

St. John Fisher
Bishop & Martyr
1469 - 1535
Memorial - 22 June

Patron Saint:
Rochester, England;
Pray for Help with
Marriages, Vocational
Discernment, For
those persecuted for
their faith

St. John Fisher was born in 1469 in England. His parents were merchants, and he had three siblings.

When John was eight years old, his father died. His mother remarried and had five more children. As a young man, John studied at the University of Cambridge. He studied theology and the arts, earning a master's degree at age twenty-two years.

From a young age, John felt called to the priesthood. Though he was younger than the canonical age requirement for the priesthood, John obtained a papal dispensation to become a priest at age twenty-two in 1491. Around this time, he was also elected as a fellow at Cambridge. He rose in prominence in the academic world, while also gaining recognition with the English royalty. In 1504, Fisher became the bishop of the diocese of Rochester. This diocese was often considered the first step in rising to high ecclesiastical position. But John chose to remain bishop of Rochester for the rest of his life.

Seeing a need for reform inside the Church, Fisher often preached against abuses and about the need for reform. When Martin Luther began leading his revolt against the Church, John preached a famous sermon against Luther. Soon, John had to face other attacks against the Church. King Henry VIII was trying to unjustly dissolve his marriage to Queen Catherine of Aragon. John Fisher vehemently supported the queen and the marriage, even saying that he was prepared to die in defense of marriage's indissolubility. John's stance greatly angered the king. King Henry never forgave him over the matter.

As King Henry began moves to make himself head of the Church in England, John warned Parliament that it would end in England breaking from the

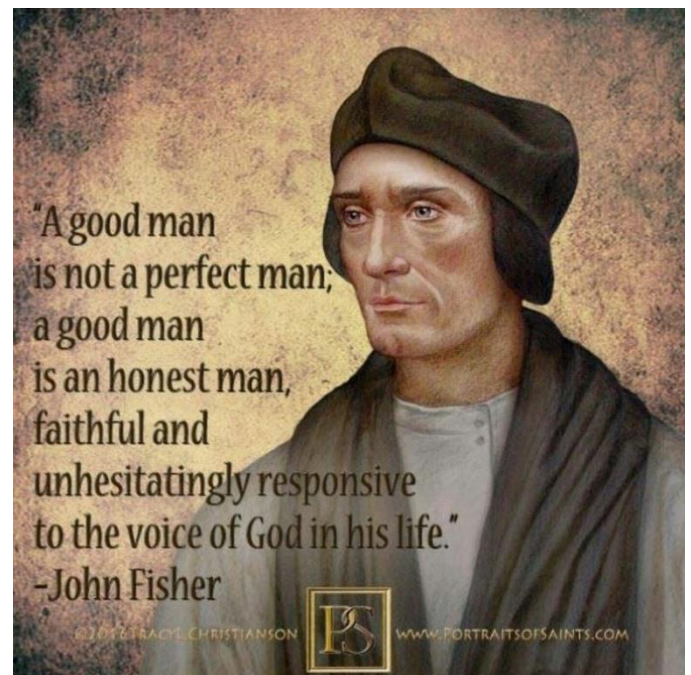
Catholic Church. Then the king married Anne Boleyn. He demanded that Fisher and others take an oath declaring that Henry's and Anne's children were the legitimate heirs to the throne. Fisher refused to take the oath and was imprisoned in the tower of London.

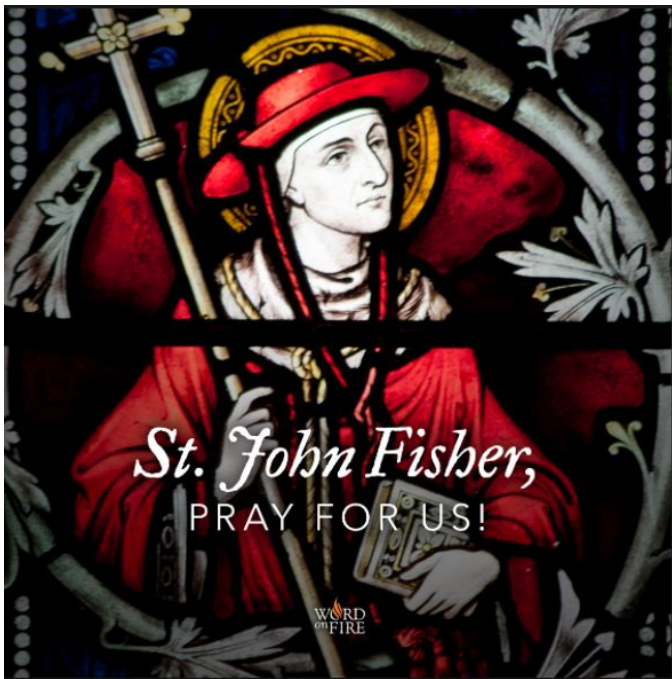
During his imprisonment, the King tried to make him submit on several occasions. But John held firm, despite poor conditions and the inability to see a priest. In 1535, Pope Paul III made John Fisher a cardinal, hoping that King Henry would then give John better treatment. This only angered King Henry further. The king had Fisher tried for treason. John was found guilty and was sentenced to die by being hung, drawn, and quartered.

Because it was nearing the feast of St. John the Baptist's Nativity, the King decided to change John's sentence to beheading, in order to ensure that John would die before the feast. Henry did not want the public to see the parallels between John Fisher's opposition to his marriage and John the Baptist's opposition of the marriage of Herod and Herodius. John Fisher faced his death calmly and with great courage. He was beheaded on June 22nd, 1535. St. John Fisher was canonized with fellow English martyr St. Thomas More in 1935.

St. John Fisher's Feast Day: June 22nd

Read more at: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/st-john-fisher-novena>





Praying the Chaplet of St. John Fisher

Opening Prayer on the Crucifix:

Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. John Fisher as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate his desire to serve You, and the openness to Your will that he showed when he decided to dedicate his life to You in the priesthood. Help us to imitate the virtue that he lived out during his time as a student and in his professional academic roles. Help us to imitate the humility he showed in choosing to stay in his first diocese rather than climb to high ecclesiastical authority. Help us to imitate his love for Your Church's teachings and the zealotry with which he defended those teachings. Help us to imitate his devotion to the sanctity of marriage, which was so deep that declared he was ready to die in defense of marriage. Help us to imitate the patient acceptance of sufferings that he showed when he endured the harsh conditions of imprisonment for proclaiming the truth. Help us to imitate the fortitude he showed in holding fast to the truth, even during a harsh imprisonment and a death sentence. Help us to imitate the courage he showed when he faced execution for his devotion to Your Church and her teachings. Help us to imitate the devotion to You that he lived out amidst opposition from those around him. Amen.

3 Our Fathers

3 Hail Marys

3 Glory Be's

Closing Prayer for Holy Bishops by Saint John Fisher (on the Medal)

Lord, according to Thy promise that the Gospel should be preached throughout the whole world, raise up men fit for such work. The Apostles were but soft and yielding clay till they were baked hard by the fire of the Holy Ghost. So, good Lord, do now in like manner with Thy Church militant, change and make the soft and slippery earth into hard stones. Set in the Thy Church strong and mighty pillars that may suffer and endure great labors-- watching, poverty, thirst, hunger, cold and heat-- which also shall not fear the threatenings of princes, persecution, neither death, but always persuade and think with themselves to suffer with a good will, slanders, shame, and all kinds of torments, for the glory and laud of Thy Holy Name. By this manner, good Lord, the truth of Thy Gospel shall be preached throughout the world. Therefore, merciful Lord, exercise Thy mercy, show it indeed upon Thy Church. Amen

<https://thethreepayers.blogspot.com/p/this-is-prayer-that-we-are-saying.html>

