

Margaret Clitherow

Margaret used to work in a butcher's shop in York. It was a very busy shop and Margaret was very popular with all the customers.

Margaret was a **Protestant** that is she belonged to the Church of England. Then her life changed – she became a Catholic. It was against the law to be a Catholic at this time.

There were many priests in York at this time who were in danger and risked their lives being priests. Margaret opened her house to the hunted priests. She hid them and put the people who hunted them off their track.



Her home became a Mass centre. People came from all over York to attend Mass in Margaret's house often in the dead of night. The priest would come out of his secret hiding-place to say Mass.

Margaret knew that she risked her life in helping fellow Catholics, but nothing would stop her, not even when she was sent to prison as a warning.

The Queen's spies could not prove that she hid the priests, but they were always hoping that one day they would catch her out. Then one day a young boy was terrified into betraying her.

Margaret was taken away and put in prison. They threatened her with terrible punishment unless she betrayed her friends. But Margaret wasn't afraid, she trusted in God. She would not say anything.

Margaret was sentenced to death. She was pressed to death. To make it worse they put a sharp stone under her back.

Margaret was pressed to death on March 25th, 1586. With her last breath she was singing the praises of God.

Discuss in pairs:

- **What sacrifices did this saint make?**
- **Why do you think this saint is a good role model?**
- **What 3 words would you use to describe your House Saint?**