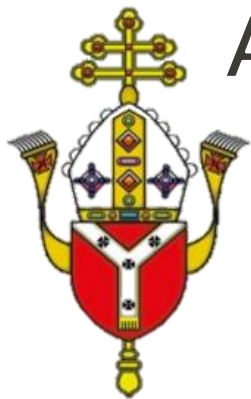




A RIGHTEOUS SAINT: ST JOHN SOUTHWORTH
FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

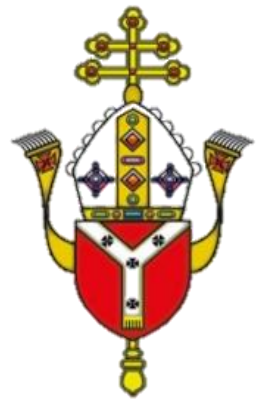


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GATHER



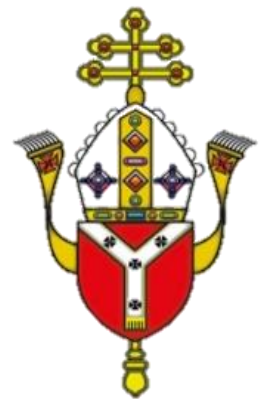
Father,
Thank you for your word.
Help us to listen
And show your love.
Amen



LISTEN: Be righteous

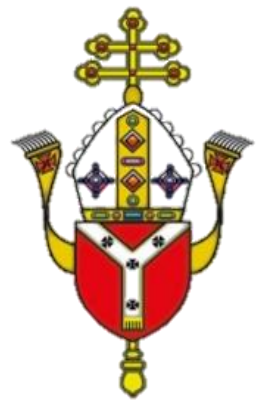
The fourth beatitude tells us:

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."



LISTEN

St John Southworth came from a Lancashire family. He was born around 1592 and was martyred at Tyburn on 28 June 1654.



LISTEN

When St John Southworth was alive it was the time of Reformation. This began because King Henry VIII wanted to divorce his wife.

As a result, there was a lot of unrest in Britain for a number of years and it was a time of great violence and persecution of Catholics. Churches were destroyed and many people were persecuted for their faith.

It was also the time of the plague which caused much illness and death.



Would you like to have lived during the time of St John Southworth?



LISTEN

St John Southworth was a devoted Catholic. He loved God with all his heart and became a priest, even though it was forbidden to practise Catholicism in England at that time. As a young man, he had to study for the priesthood in France.

He followed the beatitudes and teachings of Jesus, sharing his faith with others and celebrating Mass.



What else do you think St John Southworth did as a priest?



LISTEN



St John Southworth was arrested several times and was condemned to death for practising his faith and doing what he believed to be right.

He spent sometime in the Clink Prison in London which is now a museum. This is the oldest prison in England and in the time of St John Southworth it was notorious for being damp, unhealthy and overcrowded.

However, being imprisoned and threatened with death did not deter St John Southworth.



What do you think made St John Southworth keep practising his faith?

LISTEN

Luckily, he was released from prison when King Charles I's wife, Queen Henrietta, insisted on the release of St John Southworth and 17 other prisoners.

St John Southworth then lived at Clerkenwell. From there it seems he frequently visited the plague-stricken dwellings of Westminster to administer the sacraments and comfort the sick and the dying, even though in those days hygiene and medicine were not the same as they are now.



Why do you think it is right and good to help the sick and dying?

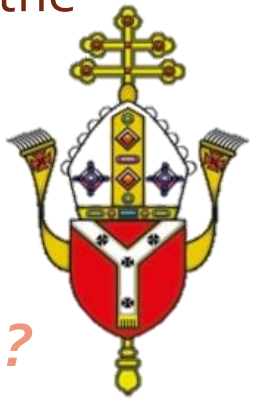
LISTEN



Eventually St John Southworth was imprisoned again for practising his Catholic faith. He was sentenced to death because he chose to plead guilty to being a priest.

In 1654 he was hung, drawn and quartered and became a martyr. He is one of the 40 English Martyrs of England and Wales.

His remains can now be found in Westminster Cathedral and a photo of this is shown on the right.



Do you think St John Southworth was right to tell the truth and die for his faith?

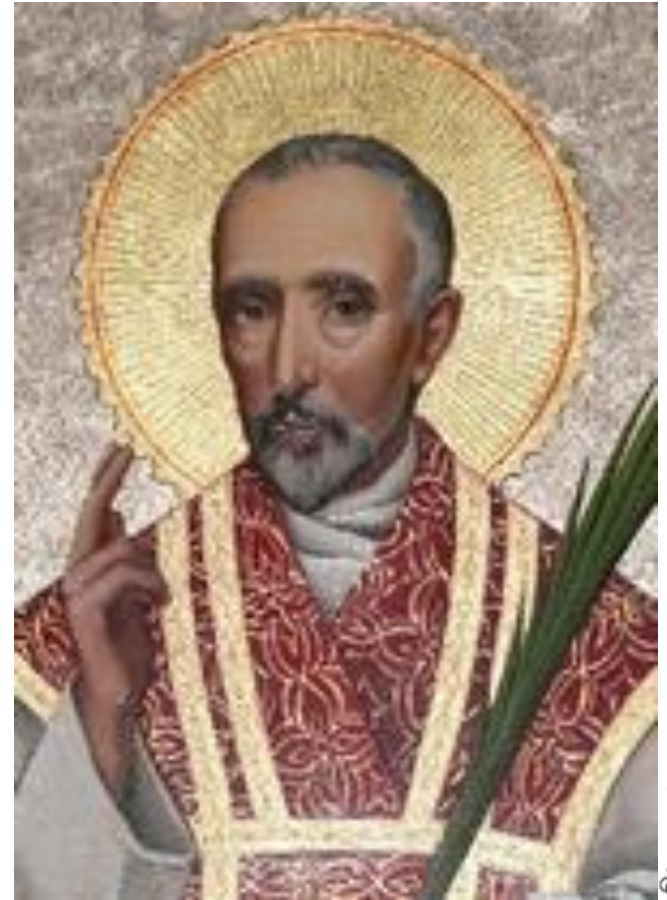
LISTEN

St John Southworth's feast day is **27 June**, which is observed as a Solemnity at Westminster Cathedral.

The feast to the Dedication of the Cathedral is celebrated on **1 July**. It is dedicated to the Blood of Christ which nourishes us to live as Jesus did and do what is right.

To find out more about Westminster Cathedral see

[Education Services Westminster Cathedral Animal Trail](#)



In which ways did St John Southworth hunger and thirst for righteousness?

RESPOND

How did St John Southworth do what was right and good?

What challenges did he face when doing what this beatitude asks?

How can you do what is right and good even when it is difficult?



['Blessed are the Righteous' video for children](#)



RESPOND - Prayer

God our Father,

Saint John Southworth fought for the sake of righteousness, even until death.

We pray that we may bear every difficulty for the sake of your love and try with all our hearts to do what is right and good.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

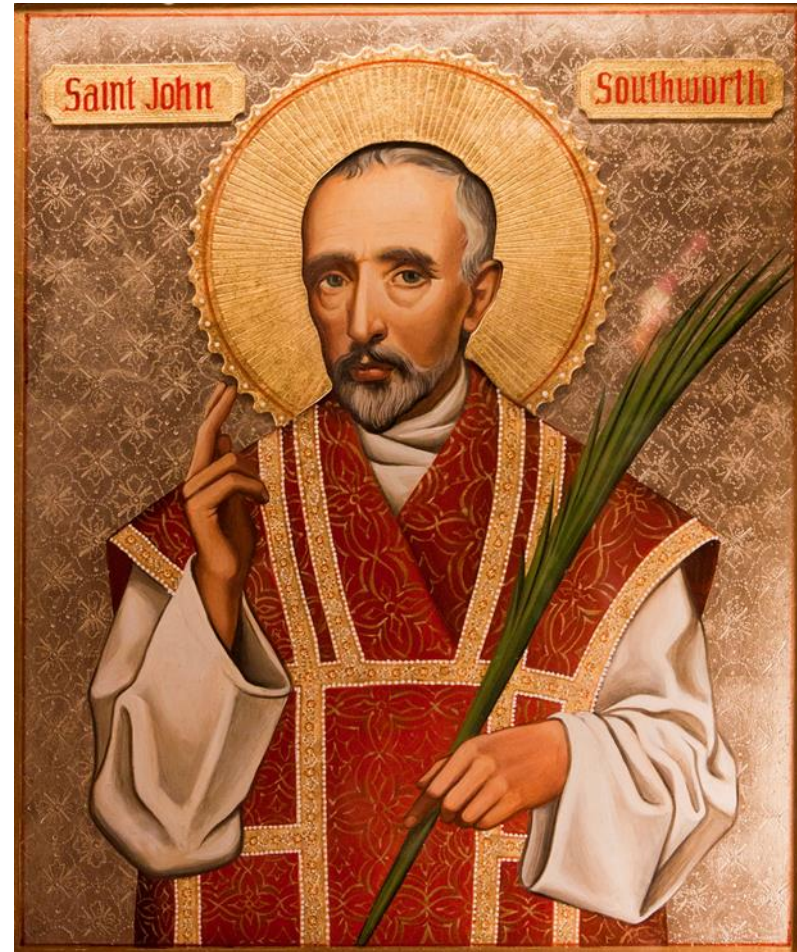
Amen



MISSION

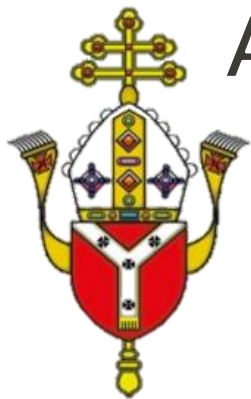
Choose:

- Create a fact-file or comic strip about St John Southworth and highlight what you admire most about him.
- Write an Act of Worship for the feast of St John Southworth (27th June).
- Find out about the other martyrs of England and Wales and how they died doing what was right.
- Do something good and right to challenge what is wrong in your world. Ask for Jesus' help.
- Find out more about St John Southworth and Westminster Cathedral.





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