

The Catholic Tradition and History of Honouring the Saints

The first people to be revered as Catholic saints were martyrs who died under the Roman persecution in the first centuries after Jesus Christ. Martyrs are people who give up their lives in the name of God and their religious beliefs. Originally the word 'martyr' meant 'witness' but it was not intended that witnessing would lead to death.

TASK 1

*Who was the first Christian Martyr?
Present his story to be shared with others.*

In early Christian times the meaning of the word 'martyr' changed to refer to a believer who was called to witness for their religious belief, and on account of this witness, endured suffering or death. St John was the only apostle of Jesus who was not martyred. The first martyrs were honoured as saints almost immediately after their deaths.

TASK 2

*Make memorial cards for 3 of the apostles.
Include details of their lives and deaths.
Use a present day memorial card as a model to share. When sharing your work explain why people have memorial cards and show some recent examples.*

