

# Saint John Fisher

19th October, 1469 - 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1535

Saint John Fisher was an English Catholic bishop and theologian. He was a man of learning, associated with the intellectuals and political leaders of his day, and eventually became Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

Fisher was executed by order of Henry VIII during the English Reformation for refusing to accept the king as Supreme Head of the Church of England and for upholding the Catholic Church's doctrine of Pope being the head of the Church and for condemning Henry VIII for divorcing and remarrying. Fisher refused to swear an oath to support the king and was sent to the Tower of London. He was to remain there for over a year, and while he was allowed food and drink sent by friends, and a servant, he was not allowed a priest, even to the very end.

He was named cardinal shortly before his death. He is honoured as a martyr and saint by the Catholic Church. He was executed by beheading. Fisher's last moments were in keeping with his life. He met death with a calm dignified courage which profoundly impressed those present.

