

St Thomas More

MORNING PRAYER

Monday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

This first week we reflect on our house saints, and remember to think of them as our patrons; They have a job to do in heaven for each one of us!

Saint Thomas More was an East Londoner, born in 1478. He was very gifted and went to Oxford University when he was only 14 years old. By the age of 18 he had left Oxford and was studying Law at Lincoln's Inn.

He rose to become Lord Chancellor of England, and was highly valued by King Henry VIII. But above everything he put his faith.

When King Henry declared himself Supreme Head of the Church of England, More resigned as Lord Chancellor.

For this he was sent to the Tower of London.

His wife Alice visited him there, and was horrified by all the rats and mice in his prison cell.

She said "*Thomas, why don't you give up this stand against the King and come back to your nice house in Chelsea?*"

Thomas replied "*Alice, tell me, is not this house as near Heaven as our house in Chelsea?*"

He was executed on 6th July 1535.

PRAYERS

Let us ask our patron Saint Thomas More to pray for us, and help us realise that however much we might seek worldly praise, nothing can compare with being held in God's high esteem.

Lord, hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

St. Philip: **Pray for us.** *House Saint:* **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

St Thomas More

Tuesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

At the trial of Thomas More in the Houses of Parliament, when he was asked to recognise King Henry VIII as Head of the Church of England he replied:-

“For one bishop who agrees with you, I have a hundred saints who agree with me.

And for one Parliament of yours, I have all the General Councils of the Church for a 1000 years.

And for one kingdom, I have all the kingdoms of Christendom.

The true reason for my condemnation and trial, is my unwillingness to consent to the King’s second marriage. But I hope in the divine goodness of time to come, that just as Saint Paul and Saint Stephen (whom he persecuted) are now friends in Paradise, so one day will the King and I, though differing here, be united in friendship hereafter.

I pray God to protect the King and to give him good counsel.”

PRAYERS

Let us take inspiration from St Thomas More to pray for the gift of courage and to never give in to despair.

May we dare to stand up for the truth when those that surround us are swayed by cowardice and fear.

Lord, hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who stand up for our faith in Parliament and in Government. May St Thomas More pray for them in heaven, as we pray for them here on earth.

Lord, hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

St. Philip: **Pray for us.** *House Saint:* **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

St Thomas More

Wednesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Thomas More was led by the Lieutenant of the Tower of London to the scaffold, that had been built for his execution. But it looked so badly made, and so rickety, that he said to the Lieutenant:

“I pray you sir, see me safely up....and for my coming down, let me shift for myself!”

After saying some prayers, he kissed the executioner, and asked his forgiveness, saying:

“Thou wilt do me this day a greater benefit than ever any mortal man can be able to give me. Pluck up your spirits man, and do you work! My neck is short so take a good aim!”

Then closing his eyes, and laying his head on the block, he moved his beard to one side, saying that his beard was innocent of treason.

Then with great joy he received the fatal blow.

PRAYERS

We pray for those who have been elected to govern our country. May they promote a culture which we would recognise as Christian.

Lord hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who left our school last year, and will start their studies at College or University.

May they find the courage to bear witness to their faith.

Lord hear us...**Lord graciously hear us.**

St. Philip: **Pray for us.** *House Saint:* **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

St Thomas More

Thursday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ROSARY REFLECTION

Today, let us offer a decade of the Rosary for members of More House, that we are inspired by the courage of our House Patron.

SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Pilate released Barabbas for the crowds; and after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

1x Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. **Give us this day....**

10x *Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of they womb, Jesus. Holy Mary...*

1x *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was....In the name..*

Friday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FRIDAY PRAYER

Now let us say together a famous prayer written by Saint Ignatius Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits, called

THE ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me

Body of Christ, save me

Blood of Christ, inebriate me

Water from the side of Christ, wash me

Passion of Christ, strengthen me

O good Jesus, hear me

Within thy wounds hide me

Permit me not to be separated from thee

From the wicked foe defend me

At the hour of my death call me

And bid me come to thee

That with thy saints I may praise thee For ever and ever.

Amen.