

FERRAR, ROBERT (died 1555), Protestant martyr and bishop

Name: Robert Ferrar
Date of death: 1555
Gender: Male
Occupation: Protestant martyr and bishop
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Glanmor Williams

Born within the parish of Halifax. Ferrar first entered Cambridge University, but later went to Oxford. Here he became an Augustinian canon. In 1528, he was one of a group of students discovered secretly trafficking in Lutheran literature, and was compelled to recant.

In 1535, he accompanied [William Barlow](#), on an embassy to Scotland, and later became Prior of Nostell, Yorkshire, in time to surrender the house to the king, 20 November 1540, whereupon he received a pension of £80. A leading reformer and high in Somerset's favour he was made a royal preacher and visitor in 1547. His consecration as bishop of S. Davids, 9 September 1548, was the first to be celebrated according to the English form of service. At S. Davids he came into sharp conflict with a powerful group of canons, who took advantage of Somerset's fall to present a series of grave accusations against his protégé.

After the accession of Mary, Ferrar was imprisoned in Southwark, and, in March 1554, was deprived of his bishopric for heresy and marriage. After some indecision, Ferrar, fortified by Bradford and other Protestant prisoners, refused to recant when examined by bishop Gardiner and other commissioners in February 1555. He was then arraigned before his successor, [Henry Morgan](#), at Carmarthen, and, still refusing to retract his opinions, he met his death (by burning) with great courage on Carmarthen market square 30 March 1555.

Author

Sir Glanmor Williams

Sources

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Foxe's Acts and Monuments of these latter and perilous days (1563)

Athenae Oxonienses (1813â€“20), ii, 759-61

Athenae Cantabrigienses (1858â€“1913), i, 125-6

E. Yardley, *Menevia Sacra. Arch. Camb.* (1927), 91-4

R. Jennings, *Martyrdom of Bishop Ferrar at Carmarthen, A.D. 1555 a lecture* (1867)

Transactions of the Halifax Antiquarian Society, 1934, 193-266

[See Constantine, George, in Appendix.]

Further Reading

Ted Hughes, *The Martyrdom of Bishop Ferrar*, accessed 16 March 2020

Wikipedia Article: [Robert Ferrar](#)

Images

Robert Ferrar, Bishop of St. Davids. Martyr

The cruel burnyng of Maister Ferrar, Martyr

Additional Links

VIAF: [690014727038643570000](#)

Wikidata: [Q7344312](#)

Published date: 1959

Article Copyright: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/>

[PDF](#) [Print](#) [Cite](#)

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).



APA Citation



Williams, G., (1959). FERRAR, ROBERT (died 1555), Protestant martyr and bishop. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. Retrieved 11 Nov 2024, from <https://biography.wales/article/s-FERR-ROB-1555>

[Copy to Clipboard](#)

[Privacy & Cookies](#)
[Copyright](#)
[The Project](#)
[Help](#)
[Contact](#)

LGC
NLW

LLYFRGEL
THE NATION



Wedi'i gynnwys
Llyfrgell Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Government