

- Jesus light our way on our faith journey. Be our guide, our joy and our

St. Thomas More

1480 - 1535

Thomas More was born in London in 1480. His father was a knight. St Thomas grew up as a very devout youth, and decided to become a lawyer. As an honest attorney, his services were constantly in demand, but nevertheless he always found time to attend holy Mass daily.

King Henry VIII appointed Thomas More as the Lord High Chancellor. Although he was very busy, Thomas still made time for God in his life and set aside every Friday as a day of prayer.

When King Henry divorced his lawful wife and married Anne Boleyn, a lady in waiting at the court, he broke away from the Catholic Church and set himself up as the head of the Church in England. Whoever disapproved of his choice was accused of treason.

The first person who opposed the king was his loyal chancellor, Thomas More. He was cast into prison. When his wife tried to persuade him to give up his opposition and prolong his life, he asked her just how long she believed he would still live. She answered, "At least twenty years." "Indeed!" said Thomas More. "Had you said a few thousand years, that might make a difference. But surely even he would be a poor merchant who would run the risk of losing an eternity for the sake of a thousand years." Thomas More refused to give up his faith and beliefs and so was condemned to die.

Saint Thomas More was beheaded on 6th July 1535 and became a martyr for his faith. He became a Saint on 19th May 1935 when he was canonised by Pope Pius XI.



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