

## **History of KSC Pilgrimage in honour of ST. Edmund Campion and the Martyrs of England and Wales**

The relic of St. Edmund Campion was originally the property of Monsignor Hume of Bedford, RIP. It is assumed that the paper work relating to the Relic is held in the Diocese of Northampton, although this has not been confirmed. The Monsignor left it in his will to the Knights of St. Columba (KSC), the relic is normally kept in the Diocese by the Parish Priest of St Augustines, High Wycombe in Bucks.

Some 40/50 years back (starting date lost in time) Monsignor Hume, Father Tiger SJ, and Father Woodard of Our lady of Peace, Burnham, Slough decided to organise a pilgrimage with the Relic for the Canonisation of the 40 English Martyrs. The Pilgrimage started with Mass in the Tithe Barn at Lyford Grange; where Campion was captured and taken to London for trial. The Relic was to rest at Churches overnight following as near as possible the route Campion took on his way to Tyburn. The final Mass was to be said at Tyburn Convent.

When the pilgrimage started the owner of Lyford Grange was Douglas Woodruff, RIP, the Editor of the Universe. He sold the Grange to the Dingwall family, though Anglican, they were happy to accept a restrictive covenant to ensure we could hold the pilgrimage each year around about the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Anthea Sinclair, the daughter of the Dingwalls was in Rome for the Canonisation of the Martyrs. Sadly soon after her marriage she became ill and died and is buried by the village Church, St. Mary the Virgin. Douglas Woodruff and his wife are also buried in the village Churchyard. With the active co-operation of the Vicar it was decided to start the Pilgrimage from the village Church. The Relic is placed on the altar and the Vicar leads in Hymns and prayers of intercession for the deceased benefactors of the pilgrimage. Carrying the Relic the pilgrims process through the Village to the Tithe Barn for Mass, enroute the rosary is said and hymns sung.

Difficulties arose with the organisation of the pilgrimage and the KSC was asked to undertake future arrangements. At the behest of the Lord Camoys and the Hon. Lady Georgina Stonor his sister, the Relic is now present for Sunday Mass in the Chapel of the Blessed Trinity, Stonor Park (June 19<sup>th</sup>) before proceeding to Lyford (June 26<sup>th</sup>). This was fitting because Edmund Campion had his printing press at Stonor, where there is a priest's hole and an escape route across the roof to the high ground at the rear of the House.

After the canonisation of the Martyrs there was discussions on whether to continue or not and it was decided to carry on this act of worship for Christian Unity and Peace. The KSC have successfully carried on this Pilgrimage to the present time. Province 23, The Thames Valley Province is responsible for its organisation and the Relic passed to the London Provinces, 30 & 11 to reach Tyburn after 5 weeks and approximately 50 Masses.

At the suggestion of the Vicar on September 8<sup>th</sup> in 2001 a Mass was said in the village Church in honour of Our Lady, Father Turbitt, of Wantage said the Mass, the Vicar lead the hymns and read a lesson, he also pointed out that it was first Catholic Mass there for 400 years. When Rosemary Dingwall, the lady of the Grange, died a thanksgiving Mass was held in the Village Church. Colonel Dingwall never got over the death of his beloved wife and when he died a celebration Mass was organised in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin.

Charles from the Dingwall family welcomes pilgrims annually, going to a lot of trouble clearing the Barn and ensuring that the altar in position for the Mass. This year the Pilgrimage is on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 commencing at 3.30pm at the village church of St. Mary the Virgin, Mass in the Tithe Barn commences at 4.00pm followed by refreshments.

