

Our School Patron Bishop William Bernard Ullathorne

**William Bernard Ullathorne OSB (7 May 1806 – 21 March 1889)
was an English Bishop.**

Ullathorne was born in Pocklington, East Riding in Yorkshire, the eldest of William Ullathorne, a prosperous businessman with interests in groceries, draperies and spirits, and Hannah (née Longstaff). When he was nine years of age, Ullathorne's family relocated to Scarborough, where he began his schooling. He was a descendant of Saint Thomas More (a Catholic Martyr) through his great-grandmother, Mary More.

At 12 he was taken from school and placed in his father's office to learn the management of accounts. The intention was to send him to school again, but Ullathorne wished to go to sea, and at the age of 15, with his parents' permission, he made the first of several voyages to the Baltic Sea and Mediterranean.

While attending Mass in Memel he had a religious experience and on his return asked fellow sailors if he had any religious books. Ullathorne was given a translation of Marsollier's Life of St Jane Frances de Chantal (a biography of a French nun), which deepened his religious devotion. At the end of this voyage, he returned home.

In February 1823, aged 16, he was sent to Downside School, to train to become a priest, he was mentored by John Bede Polding (who would later become the first Archbishop of Sydney).

John Bede Polding greatly influenced Ullathorne.

Why is he important?

- He was influential in abolishing the transportation of convicts to Australia – he felt they were not being rehabilitated effectively and needed greater input from the church.
- He worked in Penal colonies (a settlement used to separate prisoners from the general population – usually in a very remote location) in Australia.
- When he arrived in Coventry, Bishop Ullathorne was put in charge of the Coventry Mission (Little Park Street and then Hill Street) he found a poor congregation. With the help of others, he built the church and presbytery of St Osburg's. He lived in Spon Street when the work was going on.
- He became the first Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Birmingham. During his nearly four decades of tenure, 67 new churches, 32 convents and nearly 200 mission schools were built.
- He died at Oscott College and his monument is in the crypt of St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, although he was buried in the sanctuary of the Church of St Dominic and the Immaculate Conception at Stone.

