



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

30TH APRIL, 2023: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER OR GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY, YEAR A.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "BE FAMILIAR WITH YOUR SHEPHERD"

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 2:14a, 36-41: Peter and the other apostles baptize 3,000 people.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:1-6

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

Second Reading: 1Pt 2:20b-25: We have been healed by the wounds of Christ.

Gospel Reading: Jn 10:1-10: Jesus is the gate for his sheep.

REFLECTION

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow. The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 1ST MAY, 2023 St. Joseph the Worker Gen 1:26-2:3 or Col 3:14-15,17,23-24 Ps 90:2-4,12-14,16 Mt 13:54-58	Tue 2ND MAY, 2023 St. Athanasius Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1-7 Jn 10:22-30
Wed 3RD MAY, 2023 Sts. Philip & James 1Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-5 Jn 14:6-14	Thurs 4TH MAY, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3,21-22,25,27 Jn 13:16-20
Fri 5TH MAY, 2023 Easter Weekday Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-11 Jn 14:1-6	Sat 6TH MAY, 2023 St. Catherine of Siena Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 14:7-14

Readings for Next Sunday

First Reading	Acts 6:1-7
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 33:1-2,4-5,18-19
Second Reading	1Pt 2:4-9
Gospel	Jn 14:1-12

Mass Schedule

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



KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

EXCERPT FROM CONSTITUTION ON EDUCATION (GRAVISSIMUM EDUCATIONIS)

Various Aids to Christian Education

In fulfilling its educational role, the Church, eager to employ all suitable aids, is concerned especially about those which are her very own. Foremost among these is catechetical instruction, which enlightens and strengthens the faith, nourishes life according to the spirit of Christ, leads to intelligent and active participation in the liturgical mystery and gives motivation for apostolic activity. The Church esteems highly and seeks to penetrate and ennoble with her own spirit also other aids which belong to the general heritage of man and which are of great influence in forming souls and molding men, such as the media of communication, various groups for mental and physical development, youth associations, and, in particular, schools.

The Importance of Schools

Among all educational instruments the school has a special importance. It is designed not only to develop with special care the intellectual faculties but also to form the ability to judge rightly, to hand on the cultural legacy of previous generations, to foster a sense of values, to prepare for professional life. Between pupils of different talents and backgrounds it promotes friendly relations and fosters a spirit of mutual understanding; and it establishes as it were a centre whose work and progress must be shared together by families, teachers, associations of various types that foster cultural, civic, and religious life, as well as by civil society and the entire human community. Beautiful indeed and of great importance is the vocation of all those who aid parents in fulfilling their duties and who, as representatives of the human community, undertake the task of education in schools. This vocation demands special qualities of mind and heart, very careful preparation, and continuing readiness to renew and to adapt.

The Duties and Rights of Parents

Parents who have the primary and inalienable right and duty to educate their children must enjoy true liberty in their choice of schools. Consequently, the public power, which has the obligation to protect and defend the rights of citizens, must see to it, in its concern for distributive justice, that public subsidies are paid out in such a way that parents are truly free to choose according to their conscience the schools they want for their children. In addition, it is the task of the state to see to it that all citizens are able to come to a suitable share in culture and are properly prepared to exercise their civic duties and rights. Therefore, the state must protect the right of children to an adequate school education, check on the ability of teachers and the excellence of their training, look after the health of the pupils and in general, promote the whole school project. But it must always keep in mind the principle of subsidiarity so that there is no kind of school monopoly, for this is opposed to the native rights of the human person, to the development and spread of culture, to the peaceful association of citizens and to the pluralism that exists today in ever so many societies.

Therefore, this sacred synod exhorts the faithful to assist to their utmost in finding suitable methods of education and programs of study and in forming teachers who can give youth a true education. Through the associations of parents in particular they should further with their assistance all the work of the school but especially the moral education it must impart.

Moral and Religious Education in all Schools

Feeling very keenly the weighty responsibility of diligently caring for the moral and religious education of all her children, the Church must be present with her own special affection and help for the great number who are being trained in schools that are not Catholic. This is possible by the witness of the lives of those who teach and direct them, by the apostolic action of their fellow-students, but especially by the ministry of priests and laymen who give them the doctrine of salvation in a way suited to their age and circumstances and provide spiritual aid in every way the times and conditions allow. The Church reminds parents of the duty that is theirs to arrange and even demand that their children be able to enjoy these aids and advance in their Christian formation to a degree that is abreast of their development in secular subjects. Therefore, the Church esteems highly those civil authorities and societies which, bearing in mind the pluralism of contemporary society and respecting religious freedom, assist families so that the education of their children can be imparted in all schools according to the individual moral and religious principles of the families.

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 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

CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!



THOSE IN ARREARS OF HARVEST LEVY, AND PLEDGES ARE REMINDED AND ENTREATED TO REDEEM THEM.



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

THE RIGHT PLACE

A mother and a baby camel were lying around under a tree. Then the baby camel asked, "Why do camels have humps?" The mother camel considered this and said, "We are desert animals so we have the humps to store water so we can survive with very little water." The baby camel thought for a moment then said, "Ok...why are our legs long and our feet rounded?" The mama replied, "They are meant for walking in the desert." The baby paused.

After a beat, the camel asked, "Why are our eyelashes long? Sometimes they get in my way." The mama responded, "Those long thick eyelashes protect your eyes from the desert sand when it blows in the wind. The baby thought and thought. Then he said, "I see. So the hump is to store water when we are in the desert, the legs are for walking through the desert and these eye lashes protect my eyes from the desert then why in the Zoo?"

The Lesson: *Skills and abilities are only useful if you are in the right place at the right time. Otherwise they go to waste.*

YOUTH CORNER

INSPIRATIONAL YOUTH QUOTES

- ❖ Good habits formed at youth make all the difference. -**Aristotle**
- ❖ In youth we learn; in age we understand. - **Marie von Ebner Eschenbach**
- ❖ I live in that solitude which is painful in youth, but delicious in the years of maturity. **Albert Einstein**
- ❖ "Aspire to inspire before we expire." – **Unknown***
- ❖ "Goodness is the only investment that never fails." – **Henry David Thoreau**
- ❖ "Whatever you do, do it well." – **Walt Disney**
- ❖ "You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus." – **Mark Twain**
- ❖ "Winners never quit, and quitters never win." – **Vince Lombardi**
- ❖ "You have to grow from the inside out." – **Swami Vivekananda**
- ❖ "You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated." - **Maya Angelou**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We are reminded to pay our Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund. Kindly check the notice board for more details.
2. 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 of visitations.
3. **May is the month of the Rosary. We are being reminded and encouraged to pray the Rosary.**
4. The death is reported of **Mr. El Simon Bakuyeya** a member of the East West Abofu Community. Funeral details will be announced later.
5. **Funeral Arrangements:**
 1. **Mr. Francis Dilly Atanga Akabe** a member of the Achimota East West Abofu Com. is as follows:
 - **Friday 5th May, 2023:** Pre-Burial Wake-keeping at the family house near STM Catholic Church, Achimota College.
 - **Saturday 6th May, 2023:** Burial Mass at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Achimota College at 8:00am.
 - **Sunday 7th May, 2023:** Thanksgiving Mass at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Achimota College at 9:30am.
 2. **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 11th 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	STM APR. WEEK3	STM APR. WEEK4
SUNDAY	902.50	-----	1.00	201.00
MONDAY	1041.50	-----	20.50	-----
TUESDAY	1469.00	10.00	-----	20.00
WEDNESDAY	763.00	-----	-----	195.00
THURSDAY	341.00	-----	100.00	-----
FRIDAY	775.00	220.00	40.00	-----
SATURDAY	444.00	20.00	-----	-----
APR. BORNS	329.00	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	6065.00	250.00	161.50	416.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM APR. WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	2213.70
SECOND COLLECTION	1323.80
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1420.00
TITHE	2155.00
TOTAL	7112.50

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF APR. WEEK1	SJF APR. WEEK2	SJF APR. WEEK3	SJF APR. WEEK4
SUNDAY	1493.00	40.00	500.00	-----
MONDAY	3643.50	-----	-----	-----
TUESDAY	1053.00	-----	-----	100.00
WEDNESDAY	1277.00	-----	211.00	-----
THURSDAY	1361.50	115.00	-----	10.00
FRIDAY	2219.5+500CF A	4650.00	50.00	-----
SATURDAY	1467.00	1600.00	50.00	200.00
APR. BORNS	724.00	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	13248.00	6405.00	811.00	310.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF APR. WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	3635.40
SECOND COLLECTION	2109.60
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	120.00+\$200
TOTAL	5865.00+\$200

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

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