



By the King.

A Proclamation for a generall Fast to be Weekly
observed thorowout the Realme of England.



The heauie Iudgement of God in His present Visitation of the Cities of London, Westminster, and diuers other parts of the Kingdome at this time with the Pestilence, ought to moue vs to acknowledge the immediate hand of God therein, for the sinnes of this Land, so to afflict and correct His people: And His Maestie having taken into His Religious care, that in common Calamities the speciall meanes to remoue the Evil, is by serious humiliation to imploze the grace and fauour of that Supreme offended Maestie, who hath smitten the Land, and can onely heale it; hath resolved, according to the example of pious Kings in former ages, and in like cases, to command Generall and Publike Fasts to be held through the whole Realme, in such manner as is herein directed. And to the end so Religious an Exercise may be performed with all Decencie and Uniformitie; His most Excellent Maestie hath, with the aduice of His Reuerend Bishops, resolved vpon a graue and Religious Forme of Solemnizing thereof.

And this His Royall Pleasure he doth hereby Publish and Declare to all His louing Subjects, and doth straitely Charge and Command, that this Fast be Religiously and Solemnely observed and Celebrated weekly, from the time of the Publishing of this Proclamation, vpon euery Wednesday, thorowout the whole Kingdome, during the Continuance of the present Infection: with this limitation neuertheless, that in the Citie of London and Suburbs thereof, and in all other Cities, Townes, and places, where the Infection now is, or hereafter shall happen to be, and during the continuance of the Contagion in any of those places, the

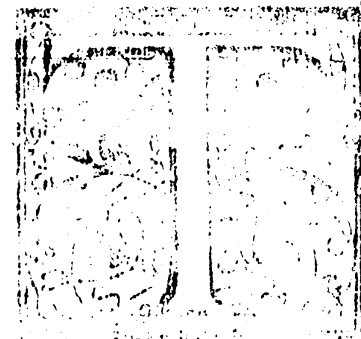


IN THE COURT OF CHANCERY

John W. ...

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And Fastes shall be no otherwise Celebrated in publike in such severall Parish Churches, then by
Deuout and Religious vse of the Prayers in the Printed Booke, now appointed to be set forth.
And that no Minister shall in London, or any other place infected, detaine their assemblies any
onger time together to heare either Sermons or other Diuine Service, because such detain-
ing of the people so long together, may proue dangerous to the further increas of the Sicknesse.
And further, that all other Duties of Prayer and Humiliation requisite, to the keeping of such
Fast, be obserued by euery person in their private Families, at home: But in all Cities, Towns,
and other places not infected, His Maestie requireth that the said Fast be publicly solemnized,
not onely by reading the said Booke, but by the vse of Sermons or Homilies, also as upon like
Occasions hath beene commanded and obserued; the same Sermons not exceeding the space of
an houre. And for the more orderly solemnizing thereof, without confusion, His Maestie, by
the aduice of His Reuerend Bishops, hath directed that the Booke of Prayers formerly set
forth by Authority, shall be reprinted and published, which, with the publike Exhortation there-
in, His Maestie thinketh fit, and commands to be vled in all Churches and places at these pub-
like meetings: And he hath giuen charge to His Bishops to disperse the same thozowout this
whole Kingdome, so farre as in these sickly times they may be able. All which His Maestie
both expressly charge and command, shall be Reuerently and Deuoutly performed by all His lo-
uing Subiects, as they tender the fauour of Almighty God, and would auoid His iust indig-
nation against this Land; and vpon paine of such punishments as His Maestie can iustly in-
flict vpon all such as shall contemne or neglect so Religious a worke.

Giuen at the Court at *New-Market* the eighteenth day of October, in the twelfth
yeere of Our Reigne.

☛ God saue the King. ☛



☛ Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer
to the Kings most Excellent Maestie: And by the
Afsignes of JOHN BILL. 1636.

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Given at the Council Chamber the eighteenth day of October, in the year
of our Lord 1586.

God save the King.



Printed in London by R.operbaker, Printer
to the King, and sold at the Stationers Hall: And by the
Signer of the Bible 1586.