

Saint Thomas More – a man of honesty and integrity



The life of Saint Thomas More

Saint Thomas More was born in London in 1478. He received an excellent education, studied law, and became one of the most respected lawyers and scholars in England.

Through hard work, wisdom, and integrity, he rose to become one of the most important advisers of King Henry VIII. Eventually, he was appointed **Lord Chancellor of England**, one of the highest offices in the kingdom.

Thomas More was known for his fairness, honesty, and commitment to justice. People trusted him because he sought to do what was right rather than what was convenient.

A man guided by conscience

Thomas More was a devoted

husband, father, and faithful Catholic. He believed that every person must act according to a well-formed conscience and remain faithful to the truth.

For many years, he served the king loyally and faithfully. However, a conflict eventually arose when King Henry VIII sought to place himself above the authority of the Church. The king demanded that leading officials acknowledge him as the supreme head of the Church in England.

Thomas More faced a difficult choice.

He could follow the king's wishes and preserve his position, wealth, and safety, or remain faithful to his conscience and his beliefs.

Choosing truth over personal advantage

Thomas More refused to say something he believed to be untrue.

He did not act out of rebellion or hostility. Instead, he quietly and firmly remained faithful to his convictions.

He resigned from public office and withdrew from political life rather than compromise his principles.

Many people encouraged him to give in for the sake of his family and personal security. Yet Thomas More believed that honesty and integrity could not be abandoned whenever they became inconvenient.

He once said:

“I am the King's good servant, but God's first.”

Trial and martyrdom

Eventually, Thomas More was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London.

At his trial, he was pressured to abandon his position and declare support for the king's demands. Despite the risk, he continued to act according to his conscience.

He remained calm, respectful, and truthful throughout the proceedings.

In 1535, Thomas More was sentenced to death and executed.

Even in his final moments, he remained faithful to his beliefs and refused to betray the truth as he understood it.

Why is Saint Thomas More venerated?

Saint Thomas More is honoured because he demonstrated extraordinary honesty and integrity under immense pressure.

He showed that truth and conscience are not values to be abandoned when circumstances become difficult.

His life reminds us that genuine integrity means maintaining the same principles in public and in private, in success and in adversity.

What can we learn from Saint Thomas More?

Saint Thomas More remains an important role model, especially for military personnel and leaders entrusted with responsibility.

His example reminds us that:

- Honesty requires courage.
- Integrity means acting according to one's values and principles.
- Conscience should guide decisions, even under pressure.
- Trust is built through truthfulness and consistency.
- Character is revealed when difficult choices must be made.

Military personnel are often entrusted with significant responsibilities. Reliable reporting, truthful communication, and moral courage are essential for maintaining trust and credibility.

Saint Thomas More teaches that true integrity means remaining faithful to the truth, even when honesty carries a personal cost.

Feast Day

The feast day of **Saint Thomas More** is **22 June**. He is honoured as the patron saint of statesmen, politicians, lawyers, and all who seek to serve with honesty, integrity, and fidelity to conscience.