

St Thomas More 1478-1535

Feast Day: 22nd June



St Thomas More is patron saint of political leaders. He served in Parliament after studying law at University.

More was appointed to the position of Lord Chancellor in 1529 but resigned in 1532 when King Henry VIII persisted in holding his own opinions regarding marriage and the supremacy of the Pope. From then on, More wrote much in defence of the Church, and in 1535 was convicted of treason and executed for refusing to render allegiance to the King as the Head of the Church of England.

More told the court that he could not go against his conscience and wished his judges that "we may yet hereafter in heaven merrily all meet together to everlasting salvation." At his execution, he told the crowd of spectators that he was dying as "the King's good servant-but God's first."

St Vincent de Paul 1581-1660

Feast Day: 27th September



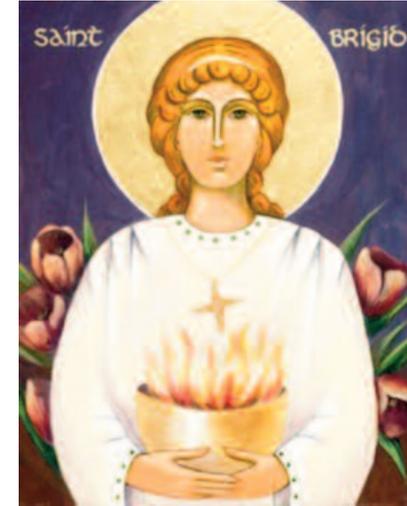
St Vincent de Paul is patron saint of charitable societies.

Vincent de Paul was ordained a priest in 1600. In 1617, he began to preach missions, and in 1625, he lay the foundations of a congregation which afterward became the Congregation of the Mission or Lazarists.

Charity was Vincent de Paul's predominant virtue. It extended to all classes of persons, from forsaken childhood to old age. In the midst of the most distracting occupations his soul was always intimately united with God. Though honored by the great ones of the world, he remained deeply rooted in humility.

St Brigid of Ireland c. 451-525 AD

Feast Day: 1st February



St Brigid founded a double monastery at Kildare in the year 470, one for men and the other a convent for women, of which Brigid was the Abbess. The foundation developed into a place of learning and spirituality in the centre of the Cathedral city of Kildare.

In liturgical iconography Saint Brigid is often depicted holding a reed cross and a lamp (called a "lamp of learning and wisdom").

St Ferdinand III of Castile 1217-1252

Feast Day: 30th May



St Ferdinand is honoured as the patron saint of persons in authority. He founded the Cathedral of Burgos and the University of Salamanca, as well as hospitals and bishoprics, monasteries, churches, and cathedrals during his reign. He also compiled and reformed a code of laws which were used until the modern era. He was a just ruler and a man of deep faith.

St Maria Giuseppe Rossello 1811-1888

Feast day: 7th December



St Maria Giuseppe Rossello was the foundress of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy. At sixteen she became a Franciscan tertiary, and in 1837, she and three companions, Pauline Barla, Angela, and Domenica Pessio, found a community in Savona. The congregation was devoted to charitable works, hospitals, and educating poor young women. In 1840, Maria Giuseppe, also called Josepha, was made superior. By the time she died on December 7, 1888, she had made sixty-eight foundations. She was canonized in 1949.

St Clare of Assisi 1194-1253

Feast day: 11th August



St Clare of Assisi was the founder of an order of nuns now called the "Poor Clares". When she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach, her heart burned with a great desire to imitate Francis and to live a poor humble life for Jesus. St. Clare and her sisters wore no shoes, ate no meat, lived in a poor house, and kept silent most of the time. Yet they were very happy, because Our Lord was close to them all the time. So great was Clare's joy in serving the Lord that she once exclaimed: *"They say that we are too poor, but can a heart which possesses the infinite God be truly called poor?"*