

# Saint Thomas More & Saint John Fisher

- Feast day 22nd June



Saint Thomas More

Saint John Fisher

## St. John Fisher

John Fisher was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1469. He was educated at Cambridge University where he became a top scholar. He became a priest in 1491 and a bishop in the year 1504. As Bishop of Rochester he was the spiritual director of King Henry VIII's mother.



King Henry VIII wanted to divorce his wife, Catherine, in order to marry Anne Boleyn. He was angry with Bishop John for insisting that his marriage to Queen Catherine was true. He was further angered when Bishop John rejected his claim to be the Supreme Head of the Church of England.

King Henry VIII had Bishop John arrested and sent to the Tower of London. Bishop John suffered much but would not betray his faith. Whilst he was imprisoned in the Tower of London, Pope Paul III named Bishop John a cardinal, yet even this did not encourage King Henry to set him free, but only made him more angry.

Cardinal John was beheaded on June 22, 1535. Along with his friend and fellow Catholic, Sir Thomas More, Cardinal John Fisher was proclaimed a saint by Pope Pius XI in 1935.

It takes courage to stand up for the truth. Saint John Fisher shows us that, with God, we can always have the strength to do the right thing.

To find out more about Saint John Fisher see:  
[http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=688](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=688)

## St Thomas More

Thomas More was born in London, England, in 1478. He was a famous writer and lawyer.

Thomas More was a married man, and he and his family lived happily, sharing with the poor. He was deeply religious and prayed long hours into the night and performed many penances.

Thomas was also a good friend of King Henry VIII who made him Chancellor of England, a position just under the king. Thomas enforced the laws of England and saw that the poor were protected against injustice.

Once while Thomas was hearing Mass, King Henry sent for him. He did not leave until the Mass was finished, but sent this message, "As soon as my audience with the King of Heaven is ended, I will at once obey the desire of my earthly king."

King Henry wanted a law passed making himself head of Church of England, because the Pope would not grant him a divorce from Queen Catherine. When Thomas refused to consider such a law and resigned his position, he was arrested. At the trial false witnesses were called against him, and he was condemned to death.

Thomas was beheaded on July 6, 1535 and along with his friend and fellow Catholic, Cardinal John Fisher, he was proclaimed a saint by Pope Pius XI in 1935.

Just like his friend Saint John Fisher, Thomas did not compromise his own moral values in order to please the king. He was able to stay strong through prayer and trusting in God.

To find out more about Saint Thomas More see:  
[http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=324](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=324)

