

## The Noble Martyr A Spiritual Biography of St Philip Howard

By Dudley Plunkett

Foreword by the Duke of Norfolk

By the time Philip Howard (1557-1595) reached adulthood the Elizabethan Reformation was well under way. No fewer than 819 monastic communities had been dissolved; the Mass and even the Rosary had been banned; the iconoclasts had ransacked the parish churches; the law had proscribed the Catholic faith; priests were accused of treason and condemned to fines, torture and execution; and 183 English Catholics were put to death between 1577 and 1603.



Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, son of the 4th Duke of Norfolk, was a great nobleman and a favourite of Queen Elizabeth. A future of wealth and power seemed assured, but in 1584 he committed himself to the Catholic faith. He was arrested a year later and imprisoned in the Tower of London until his death in 1595.

Now Dudley Plunkett goes beyond the simple facts of this heroic saint's life and death to examine the texts St Philip studied, translated and wrote – mainly during the long years in the Tower – to uncover a deeper story and a vibrant spirituality that continues to inspire with its courage and enduring faith.

The book includes the full text of some of St Philip's most beautiful writing, including *A Lament for Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham*.

*'I especially welcome a book about St Philip that combines scholarly research with spiritual sensitivity and thus offers a reminder of the courage and fidelity of our ancestors with more than a historian's interest.'*

Edward Fitzalan-Howard, 18<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk

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Dudley Plunkett has taught at Southampton University and the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham. He is the author of several books on spiritual and religious topics, including *Heaven Wants to be Heard*, also published by Gracewing.

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