

St Alban

Alban is known as the first Christian martyr in England. He was a wealthy man of Romano-Christian background and was executed at Verulamium (now St Albans) c.209 AD. He was convicted of sheltering a Christian priest, although it's not certain whether Alban was ever a Christian himself.



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
What part of the story did you like and why?
What part of the story didn't you like and why?
Can you work out why Alban wanted to be a follower of Jesus?
- ③ Sometimes it's hard to stick up for what you believe in. Ask the children if they have ever been in that situation, and talk about what helped them.
- ④ Ask the children to find out more about the Romans. Can they discover the name of the first Roman emperor to be a Christian?
- ⑤ Today a special memorial /shrine is in St Albans Cathedral. What would the children like to be remembered by?

St Alban



**St Alban was
a soldier and
worshipped the
Roman gods.**



He met a group of Christians and learnt about Jesus. A priest visited his house and taught him many things about Jesus and later Alban was baptised.



It was at that time that Diocletian the Roman emperor had all the Christian churches destroyed and all the Christians killed, so it was a dangerous time to be a Christian.



Alban tried to help his friend the priest and hid him in his house and when the soldiers came to arrest the priest. Alban saved him by swapping clothes and being arrested in his place.



He was tried and put to death for his faith. He was the first English Christian martyr. There is a shrine to him in St. Albans Cathedral.