

November 16th Diocesan Memorial of St Edmund of Abingdon — bishop

Edmund Rich was born in 1180 in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. He studied in the then new Universities of Oxford and Paris. He returned to Oxford in 1214 and became Professor of Philosophy. He was a pioneer of Scholasticism, and in addition a significant biblical scholar. St Edmund Hall, Oxford, is named after him.

In 1233, after some 11 years as Treasurer at Salisbury, he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. He undertook a considerable programme of reform during his time as Archbishop, asserting the authority of the bishop within the Church and the independence of the Church from the state.

His work aroused opposition, not least from the King. It was while on a journey to Rome on appeal against the King that Edmund died, at Soissy on November 16th, 1240.

He was buried at Pontigny, and was canonised, only 6 years later, in 1246.

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord chose him to be his high priest; he opened his treasures and made him rich in all goodness.

Opening Prayer

God of justice,
by whose inspiration Saint Edmund was vigilant for the cause of integrity in public office and discipline in religious life;
grant, we pray you,
the same spirit of constancy to your Church and make it fearless to proclaim the righteousness that you demand of all.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Prayer over the gifts

Lord,
accept the gifts we bring to your altar in memory of St Edmund.
As you led him to glory through these mysteries, grant us also your pardon and love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The good shepherd gives his life for his sheep.

Prayer after Communion

Lord our God,
you give us the holy body and blood of your Son.
May the salvation we celebrate be our undying hope.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.