



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

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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

14TH MAY, 2023: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS"

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 8:5-8, 14-17: The people of Samaria accept the Gospel of Jesus proclaimed to them by Philip.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20  
**CRY OUT WITH JOY TO GOD, ALL THE EARTH.**

**Second Reading:** 1Pt 3:15-18: Be ready to give explanation for your hope in Christ.

**Gospel Reading:** Jn 14:15-21: Jesus promises his disciples that he will send them another advocate, the Spirit of truth.

### REFLECTION

In today's reading Jesus contrasts his impending departure with the permanence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will leave to return to the Father, but the Holy Spirit will remain with the disciples. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. They will also understand that they too participate in the communion between the Father and the Son: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20). Today's reading is one example of the contrast that John's Gospel presents between the community of disciples, to whom God will reveal himself, and the unbelieving world, which will remain in darkness. The unbelieving world cannot accept the "Spirit of truth," whom the disciples will receive. **Only through the Spirit will God's revelation and love be known.**

### WEEKLY READINGS

<b>Mon 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023</b> <b>St. Isidore the Farmer</b> Acts 16:11-15 Ps 150:1-6,9 Jn 15:26-16:4a	<b>Tue 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023</b> <b>Easter Weekday</b> Acts 16:22-34 Ps 138:1-3,7-8 Jn 16:5-11
<b>Wed 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023</b> <b>Easter Weekday</b> Acts 17:15,22-18:1 Ps 149:1-2,11-14 Jn 16:12-15	<b>Thurs 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023</b> <b>The Ascension of the Lord</b> Acts 1:1-11 Ps 47:2-3,6-9 Eph 1:17-23 Mt 28:16-20
<b>Fri 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023</b> <b>Easter Weekday</b> Acts 18:9-18 Ps 47:2-7 Jn 16:20-23	<b>Sat 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023</b> <b>St. Bernardine of Siena</b> Acts 18:23-28 Ps 47:2-3,8-10 Jn 16:23b-28

#### Readings for Next Sunday

<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Acts 1:12-14</b>
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Ps 27:1,4,7-8a</b>
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>1Pt 4:13-16</b>
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Jn 17:1-11a</b>

#### Mass Schedule

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



## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

### THE CHURCH'S TEACHING ON HOMOSEXUALITY

*(Continued from last week)*

#### The Church's Position on Homosexuality

The Church sees its teaching on homosexuality as based on the solid foundation of a constant biblical testimony. From the Church's point of view, the basis for understanding the entire discussion of homosexuality is the theology of creation as found in Genesis. God fashions mankind, male and female, in his own image and likeness.

The male and female sexes complement each other, and men and women are called to reflect the inner unity of the Creator. They do this in a striking way in their cooperation with him in the transmission of life by a mutual giving of the self to the other. The Church sees the practice of homosexuality as something condemned by the Scriptures and cites in its documents the passages mentioned above. The Church's teaching on homosexuality can be summarized as follows:

(1) A distinction must be made between "the homosexual condition or tendency" and "individual homosexual actions." The latter is "intrinsically disordered" and is "in no case to be approved of" In other words, while the Church does not condemn people for being homosexuals, it condemns the homosexual acts that homosexuals perform.

(2) Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency ordered towards an intrinsic moral evil, and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder.

(3) To choose someone of the same sex for one's sexual activity is to annul the rich symbolism and meaning, not to mention the goals, of the Creator's sexual design. Homosexual activity is not a complementary union, able to transmit life, and so it thwarts the call to a life of that form of self-giving which the Gospel says is the essence of Christian living.

(4) We must reject the unfounded and demeaning assumption that the sexual behaviour of homosexual persons is always and totally compulsive and therefore inculpable. The homosexual also must be seen as having the fundamental liberty which characterizes the human person and gives him his dignity.

(5) It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action. Such treatment must be condemned by the Church's pastors wherever it occurs. It portrays a kind of disregard for others which endangers the most fundamental principles of a healthy society. The intrinsic dignity of each person must always be respected in word, in action and in law. Homosexuals must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.

REF: Joseph Osei Bonsu, *Catholic Beliefs and Practices*, (Takoradi, St. Francis Press Ltd), 2005

## 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

## "WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE AND ALLELUIA IS OUR SONG"



## MOTHER=LOVE



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 MOM QUOTES FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

- ✚ A mother's love endures through all. – **Washington Irving**
- ✚ A mother's joy begins when new life is stirring inside...when a tiny heartbeat is heard for the first time, and a playful kick reminds her that she is never alone. –**Author unknown.**
- ✚ Live in the moment and make it so beautiful that it will be worth remembering. –**Fanny Crosby**
- ✚ My childhood may be over, but that doesn't mean playtime is. –**Ron Olson**
- ✚ A baby will make love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, bankroll smaller, home happier, clothes shabbier, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for. –**Anonymous.**
- ✚ Sometimes the strength of motherhood is greater than natural laws. — **Barbara Kingsolver**
- ✚ The mother's heart is the child's school-room. —**Henry Ward Beecher**
- ✚ Life doesn't come with a manual, it comes with a mother. — **Unknown**
- ✚ When you are looking at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know. —**Charley Benetto**
- ✚ Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible. —**Marion C. Garretty**

## YOUTH CORNER

### YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP - Part 1

The African population is consistently growing exponentially and is said to increase to about 300 million young people by the next two decades. (MasterCard Foundation, Young Africa Works Strategy). That will mean an increase in the workforce and the demand for sustainable jobs. However, the economies of most African countries are not growing at equal magnitude. There are fewer formal sector jobs to accommodate the teeming population. Many reasons account for this problem. We can mention bad economic policies, corruption, and structural economic challenges dating back to colonial times. These are but to mention a few. Whatever the reason, unemployment is high, and immediate solutions are needed. So what is the way forward?

Recently, Finance Minister Ken Ofori Atta of Ghana charged the youth to consider venturing into entrepreneurship as an alternative to formal sector jobs. He disclosed that the government payroll was reaching its maximum limit and thus suggesting that the government had little money to fund the creation of more formal sector jobs for the youth. While this call sparked a lot of debate, it renewed the calls of those schools of thought that considered entrepreneurship as the best way of solving Africa's employment crisis.

This article agrees with the assertion above and will make suggestions to governments on how entrepreneurship can be a lucrative venture for young people.

## 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. St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Society of their visitation to **10** Wards in Kissehman this month, and to CCR, **10** Wards in June. Parishioners are to check the SSVF 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. Catechism Class had resumed at St. Thomas More. Parents are reminded to pick up forms from the Parish office for their children for the Sacraments of Baptism & First Communion.
5. **Vacancy! Vacancy!! Vacancy!!!** The St. Thomas More Catholic Church Co-operative Credit Union needs an Account Officer. Qualification: HND, Diploma or 1st Degree. Experienced: Excel and Word (Microsoft Suite). Pensioners are also encouraged to apply. Kindly submit application to the Manager at the STM CCU office. Deadline: 25th May, 2023.
6. **Meetings:**
  - The Young Christian Workers Movement will have their monthly meeting next Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2023 at STM after the 7:00am Mass.
  - The Christian Mothers Association will also have their monthly meeting next Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2023 at STM after the 9:30am Mass.
7. Fr. Emmanuel Kwofie has been transferred to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Afuaman as Priest in Charge. We congratulate him on his new appointment and wish him the best in his new assignment. The date for his send-off will be announced later.

## 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 MAY WEEK1
SUNDAY	1807.50
MONDAY	1756.00
TUESDAY	1951.00
WEDNESDAY	758.50
THURSDAY	747.00
FRIDAY	816.00
SATURDAY	1331.00
MAY BORNES	348.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9515.00</b>

### Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM MAY WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	2890.90
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	585.00
TITHE	280.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3755.90</b>



# FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

## Details of Last Sunday's Collections

WEEKDAYS	SJF MAY WEEK1
SUNDAY	1074.00
MONDAY	1819.50
TUESDAY	2164.70
WEDNESDAY	533.00
THURSDAY	1049.00
FRIDAY	6106.00+£10
SATURDAY	1159.70
MAY BORNES	272.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14327.60</b>

SUNDAY	SJF MAY WEEK1
MAIN COLLECTION	3531.30
TITHE	100.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4131.30</b>

**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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