



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

P.O. BOX AH 283, Achimota-Accra

Website: www.thomasmorejohnfisher.com

Email: besohwe@yahoo.com

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

26TH MARCH, 2023: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **“HAVING JESUS
LIMITLESSLY”**

Rev. Fr. George Obeng Appah (*Parish Priest*) 020-8592020
Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Kwofie (*Assistant Priest*) 020-6355610

St. Thomas More Catholic Church - 030-3931800
SS. Thomas More and John Fisher Catholic Church - 030-3939862/
030-2436199

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Ez 37:12-14: God will open the graves and restore the people of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 130:1-8

WITH THE LORD THERE IS MERCY, IN HIM IS PLENTIFUL REDEMPTION.

Second Reading: Rom 8:8-11: The Spirit of God dwells in you.

Gospel Reading: Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33 45: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

REFLECTION

The Gospel tells us how our Lord Jesus Christ raised his friend Lazarus to life after four days in the tomb. We discover that our Lord delayed coming to see Lazarus for two days when he heard that he was sick. When he eventually showed up, Lazarus had died. Meeting up with the Lord, Martha, and Mary at different times said, “Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died!” They were implying that the Lord shouldn’t have delayed in coming when he heard about the sickness of Lazarus. God’s delay is not a denial, and God’s time is different from ours; it is the best. Our Lord Jesus Christ showed up at a time when all hope was lost to restore hope. At some seasons of your life, you may have wished that God showed up earlier. It could be during the time of sickness, bereavement, unemployment, marriage, or relationship problems. Always remember that his time is the best!

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 27TH MARCH, 2023 Dan 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 Ps 23:1-6 Jn 8:1-11	Tue 28TH MARCH, 2023 Num 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3,16-21 Jn 8:21-30
Wed 29TH MARCH, 2023 Dan 3:14-20,91-92,95 Ps Dan 3:52-56 Jn 8:31-42	Thurs 30TH MARCH, 2023 Gen 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-9 Jn 8:51-59
Fri 31ST MARCH, 2023 Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42	Sat 1ST MARCH, 2023 Ez 37:21-28 Ps Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56

Readings for Next Sunday: PALM SUNDAY	
First Reading	Is 50:4-7
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24
Second Reading	Phil 2:6-11
Gospel	Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

Mass Schedule	
<i>St. Thomas More</i>	<i>St. John Fisher</i>
First Mass: 7:30 AM	First Mass: 6:30 AM
	Second Mass: 9:30 AM



KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

POPE FRANCIS EXPLAINS EACH DAY OF THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Below is the text of Pope Francis' weekly Wednesday audience, delivered on March 31, 2021, Wednesday of Holy Week.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Already immersed in the spiritual atmosphere of Holy Week, we are on the eve of the Easter Triduum. From tomorrow until Sunday we will live the central days of the Liturgical Year, celebrating the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord. And we live this mystery every time we celebrate the Eucharist. When we go to Mass, we do not go only to pray, no: we go to renew, to bring about again, this mystery, the Paschal mystery. It is important not to forget this. It is as though we were to go to Calvary – it is the same – to renew, to bring about again the Paschal mystery.

On the evening of Holy Thursday, as we enter the Easter Triduum, we will relive the Mass known as *in Coena Domini*, that is, the Mass in which we commemorate the Last Supper, there, in that moment. This is the evening when Christ left his disciples the testament of his love in the Eucharist, not as a remembrance, but as a memorial, as his everlasting presence.

Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, as I said at the beginning, we renew this mystery of redemption. In this Sacrament, Jesus substituted the sacrificial victim—the Paschal lamb—with himself: his Body and Blood grant us salvation from the slavery of sin and death. The salvation from every form of slavery is there. It is the evening in which he asks us to love one another by becoming servants to one another, as he did in washing the disciples' feet, a gesture that anticipates his bloody oblation on the cross. And indeed, the Master and Lord will die the next day to purify not the feet, but the hearts and the entire life of his disciples. It was an oblation of service to us all, because with that service of his sacrifice he redeemed us all.

Good Friday is the day of penance, fasting and prayer. Through the texts of the Sacred Scripture and the liturgical prayers, we will gather as though we were on Calvary to commemorate the redemptive Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. In the intensity of the rite, through the Liturgical Action, the Crucifix will be presented to us to adore. Adoring the Cross, we will relive the journey of the innocent Lamb sacrificed for our salvation. We will carry in our minds and hearts the sufferings of the sick, the poor, the rejected of this world; we will remember the “sacrificed lambs,” the innocent victims of wars, dictatorships, everyday violence, abortions.... Before the image of the crucified God, we will bring, in prayer, the many, the too many who are crucified in our time, who only from Him can receive comfort and meaning in their suffering. And nowadays there are many: do not forget the crucified of our time, who are the image of Jesus Crucified, and Jesus is in them.

Ever since Jesus took upon himself the wounds of humanity and death itself, God's love has irrigated these deserts of ours, he has enlightened our darkness. Because the world is in darkness. Let us make a list of all the wars that are being fought in this moment; of all the children who die of hunger; of children who have no education; of entire populations destroyed by wars, by terrorism. Of the many, many people who, just to feel a bit better, need drugs, the drug industry that kills ... It is a disaster, it is a desert! There are small “islands” of the people of God, both Christian and of all other faiths, that hold in their heart the desire to be better.

But let us tell the truth: in this Calvary of death, it is Jesus who suffers in his disciples. During his ministry, the Son of God disseminated life by the handful, healing, forgiving, reviving... Now, in the hour of his supreme Sacrifice on the cross, he brings to fulfillment the task entrusted to him by the Father: he enters into the abyss of suffering, he enters into these disasters of this world,

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

Holy Saturday is the day of silence, lived by the first disciples in mourning and bewilderment, shocked by Jesus' ignominious death. While the Word is silent, while Life is in the tomb, those who had hoped in him were put to a difficult test, they feel like orphans, perhaps even orphaned by God.

This Saturday is also Mary's day: she too lived it in tears, but her heart was full of faith, full of hope, full of love. The Mother of Jesus had followed her Son along the path of sorrows and remained at the foot of the cross, with her soul pierced. But when it all seemed to be over, she kept watch, she kept vigil, in expectation, maintaining her hope in the promise of God who raises the dead. Thus, in the world's darkest hour, she became the Mother of believers, the Mother of the Church and sign of hope. Her witness and her intercession sustain us when the weight of the cross becomes too heavy for each one of us.

In the darkness of Holy Saturday, joy and light will break through with the rites of the Easter Vigil and, in the late evening, the festive singing of the Alleluia. It will be an encounter in faith with the Risen Christ, and the joy of Easter will continue throughout the following fifty days, until the coming of the Holy Spirit. He who was crucified is risen! All questions and uncertainties, hesitations and fears are dispelled by this revelation.

The Risen One gives us the certainty that good always triumphs over evil, that life always conquers death, and it is not our end to descend lower and lower, from sorrow to sorrow, but rather to rise up high. The Risen One is the confirmation that Jesus is right in everything: in promising us life beyond death and forgiveness beyond sins. The disciples doubted, they did not believe. The first to believe and to see was Mary Magdalene; she was the apostle of the resurrection who went to announce that she had seen Jesus, who had called her by name. And then, all the disciples saw him.

But, I would like to pause at this point: the guards, the soldiers, who were in the tomb to prevent the disciples from coming and taking his body, they saw him; they saw him alive and risen. His enemies saw him, and then they pretended not to have seen him. Why? Because they were paid. Here is the true mystery of what Jesus once said: “There are two masters in the world, two, no more: two. God and money. He who serves money is against God”. And here it is money that changed reality. They had seen the wonder of the resurrection, but they were paid to keep quiet. Think of the many times that Christian men and women have been paid not to acknowledge in practice the resurrection of Christ, and did not do what Christ asked us to do, as Christians.

Dear brothers and sisters, again this year we will live the Easter celebrations in the context of the *pandemic*. In many situations of suffering, especially when they are borne by people, families and populations already tried by poverty, disasters or conflicts, Christ's Cross is like a beacon that indicates the port to ships that are still afloat on stormy seas. Christ's Cross is a sign of the hope that does not disappoint; and it tells us that not even one tear, not one sigh is lost in God's plan. Let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace of serving him and acknowledging him, and of not letting ourselves be paid to forget him.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT: I AM THE
RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. JOHN 11:25



How to make all church statutory
payments through MTN momo
Ss Thomas more & John Fisher
059 585 0922

Dial *170#
Select Option 2
Select Option 1
Enter Merchant ID: **247834**
Enter Amt
Enter Reference: eg. *Dues*
Enter your Momo pin
Send



MOTIVATION

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE BIBLE

- "I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me." **Philippians 4:13.**
- "Find your delight in the LORD who will give you your heart's desire." Psalm 37:4.
- "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path." **Psalm 119:105.**
- "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." **John 1:5.**
- "But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." **1 Corinthians 15:57.**
- "Entrust your works to the LORD, and your plans will succeed." **Proverbs 16:3.**
- "Now to Him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work with us..." **Ephesians 3:20.**
- "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." **Romans 8:28.**
- "If God is for us, who can be against us?" **Romans 8:31.**
- "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." **John 16:33.**

YOUTH CORNER



SS Thomas More &
John Fisher Parish



The church is calling us all to come together
in the cleaning in and around the church premises
towards our preparation for the Easter celebrations .

1st April
St. Thomas More
Time: 7:30am

2nd April
St. John Fisher
Time: 1:00pm

f SS Thomas More And John Fisher

@ Stm.sjf_youth

t stmsjf_youth

Thomasmorejohnfisher.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We are reminded to pay our Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund for this year. Kindly check the notice board for more details. Those in arrears of last year's Harvest Levy, and pledges are entreated to redeem them.
2. St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the Parish Youth Council of their visitation to 8 Wards in Achimota group A this Month and Akan Kuo to 8 Wards in Achimota group B in April.
3. **Road to the Cross comes off on this Friday 31st March, 2023 at SJF at 7:00pm. Let's all come and participate fully.**
4. We are reminded of our Grotto devotion this Saturday 1st April, 2023 at SJF at 4:00pm. Let's come and together pray for the intercession of our Lady of Grace for the Month of April. **(Come along with items for blessings).**
5. **Next Sunday 2nd April, 2023 is Palm Sunday. We shall have one Mass at STM at 7:30am and the usual two Masses at SJF at 6:30am & 9:30am respectively.**
6. Our Parish will evangelize and make donations to the Nsawam Prisons as our Lenten Project this year. We are therefore encouraged to support in cash and kind to compliment the song ministrations by the Youth Choir that day. Kindly donate through: the Parish Secretariats, Lenten Project Boxes at the entrance of the church or Parish MoMo No: 059 585 0922. Ref. Nsawam Prisons.

PASTORAL CARE

Sacrament of Confession: Every Saturday from 5.00pm at SJF and from 6.30pm at STM.

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 @ STM.*

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: Besohwɛ!
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 - ST. THOMAS MORE

WEEKDAYS	STM MAR. WEEK1	STM MAR. WEEK2	STM MAR. WEEK3
SUNDAY	887.00	-----	20.00
MONDAY	1223.00	-----	-----
TUESDAY	1886.00	10.00	-----
WEDNESDAY	991.00	150.00	505.00
THURSDAY	697.00	-----	-----
FRIDAY	1094.90	50.00	200.00
SATURDAY	1229.10	-----	10.00
MAR. BORNS	142.00	-----	-----
TOTAL	8150.00	210.00	735.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM MAR. WEEK3
MAIN COLLECTION	3291.10
SECOND COLLECTION	1665.80
TITHE	360.00
TOTAL	5316.90

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF MAR. WEEK1	SJF MAR. WEEK2	SJF MAR. WEEK3
SUNDAY	1283.10	350.00	200.00
MONDAY	2310.00	-----	-----
TUESDAY	2124.60	-----	100.00
WEDNESDAY	770.20	-----	40.00
THURSDAY	1683.00	10.00	-----
FRIDAY	5557.90	310.00	1.00
SATURDAY	1059.00	220.00	1200.00
MAR. BORNES	303.00	-----	-----
TOTAL	15090.80	890.00	1541.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF MAR. WEEK3
MAIN COLLECTION	3007.81
SECOND COLLECTION	1485.50
LENTEN OFFERING	20.00
TOTAL	4513.31

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.



Help Us Build

A new Children Service Block @ SS Thomas
More & John Fisher Parish

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Acc No. 1117000222801
Bank: NIB Branch Abeka
Mobile Money: 059 585 0922