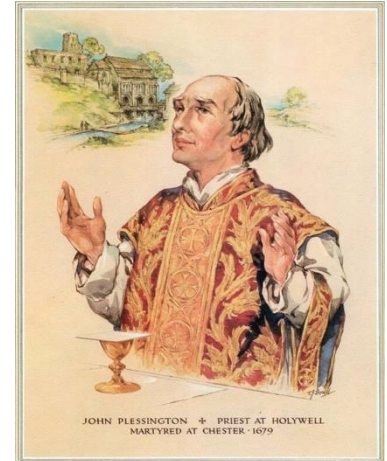


Saint John Plessington (7P)

The youngest of three children, John Plessington was born in 1636 into a Catholic family at Dimples Hall, Garstang, near Preston in Lancashire.

John's **vocation** (a choice of job you may do because you feel you have been called to do it) may have been inspired by a family chaplain called Thomas Whitaker, who was captured and executed in 1646. At all events, Plessington, having attended the **Jesuit** (society of Jesus) school at Scarisbrick Hall, near Ormskirk, followed Whitaker in being educated abroad.



In 1662 he was **ordained** (became a Priest) in Segovia. The next year, however, ill health brought him back to England.

For a while he served at the shrine of St Winifred in Holywell, North Wales. Then in 1670 he moved to Puddington Hall in the Wirral, as tutor to the Massey family. For a while Plessington was able to **minister** (he could hold mass and help the local Catholic population). But when the scare of the **Popish Plot** extended to the north, a timeserver called Thomas Dutton collected a reward for arresting him.

The **Popish Plot** was a totally **fictitious** (made up story) but widely believed **plot** in which it was alleged that Jesuits were planning the assassination of King Charles II in order to bring his Roman Catholic brother, the Duke of York (afterward King James II), to the throne. As a result, many Catholics were killed, especially ones that belonged to the **Jesuits** (society of Jesus)

There was no charge against Plessington of trying to assassinate the King. However, he was sentenced to death for being a Catholic Priest. When the executioner came to measure him, Plessington joked that he was ordering his last suit. He was hanged, drawn and quartered in Chester on July 19 1679.

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?**