

Feast Day: June 22 [Patron](#) of lawyers and politicians **1535**

St. Thomas More, Martyr (Patron of lawyers) St. Thomas More was born at London in 1478. After a thorough grounding in religion and the classics, he entered Oxford to study law. Upon leaving the university he embarked on a legal career which took him to Parliament. In 1505, he married his beloved Jane Colt who bore him four children, and when she died at a young age, he married a widow, Alice Middleton, to be a mother for his young children. A wit and a reformer, this learned man numbered Bishops and scholars among his friends and by 1516 wrote his world-famous book "Utopia". He attracted the attention of Henry VIII who appointed him to a succession of high posts and missions, and finally made him Lord Chancellor in 1529. However, he resigned in 1532, at the height of his career and reputation, when Henry persisted in holding his own opinions regarding marriage and the supremacy of the Pope. The rest of his life was spent in writing mostly in defense of the Church. In 1534, with his close friend, St. John Fisher, he refused to render allegiance to the King as the Head of the Church of England and was confined to the Tower. Fifteen months later, and nine days after St. John Fisher's execution, he was tried and convicted of treason. He told the court that he could not go against his conscience and wished his judges that "we may yet hereafter in heaven merrily all meet together to everlasting salvation." **And on the scaffold, he told the crowd of spectators that he was dying as "the King's good servant-but God's first."**

He was beheaded on July 6, 1535. His feast day is June 22

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Additional St. Thomas More resources: <http://www.catholic.org/politics/story.php?id=28335>

Scripture verses for meditation:□

Hosea 4:6 My people perish for want of knowledge! Since you have rejected knowledge, I will

reject you from my priesthood; Since you have ignored the law of your God, I will also ignore your sons. □

Isaiah 6: 5-8 *Then I said, “Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember which he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it. “See,” he said, “now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”* □ *“Here I am,” I said; “send me!”* □

Paul to the Philippians 2: 12-14 *I want you to know, brothers, that my situation has turned out rather to advance the gospel, so that my imprisonment has become well known in Christ throughout the whole praetorium and to all the rest, and so that the majority of the*

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brothers, having taken encouragement in the Lord from my imprisonment, dare more than ever to proclaim the word fearlessly.

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Isaiah 26:12 *O Lord, you mete out peace to us, for it is you who have accomplished all we have done.*