

Thomas More was born in 1478. He was a famous writer and lawyer and lived here in Chelsea. Thomas More was married, and he and his family lived happily, sharing with the poor. He was deeply religious and prayed long hours into the night. Thomas was also a good friend of King Henry VIII who made him Chancellor of England, a position just under the king. Thomas enforced the laws of England and saw that the poor were protected against injustice. Once while Thomas was hearing Mass, King Henry sent for him. He did not leave until the Mass was finished, but sent this message, "As soon as my audience with the King of Heaven is ended, I will at once obey the desire of my earthly king."

# St Thomas More

Feast: 22<sup>nd</sup> June



*Reflection: What can I do to show forgiveness to those who have hurt me?*

King Henry wanted a law passed making himself head of Church of England, because the Pope would not grant him a divorce. When Thomas refused to consider such a law and resigned his position, he was arrested. At the trial false witnesses were called against him, and he was condemned to death. Thomas was killed on July 6, 1535 and was proclaimed a saint by Pope Pius XI in 1935. Thomas did not compromise his own moral values in order to please the king. He was able to stay strong through prayer and trusting in God.