



St. John Kemble

Born: 1599 at Rhydica Farm, Saint Weonard's Parish, Herefordshire, England

Died: hanged, drawn, and quartered on 22 August 1679 at Widemarsh Common, Hereford, England, so well respected in the area that he was permitted to die on the gallows and avoid the agony of the drawing and quartering elements, buried in the Welsh Newton Churchyard, his hand is preserved as a relic at Saint Francis Xavier's church, Hereford, England

Canonized: 25 October 1970 by Pope Paul VI.

Additional Memorials 25 October as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, 29 October as one of the Martyrs of Douai

Son of John and Anne Kemble. Studied at Douai, France. Ordained on 23 February 1625 at Douai College. Returned to England on 4 June 1625 as a missionary in Monmouthshire and Herefordshire. He tended to his covert flock for 53 years. Arrested at Pembridge Castle, the home of a family member, in 1678, and lodged in Hereford Gaol. Falsely accused of being part of the Titus Oates Plot. Condemned in March 1679 for the treason of Catholic priesthood. Martyred at age 80. Before leaving for his execution, John sat for a while with the under-sheriff, having a final drink and smoking a final pipe. This led to the Herefordshire expression "Kemble cup" and "Kemble pipe", meaning one taken before a parting.