



SS. THOMAS MORE AND JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH, ACHIMOTA.

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

21ST MARCH, 2021: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "WE DO NOT WALK ALONE."

Rev. Fr. George Obeng - Appah (*Priest-in-Charge*) 020-8592020
Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Kwofie (Assistant Priest) 0206355610

St Thomas More Catholic Church - 030-3931800
SS Thomas More and John Fisher Catholic Church - 030-3939862

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Jer 31:31-34

Jeremiah tells the people that the Lord will make a new covenant with them, planting the law within their hearts.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 51:3-4, 12-15

CREATE A PURE HEART FOR ME, O GOD.

Second Reading Heb 5:7-9

Through his sufferings, Jesus gained salvation for all who obey him.

Gospel Reading Jn 12:20-33

Jesus teaches his disciples about the way in which he will be glorified by God, and a voice from heaven is heard to affirm this teaching.

REFLECTION

In today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death.

One focus during Lent is to reflect on our own death and to see our way through it. We all must die, as much as we don't like the fact. We try to hide it, dodge it, and deny it. Yet we can't in fact escape it. Jesus came into the world, not so much to do away with death (not immediately) but to teach us how to die by his example and then to assure us that death does not say the last word about life. When we walk into the valley of death we do not walk alone. Jesus is with us because he's been there before and knows what it is like. Moreover he promises us that just as he rose from the dead so will we. We will all be young again. We will all laugh again.

Weekly Readings

Mon 22ND MAR, 2021 Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 or 13:14c-62 Ps 23:1-6 Jn 8:1-11	Tue 23RD MAR, 2021 Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3,16-21 Jn 8:21-30
Wed 24TH MAR, 2021 Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95 Ps Dn 3:52-56 Jn 8:31-42	Thu 25TH MAR, 2021 The Annunciation of the Lord Is 7:10-14;8:10 Ps 40:7-8a,8b-9.10.11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38
Fri 26TH MAR,2021 Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-3a,3bc-4,5-6 Jn 10:31-42	Sat 27TH MAR, 2021 Ez 37:21-28 Ps Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56

Readings for Next Sunday

First Reading	Is 50:4-7
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24
Second Reading	Phil 2:6-11
Gospel	Mk 14:1-15 or Mk 15:1-39

Mass Schedule

St. Thomas More	St. John Fisher
First Mass: 7:00 am	First Mass: 6:30 am
Second Mass: 9:00 am	Second Mass: 8:30 am
	Third Mass: 10:30 am



KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

THE CHURCH AND SALVATION

The Church is sometimes called the universal sacrament of salvation. That use of the word sacrament is broad, not strict. It is true in as much as the Church is the divinely instituted means of giving grace to all. But the Church is not a visible rite - it rather confers these visible rites which we call the seven Sacraments.

From the fact that the Church is God's means of giving grace, it is clear that there is no salvation outside the Catholic Church. This truth has even been defined by the Church more than once, e.g., in the Council of Florence in 1442. However we must take care to understand this teaching the way the Church understands it. We just saw that the Church claims the exclusive authority to interpret both Scripture and Tradition. So one like Leonard Feeney who interprets the teaching on the necessity of the Church his own way is not acting like a Catholic theologian at all. The Holy Office, on August 8, 1949, declared that L. Feeney was guilty of this error. Because of his error, he rejected several teachings of the Magisterium, saying they clashed with this definition - but they clash only with his false interpretation, given in private judgment.

Pius IX (*Quanto conficiamur moerore*, August 10, 1863) taught: "God... in His supreme goodness and clemency, by no means allows anyone to be punished with eternal punishments who does not have the guilt of voluntary fault." Vatican II (*Lumen gentium* # 16) taught the same: "They who without their own fault do not know of the Gospel of Christ and His Church, but yet seek God with sincere heart, and try, under the influence of grace, to carry out His will in practice, known to them through the dictate of conscience, can attain eternal salvation." Pius XII had said (*Mystici Corporis Christi*) that one can "be related to the Church by a certain desire and wish of which he is not aware", i.e., by the desire to do what God wills in general.

To be continued...

PRAYER FOR GOD'S INTERVENTION IN OUR LAND CASE

Almighty and Merciful Father, we thank you for our faith and for the gift of our church community. We thank you for how far you have brought us as a parish. You have been our refuge in times past and our hope for years to come.

We humbly beseech you to help us win back our Land in this dispute. Save us from violence, discord and confusion and the evil plans of our adversaries.

For the Court of Justice, we pray that you will give them the spirit of Wisdom and Understanding that they may discern the truth and impartially administer the law in the fear of you alone. May they not yield to deceit and acts of bribery and corruption but uphold the truth and let justice prevail.

May your Mother Mary intercede for us and may the Archangel Michael defend us in battle. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

St. Thomas More..... Pray for us

St. John Fisher..... Pray for us

All you Angels and Saints Pray for us

PRAYER FOR AN END OF THE CORONA VIRUS – COVID 19

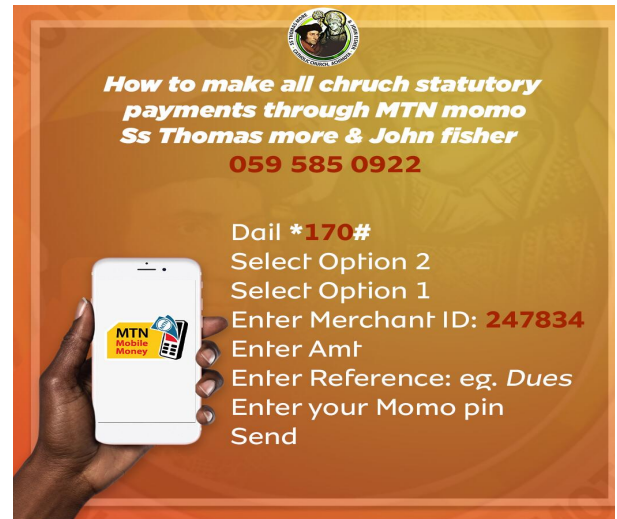
Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world.

Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families.

We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- **REV. SR. MARTHA AWUBAWUNI's FINAL PROFESSION OF VOWS COMES OFF THIS THURSDAY 25TH MARCH AT ST. BAKHITA CATHOLIC CHURCH, LASHIBI AT 9.00AM. ALL ARE INVITED.**
- **ROAD TO THE CROSS COMES OFF THIS FRIDAY 26TH MARCH, 2021 AT STM AT 7:00PM.**



How to make all church statutory payments through MTN momo
Ss Thomas more & John fisher
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Enter your Momo pin
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MOTIVATION

THE OBSTACLE IN OUR PATH (OPPORTUNITY)

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. He then hid himself and watched to see if anyone would move the boulder out of the way. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it.

Many people loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none of them did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

A peasant then came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to push the stone out of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant went back to pick up his vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King explaining that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

Moral of the story:

Every obstacle we come across in life gives us an opportunity to improve our circumstances, and whilst the lazy complain, the others are creating opportunities through their kind hearts, generosity, and willingness to get things done.

YOUTH CORNER

There was a foreigner in Ghana who decided to go shopping at one of the local markets. As a foreigner with barely any understanding of the terrain, and with no guidance from a local, he set off to the market. He hired a taxi from his hotel to the market but unknown to him, he had forgotten his wallet in the hotel room.

He made the driver wait for him and went into the market to shop. He came across a nicely decorated shop which seemed to have everything he needed. After buying everything from the shop, he realized his wallet was not with him. He became embarrassed and confused. What made it worse was the growing scowl and agitation of the shop owner's face as she realized what had happened. She became hostile and started to reign insults on the man drawing the attention of all the nearby sellers and customers. The taxi driver who had driven him to the market attempted to pay the shop owner on behalf of the foreigner, and to his surprise, the shop owner had compounded the prices of the goods to an astronomical level because she knew the man would not know the accurate price. The taxi driver became livid and started to question the shop owner to the hearing of all. When she realized what was happening, she became embarrassed and apologetic towards the foreigner and the taxi driver. But it was too late, everyone had seen the kind of person she was and everyone vowed not to buy from a rude and dishonest shop.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Parishioners who wish to redeem their harvest pledges, pay their church dues and other statutory payments can use the Church's Mobile Money Number 0595850922. Receipts for such payments will be issued later for collection.

2. Due to the directive to register worshippers we encourage parishioners to follow the link to register for Mass

<http://thomasmorejohnfisher.com/#ChurchAttendance>.

You can also call the priests or send an SMS or WhatsApp with your details to be registered.

3. We are encouraged to adhere to all the covid protocols and directives namely: The Online or Manual Registrations, hand washing, checking of temperature, using of hand sanitizer and socially distancing during mass. Let us kindly cooperate with the ushers in keeping our church safe.

4. Let's note that next Sunday 28th March, 2021 is Palm Sunday. We shall have our normal Masses. There won't be any public procession.

6. The Knights and Ladies of the Altar need new members. Interested parishioners should see their presidents or the church secretary to register.

7. Next Sunday 28th March, 2021 is Palm Sunday. We shall have our normal Masses. There won't be any procession.

PASTORAL CARE

Sacrament of Confession: Every Saturday from 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Sacrament of Baptism of Infants: *First Saturday of every month. Please call at the Church's office for a baptismal form. Instructions: Thursday preceding the date for baptism @ 5pm*

Visitation to the Sick and Aged: *Thursdays at 7.00 am. Contact the office if you have a sick or aged Person(s) to be visited.*

Sacrament of Marriage: Arrangements must be made ***at least six months to a year*** with the priests. The couple or one of them must be a registered member of the Church for ***at least 6 months***.

Consultation of Priests: (STM) Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (In the Evenings) Time: 6.30 - 8.00 pm. **(SJF) Wednesdays at 5:00pm.** In case of an emergency, call on the Priest.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Thursday: 9am -1pm & 2 pm - 5pm: and Sunday: 9 am - 1.30pm

SLOGAN: Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Besohwę!
Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Justice and Truth!!
Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Pray for us!

THANKS FOR WORSHIPPING
WITH US.
HAVE A BLESSED WEEK.

FINANCE CORNER

WEEKDAYS	MAR. WEEK1	MAR. WEEK2
SUNDAY	1303.00	380.00
MONDAY	2219.00 + \$100	-----
TUESDAY	1515.80	615.00
WEDNESDAY	1847.30	50.00
THURSDAY	1743.00	70.00
FRIDAY	4738.00	50.00
SATURDAY	1517.50	-----
MAR. BORN	314.00	-----
TOTAL	15197.60 + \$100	1165.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collection

MAR. WEEK 2	TOTAL
MAIN COLLECTION	3543.40
SECOND COLLECTION	1947.20
TITHE	1430.00
TOTAL	6920.60

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.

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EASTER PROGRAMME

Date	Program	Venue	Time
Thurs. 1 st April	Holy Thursday	STM	7.00pm
		SJF	7.00pm
Fri. 2 nd April	Stations of the Cross	STM	7.00am
		SJF	7.00am
Fri. 2 nd April	Veneration of the Cross	STM	3.00pm
		SJF	3.00pm
Sat. 3 rd April	Easter Vigil	STM	7.00pm
		SJF	7.00pm
Sun. 4 th April	Easter Sunday	STM	7.00am 9.00am
		SJF	6.30am 8.30am 10.30am

Return to me
with all your heart.

(Joel 2: 12)

