

# St John Fisher

## MORNING PRAYERS

Monday

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

### REFLECTION

This 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 John Fisher was a Yorkshireman, born in 1469.

He was very gifted and went to Cambridge University when he was only 15 years old.

By the age of 18 he had already received his first degree.

He wanted to become a priest, and the Pope gave him special permission to be ordained at the young age of 22.

He went on to become Chancellor of Cambridge University and Bishop of Rochester, which was an important Diocese in England.

John Fisher became an outstanding theologian and writer, and became famous throughout Europe.

However, Fisher refused to accept King Henry VIII as head of the Church of England, and when he was asked to agree to the divorce of the King's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, he simply said the words from the Rite of Marriage:

*'Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder'*.

As a result, Fisher was executed by order of the King.

He was named a Cardinal by the Pope shortly before his death.

### PRAYERS

Let us ask our patron Saint John Fisher 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...

# St John Fisher

Tuesday

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

## REFLECTION

As one of the Church's greatest scholars, John Fisher spent much time writing articles and books attacking the teachings of Martin Luther.

On one occasion, he was being praised by a monk for his writings, but Fisher replied:

*"I wish that instead of spending all my time writing against Luther, I had spent that time praying for him. I am sure it would have been time much better spent!"*

In whatever house he was staying, before going to bed, John Fisher would ask if there was any poor person in a nearby house who was likely to die in the night, and if there was, he would spend time with them, leading them in prayer, and helping them prepare for death.

Whenever he was saying Mass, his face would be bathed in tears as he said the Prayers of Consecration.

## PRAYERS

Let us take inspiration from St John Fisher 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 John Fisher pray for them in heaven as we pray for them on earth.

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

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

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

In the name...

# St John Fisher

Wednesday

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

## REFLECTION

One day, when John Fisher was in the Tower of London, awaiting his execution, the cook didn't give him anything to eat. Fisher asked why he had been left out.

The cook said he was sorry, but that he had heard from other people that Fisher had already been executed!

The Saint replied "*Well tell everyone that until they see my dead body, I'm just as hungry as everyone else in this prison!*

*And if you've already prepared food for me and one day find that I've been executed, then eat my food yourself!"*

On the morning of his execution, the Lieutenant of the Tower woke him early at 5am, to tell him he was to be executed at 9am. Fisher replied:

*"In which case can you please leave me in peace and let me go back to sleep for two more hours! Its early in the morning!"*

Later, his guard asked him what clothes he would like to wear. He said "*I want to look at my best, because today is my wedding day.*"

## 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. John Fisher

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 Fisher 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.