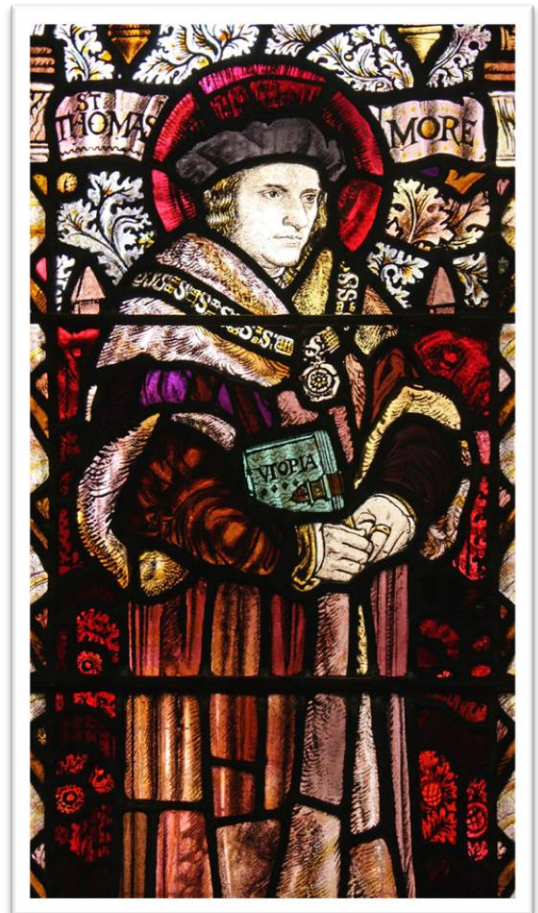
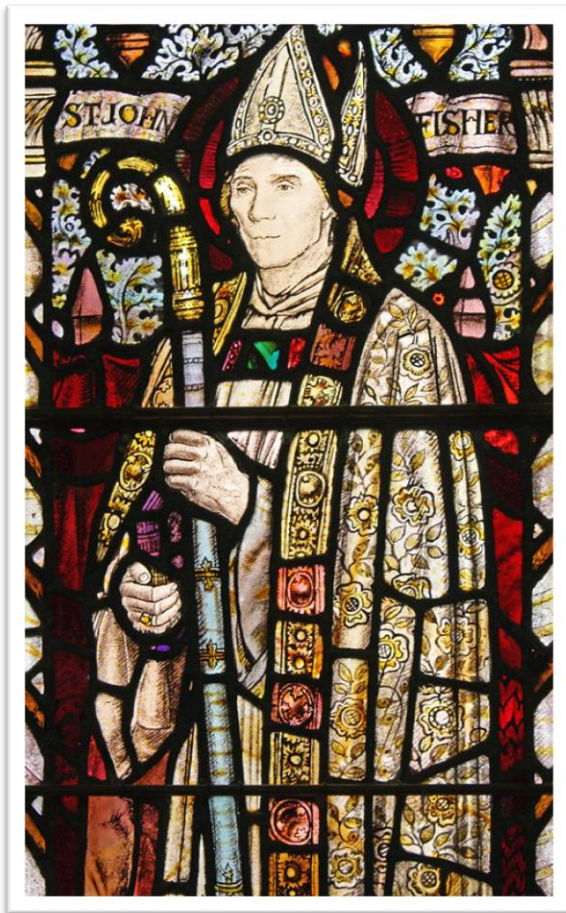


SAINTS JOHN FISHER AND THOMAS MORE

(Martyrs)
22 June



About Saints John Fisher (1469–1535) and Thomas More (1478-1535)

Saint John Fisher was born in Yorkshire in 1469 and died on 22 June 1535. He held many important positions including tutor to the young Henry VIII, Chancellor of Cambridge University and Bishop of Rochester.

Saint Thomas More was born in London in 1478 and died there on 6 July 1535 – just two weeks after his friend John Fisher. Thomas More was a devoted husband and father, and like his friend John Fisher, he too held many important positions in society including a Parliamentary lawyer, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Chancellor of England.

Both these men were friends and consultants to Henry VIII. Henry had both of them imprisoned and beheaded for treason because they did not support Henry's supremacy over the Church. John Fisher was executed only a month after being made a Cardinal by the Pope. He was so ill and weak that he had to be carried in a chair to his place of execution. He was the only Bishop who spoke out against Henry's actions. He did not hold the actions of his fellow bishops against them.

Thomas More too went to his grave with a clear conscience and told the spectators he was still "the king's good servant – but God's first." He wrote many books and used the time of his imprisonment to continue writing.

Bibliography

Daily Mass Book, © 2019 Liturgy Brisbane

Sourcebook 2019: © Liturgy Training Publications 2019

Universalis App: 22 June

What can we learn from these two saints?

Jesus said in the Gospel, ‘All you need say is “Yes” if you mean yes, “No” if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one’ (Matthew 5:37). These two men said what they meant and meant what they said and they didn’t change their tune to suit popular opinion nor to gain popularity. They stuck to their guns. We live in a day and age where there is too much fence sitting and people are trying to rally support here and there. Instead, it would be far more productive if people stood by their Christian convictions and went about implementing them.

Both these men held important positions both in Church and society, but they did not abuse the privileges afforded to them in these positions. Instead, they used them to serve the Lord and His people.

We all experience trials and tribulations in our lives. These two men didn’t have their own pity party. They kept working for God and His people even during their imprisonment. Saint Thomas More wrote a Prayer For Our Enemies before he died. These are the last two sentences from it, and perhaps could be our prayer today:

Lord, give me patience in tribulation and grace in everything, to conform my will to thine, that I may truly say: *“Fiat voluntas tua, sicut in cælo et in terra”*.

The things, good Lord, that I pray for, give me thy grace to labour for. Amen.

“Fiat voluntas tua, sicut in cælo et in terra” means “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

The film “A Man for all Seasons” tells the story of Sir Thomas More and how he stood up to Henry VIII. Henry VIII is remembered for all the wrong reasons, whilst Saints John Fisher and Thomas More are remembered for their true witness to Christ and His teachings.

Prayer Resources

COLLECT

O God, who in martyrdom
have brought true faith to its highest expression,
graciously grant
that, strengthened through the intercession
of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More,
we may confirm by the witness of our life
the faith we profess with our lips.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Gospel

Matthew 10:34-39

It is not peace I have come to bring, but a sword.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:

‘Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth:
it is not peace I have come to bring, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

A man’s enemies will be those of his own household.

‘Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me.

Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me.

Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me.

Anyone who finds his life will lose it;

anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.’

Communion Antiphon

Holy men shed their glorious blood for the Lord;
they loved Christ in their life, they imitated him in their death,
and therefore were crowned in triumph.

Copyright Acknowledgements

Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). All rights reserved.

The Scripture Readings are taken from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967, 1968 Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Co. Inc. Used by permission of the publishers.

Hymn for Memorial of Saints John Fisher and Thomas More (Martyrs)

1. Thomas More and John Fisher
were faithful to the end.
They chose to be defiant,
the Holy Church defend.
They served God and their monarch,
Henry, the English King,
but they always put God first
in each and everything.

2. We thank you, Lord, for these men,
who served you faithfully,
a cardinal and layman
who chose their destiny.
They chose to follow conscience
and to Christ to be true.
May their example guide us
in all we say and do.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono, revised May 2021, April 2022
Tune: AURELIA 76.76D

Saints John Fisher and Thomas More

(22 June)

Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

AURELIA 76.76D

Voice

1. Tho - mas More and John Fi - sher were faith - ful to the end. They
2. We thank you, Lord, for these men, who served you faith - ful - ly, a

Organ

5

Voice

1. chose to fol - low con - science, the Ho - ly Church de - fend. They
2. car - di - nal and lay - man who chose their des - ti - ny. They

Org.

9

Voice

1. served God and their mon - arch, Hen - ry, the Eng - lish King, but
2. chose to fol - low con - science and to Christ to be true. May

Org.

13

Voice

1. they al - ways put God first in each and ev' - ry - thing.
2. their ex - am - ple guide us in all we say and do.

Org.

The musical score is written for Voice and Organ. The Voice part is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The Organ part consists of two staves, treble and bass, also in two sharps. The music spans four measures. The Voice part has a melodic line with lyrics. The Organ part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.