



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

16TH APRIL, 2023: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER OR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, YEAR A.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"THOMAS' CONFESSION"**

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: Acts 2:42-47: The first community of Christians grows as its members meet to pray and break bread.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS MERCY ENDURES FOR EVER.

Second Reading: 1Pt 1:3-9: We have new hope because of Jesus' Resurrection.

Gospel Reading: Jn 20:19-31: Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

REFLECTION

During his lifetime, Jesus had performed many signs, with the purpose of producing belief. In the new age of the Spirit, faith was no longer to depend on this sort of sign. Thomas sought for the reassurance of touch and feeling as the price for his belief in the Risen Lord. It is easy to identify with Thomas. He was the pessimist among the disciples. He regarded an invitation to go to Jerusalem with Jesus as an invitation to death (Jn. 11:16). When Jesus called himself the "Way", he bluntly said, "How do we know the way?" (Jn. 14:5). However, Jesus was the good shepherd of Thomas; He knew him as one of His own and allowed his pessimism, only so that, Thomas could make a confession surpassing all others in the gospel, "My Lord and my God."

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 17TH APRIL, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 4:23-31 Ps 2:1-9 Jn 3:1-8	Tue 18TH APRIL, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1-2,5 Jn 3:7b-15
Wed 19TH APRIL, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-9 Jn 3:16-21	Thurs 20TH APRIL, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2,9,17-20 Jn 3:31-36
Fri 21ST APRIL, 2023 Easter Weekday, St. Anselm Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1,4,13-14 Jn 6:1-15	Sat 22ND APRIL, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2,4-5,18-19 Jn 6:16-21

Readings for Next Sunday

First Reading	Acts 2:14,22-33
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 16:1-2,5,7-11
Second Reading	1Pt 1:17-21
Gospel	Lk 24:13-35

Mass Schedule

<i>St. Thomas More</i>	<i>St. John Fisher</i>
First Mass: 7:00 AM	First Mass: 6:30 AM
Second Mass: 9:30AM	Second Mass: 9:30 AM



KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

DECLARATION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Gravissimum Educationis)

The Sacred Ecumenical Council has considered with care how extremely important education is in the life of man and how its influence ever grows in the social progress of this age.

Indeed, the circumstances of our time have made it easier and at once more urgent to educate young people and, what is more, to continue the education of adults. Men are more aware of their own dignity and position; more and more they want to take an active part in social and especially in economic and political life. Enjoying more leisure, as they sometimes do, men find that the remarkable development of technology and scientific investigation and the new means of communication offer them an opportunity of attaining more easily their cultural and spiritual inheritance and of fulfilling one another in the closer ties between groups and even between peoples.

Consequently, attempts are being made everywhere to promote more education. The rights of men to an education, particularly the primary rights of children and parents, are being proclaimed and recognized in public documents. As the number of pupils rapidly increases, schools are multiplied and expanded far and wide and other educational institutions are established. New experiments are conducted in methods of education and teaching. Mighty attempts are being made to obtain education for all, even though vast numbers of children and young people are still deprived of even rudimentary training and so many others lack a suitable education in which truth and love are developed together.

To fulfill the mandate she has received from her divine founder of proclaiming the mystery of salvation to all men and of restoring all things in Christ, Holy Mother the Church must be concerned with the whole of man's life, even the secular part of it insofar as it has a bearing on his heavenly calling. Therefore she has a role in the progress and development of education. Hence this sacred synod declares certain fundamental principles of Christian education especially in schools. These principles will have to be developed at greater length by a special post-conciliar commission and applied by episcopal conferences to varying local situations.

1. The Meaning of the Universal Right to an Education

All men of every race, condition and age, since they enjoy the dignity of a human being, have an inalienable right to an education that is in keeping with their ultimate goal, their ability, their sex, and the culture and tradition of their country, and also in harmony with their fraternal association with other peoples in the fostering of true unity and peace on earth. For a true education aims at the formation of the human person in the pursuit of his ultimate end and of the good of the societies of which, as man, he is a member, and in whose obligations, as an adult, he will share.

Therefore children and young people must be helped, with the aid of the latest advances in psychology and the arts and science of teaching, to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual endowments so that they may gradually acquire a mature sense of responsibility in striving endlessly to form their own lives properly and in pursuing true freedom as they surmount the vicissitudes of life with courage and constancy. Let them be given also, as they advance in years, a positive and prudent sexual education. Moreover they should be so trained to take their part in social life that properly instructed in the necessary and opportune skills they can become actively involved in various community organizations, open to discourse with others and willing to do their best to promote the common good.

This sacred synod likewise declares that children and young people have a right to be motivated to appraise moral values with a right conscience, to embrace them with a personal adherence, together with a deeper knowledge and love of God. Consequently it earnestly entreats all those who hold a position of public authority or who are in charge of education to see to it that youth is never deprived of this sacred right. It further exhorts the sons of the Church to give their attention with generosity to the entire field of education, having especially in mind the need of extending very soon the benefits of a suitable education and training to everyone in all parts of the world.

PRAYER FOR GOD'S INTERVENTION IN OUR LAND

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 payer 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

CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!






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

MERCY OF GOD QUOTES

- Apart from the mercy of God, there is no other source of hope for mankind. **Pope John Paul II**
- Amid so many problems, even grave, may we not lose our hope in the infinite mercy of God. **Pope Francis**
- No one is strong in his own strength, but he is safe by the grace and mercy of God. **Cyprian**
- Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence. **Saint Augustine**
- The mercy of God is an all-embracing mercy and it breaks down the barriers that man erects. **Alistair Begg**
- Place your hopes in the mercy of God and the merits of our Redeemer; say often, looking at the crucifix: There are centered all my hopes. **Paul of the Cross**
- Open thy gate of mercy, gracious God, My soul flies through these wounds to seek out thee. **William Shakespeare**
- We implore the mercy of God, not that He may leave us at peace in our vices, but that He may deliver us from them.
Blaise Pascal
- In the mercy of God, the little thing done with humility will enable us to be found in the same place as the saints who have

YOUTH CORNER

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING THE FOOD YOU

EAT - Cntd

Furthermore, climate change has resulted in an increase in temperature globally. Sadly, this also affects food production in Ghana. The country's temperature is expected to increase within 1.7 degrees Celsius to 2.04 degrees Celsius by 2030. Temperature determines the duration of growing seasons and increases in temperature naturally distort these growing seasons and make farming difficult. Also, higher temperatures increase water requirements, condense crop cycle and ultimately reduce crop yields. Morton (2012) found in his research on the same topic that rice, maize, and wheat are under unfavorable conditions and could reduce yields due to global warming.

But fish production is also threatened with climate change in Ghana. Coastal towns in Ghana such as James Town, Elmina and Keta are fishing communities whose contribution amounts close to 1.6 billion Ghana cedis to GDP in 2020. However, data from the fisheries commission in Ghana show the value of the industry to GDP has been fluctuating. It is partly attributed to the increase in sea temperatures which make the sea inhabitable for fishes and other sea creatures.

Also, the rise in sea level threatens the lives of fishermen due to floods and hurricanes in coastal areas. If the people can not be alive to fish, how can the rest of us be assured of food security?

As a writer, my advice to the government is to prepare farmers towards irrigation led agric rather than rain-fed. We must develop the necessary policy and make ready equipment to ensure farmers can take control of planning crop season and not be at the mercy of the weather. Also, more funding should be made available to institutes like the council for scientific and industrial research to continue their research into crop resistant varieties that can withstand the higher temperatures in Ghana. Again, let us plant more trees to reduce the higher temperatures.

Climate change is inimical to food production and security in Ghana and Africa. Thus, it is important to understand its loud and silent effects and work together to achieve a net-zero future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We are reminded to pay our Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund. Kindly check the notice board for more details. Those in arrears of Harvest Levy, and pledges are entreated to redeem them.
2. Members of New Achimota, Akweteyman, Kofevi Com. and Achimota Town Comm. will meet today at SJF after the 9:30am Mass. Members are entreated to be in attendance. New members are welcome.
3. St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the Akan Kuo of their visitation to **8** Wards in Achimota group B this month, and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus to **10** Wards in Kissehman in May. Parishioners are to check the SSVP Gallery notice boards to see pictures their visitations.
4. Our Parish will evangelize and make donations to the Nsawam Prisons as our Lenten Project this year on the **29th April, 2023**. We are therefore encouraged to support in cash and kind to compliment the song ministration 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** with Ref. Nsawam Prisons.
5. Funeral Arrangements of **Mr. Clement T. Zuolo** a member of the Amalgamated Community and Knights and Ladies of Marshall is as follows:
 - **Saturday 13th May, 2023:** Pre-burial Mass: at 8:00am at St. John Fisher Catholic Church, New Achimota.
 - **Friday 19th May, 2023:** Laying In state at Lawra-Tongoh, Upper West Region.
 - **Saturday 20th May, 2023:** Traditional Morning, burial and funeral rites at Lawra-Tongoh.
 - **Sunday 21st May, 2023:** Thanksgiving Mass at 9:00am at St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church at Babile-Lawra.
 - **Sunday 4th June, 2023:** Final Thanksgiving Mass at 9:30am at St. John Fisher Catholic Church, New Achimota.

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 APR. WEEK1	STM APR. WEEK2
SUNDAY	902.50	-----
MONDAY	1041.50	-----
TUESDAY	1469.00	10.00
WEDNESDAY	763.00	-----
THURSDAY	341.00	-----
FRIDAY	775.00	220.00
SATURDAY	444.00	20.00
APR. BORNS	329.00	-----
TOTAL	6065.00	250.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM APR. WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	2983.60
SECOND COLLECTION	1514.50
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	215.00
TITHE	100.00
TOTAL	3298.60

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF APR. WEEK1	SJF APR. WEEK2
SUNDAY	1493.00	40.00
MONDAY	3643.50	-----
TUESDAY	1053.00	-----
WEDNESDAY	1277.00	-----
THURSDAY	1361.50	115.00
FRIDAY	2219.5+500CF A	4650.00
SATURDAY	1467.00	1600.00
APR. BORNS	724.00	-----
TOTAL	13248.00	6405.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF APR. WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	7119.80
SECOND COLLECTION	6464.30
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1145.00
TITHE	230.00
TOTAL	14959.10

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.



 SS Thomas More & John Fisher Parish, Achimota

Help Us Build

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

"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME AND DO NOT HINDER THEM FOR
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE "

Matthew 19: 14

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