

# The Warwick Martyrs

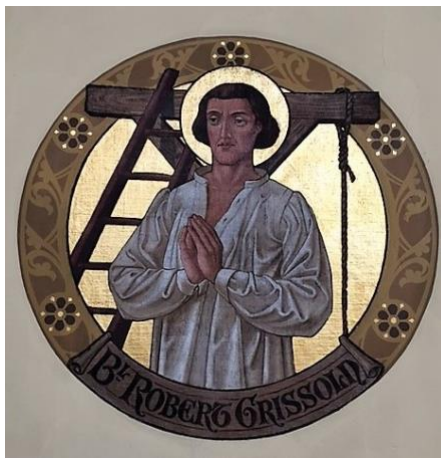
## Blessed John Sugar

Blessed John Sugar was born at Wombourne near Wolverhampton about 1558 and studied at St Mary's Hall, Oxford, becoming a clergyman of the Established Church at Cannock in Staffordshire. He later became a Catholic, studied at the English College, Douai, and was ordained a priest on 21 April 1601. His ministry was in Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, where he travelled on foot and especially looked after the "poorer and meaner sort of Catholics".



## Blessed Robert Grissold

Blessed Robert Grissold lived at Rowington in Warwickshire; he was the son of a weaver and is described as a "husbandman"; he had a special reverence for Catholic priests. He and John Sugar were arrested on the highway on 8 July 1603 after a raid on the Grissold house; Robert was given the chance of escaping by his first cousin, Clement Grissold, who was with the search party and had probably led it to the house, but he refused to leave the priest. Both were offered their freedom



if they would conform. They were executed at Warwick on 16 July 1604. Sugar said on the scaffold "Be ye all merry, for we have not occasion of sorrow but of joy: for although I shall have a sharp dinner, yet I trust in Jesus Christ that I shall have a most sweet supper". They were beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1987.

## Blessed William Freeman

William Freeman was born in Yorkshire and studied at Magdalen College, Oxford. In 1586 he witnessed the execution of a Catholic priest in London, and this made such an impression on him that he was reconciled to the Church and left England to study for the priesthood. He was ordained at Rheims in France in 1589. For six years he worked in secret as a priest in Worcestershire and Warwickshire. He was arrested at Alvechurch, condemned to death for being a priest and hanged, drawn and quartered at Warwick on 13 August 1595. At the gallows he said: "I came hither to die for my faith, the true ancient and Catholic faith ". He was beatified by Pope Pius XI in 1929.



## View from Gallows Hill

