

## Troubles at home and abroad

### Key terms:

CALVINIST - Protestants who followed the teachings of John Calvin

CHAPLAIN—a clergyman attached to the private chapel of a prominent person

EPISCOPAL—a Church hierarchy structured around bishops.

HERETIC—a person who did not follow the official religion of the country.

HUGUENOT—A French Protestant. They suffered severe persecution and many fled to England.

JESUIT—Roman Catholic missionary priests

MASS—one of the 7 sacraments, re-enacting the last supper. A key Catholic ritual.

PROPHESYING—prayer meetings where the Bible was discussed and sermons said.

PAPAL BULL—a decree issued by the Pope.

PURITAN—extreme Protestant, favouring plain churches and simple services.

PURSUIVANTS—Government priest hunters.

RECUSANT—someone who refused to go to church services.

SACRAMENT—a sacred ritual.

SEMINARY—a school for training priests.

Elizabeth's position was always very vulnerable and her instability was closely tied up with religious disagreements. For some, Elizabeth was an illegitimate HERETIC who had no right to be Queen of England. She managed to antagonise both Catholics and Protestants at home. Meanwhile, dangerous plots constantly revolved around her Catholic cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots. Eventually, the momentous decision was taken to have Mary executed. In 1588, in the aftermath of Mary's dramatic death, the Spanish launched their famous Armada, which threatened to destroy Elizabeth and England forever. Elizabeth's position as Queen was therefore always fragile.

### Key individuals:

**Mary, Queen of Scots**—Henry VIII's great-granddaughter, Elizabeth's second cousin, Catholic and with a strong claim to the throne. Married to the French king and inherited the Scottish crown when she was 6 days old. The figurehead for Catholic plots and rebellions & held captive for much of her life in English castles. Executed for treason in 1587.

**Edmund Grindal**—Archbishop of Canterbury 1575-1583 who was reluctant to persecute Puritans.

**John Whitgift**—Archbishop of Canterbury 1583-1604 who opposed Puritans, especially those who spoke out against Elizabeth and her religious settlement of 1559.

**Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk**—the Queen's cousin and Catholic sympathiser. He planned to marry Mary and seize the throne from Elizabeth—involved in the Northern Rebellion and Ridolfi plot (executed for treason in 1572).

### Why was Elizabeth's excommunication a turning point?

Elizabeth was declared a heretic. The bull released Elizabeth's subjects from allegiance to her—they no longer obeyed her. It encouraged Catholic states, such as France and Spain to believe they could wage a holy war on England. It encouraged further plots against Elizabeth, centred around Mary Queen of Scots. It also led to more severe treatment of English Catholics.

### Why was Mary Queen of Scots arrival in England so important?

It led to the following plots:

1569-1570—The Northern Rebellion

1571—The Ridolfi Plot

1580-1581—Campion's Mission

1583—The Throckmorton Plot

1586—The Babington Plot

Government suspicion of Catholics intensified because no Catholic could be loyal to Elizabeth if their religion demanded they follow the pope. Catholic conspiracies were dealt with severely because the threat to Elizabeth was so serious. Laws passed against Catholics became stricter. Catholics became much more secretive; sheltering priests in priest holes and conducting worship in secret.