



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

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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

20TH AUGUST, 2023: TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"CALLED TO AN ALL-INCLUSIVE FAITH"**

Rev. Fr. George Obeng Appah (*Parish Priest*) 020-8592020  
Rev. Fr. Clement Quagraine (*Assistant Priest*) 024-8329194

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

### TODAY'S READINGS

*First Reading:* Is 56:1, 6-7: The Lord reveals his salvation to all.

*Responsorial Psalm:* Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8

**LET THE PEOPLE PRAISE YOU, O GOD;  
LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU!**

*Second Reading:* Rom 11:13-15, 29-32: God's favor to Israel is irrevocable.

*Gospel Reading:* Mt 15:21-28: Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.

### REFLECTION

Jesus encounters a Canaanite woman who comes to Him seeking help for her demon-possessed daughter. Despite cultural barriers and the initial response of the disciples, Jesus demonstrates inclusivity by engaging with her and addressing her needs. Jesus' interaction with the Canaanite woman highlights God's love for all people, transcending cultural and ethnic boundaries. This encounter emphasizes that God's compassion extends to everyone, regardless of their background or nationality. The encounter with the Canaanite woman underscores Jesus' mission to restore and heal humanity. By showing mercy and granting the woman's request, Jesus demonstrates His divine power to bring healing and deliverance to those in need.

### WEEKLY READINGS

<b>Mon 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 2023</b> <b>St. Pius X, Pope</b> Jgs 2:11-19 Ps 106:34-37,39-40,44 Mt 19:16-22	<b>Tue 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2023</b> <b>The Queenship of the BVM</b> Jgs 6:11-24a Ps 85:9,11-14 Mt 19:23-30
<b>Wed 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, 2023</b> <b>St. Rose of Lima, Virgin</b> Jgs 9:6-15 Ps 21:2-7 Mt 20:1-16	<b>Thur 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023</b> <b>St. Bartholomew, Apostle</b> Rev 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-13,17-18 Jn 1:45-51
<b>Fri 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023</b> Ruth 1:1,3-6,14b-16,22 Ps 146:5-10 Mt 22:34-40	<b>Sat 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023</b> Ruth 1:1,3-6,14b-16,22 Ps 146:1-2,5,7-8 Mt 19:13-15

### Readings for Next Sunday

<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Is 22:19-23</b>
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Ps 138:1-3,6,8bc</b>
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Rom 11:33-36</b>
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Mt 16:13-20</b>

### Mass Schedule

<i>St. Thomas More</i>	<i>St. John Fisher</i>
<b>First Mass: 7:00AM</b>	<b>First Mass: 6:3 AM</b>
<b>Second Mass: 9:30AM</b>	<b>Second Mass: 9:30AM</b>



## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

### WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - Contd from last week

#### 5) Why should Mary die if she was free from Original Sin and its stain?

Being free of Original Sin and its stain is not the same thing as being in a glorified, deathless condition. Jesus was also free of Original Sin and its stain, but he could—and did—die. Expressing a common view among theologians, Ludwig Ott writes: For Mary, death, in consequence of her freedom from original sin and from personal sin, was not a consequence of punishment of sin. However, it seems fitting that Mary's body, which was by nature mortal, should be, in conformity with that of her Divine Son, subject to the general law of death.

#### 6) What are the earliest surviving references to Mary's Assumption?

John Paul II noted: The first trace of belief in the Virgin's Assumption can be found in the apocryphal accounts entitled *Transitus Mariae* [Latin, "The Crossing Over of Mary"], whose origin dates to the second and third centuries. These are popular and sometimes romanticized depictions, which in this case, however, pick up an intuition of faith on the part of God's People.

#### 7) How did Pius XII prepare for the definition of the Assumption?

John Paul II noted: In May 1946, with the Encyclical *Deiparae Virginis Mariae*, Pius XII called for a broad consultation, inquiring among the Bishops and, through them, among the clergy and the People of God as to the possibility and opportuneness of defining the bodily assumption of Mary as a dogma of faith. The result was extremely positive: only six answers out of 1,181 showed any reservations about the revealed character of this truth.

#### 8) What Scriptural basis is there for the teaching?

John Paul II noted: Although the New Testament does not explicitly affirm Mary's Assumption, it offers a basis for it because it strongly emphasized the Blessed Virgin's perfect union with Jesus' destiny. This union, which is manifested, from the time of the Savior's miraculous conception, in the Mother's participation in her Son's mission and especially in her association with his redemptive sacrifice, cannot fail to require a continuation after death. Perfectly united with the life and saving work of Jesus, Mary shares his heavenly destiny in body and soul. There are, thus, passages in Scripture that resonate with the Assumption, even though they do not spell it out.

#### 9) How can we apply this teaching to our everyday lives?

According to Pope Benedict XVI: By contemplating Mary in heavenly glory, we understand that the earth is not the definitive homeland for us either, and that if we live with our gaze fixed on eternal goods we will one day share in this same glory and the earth will become more beautiful. Consequently, we must not lose our serenity and peace even amid the thousands of daily difficulties. The luminous sign of Our Lady taken up into Heaven shines out even more brightly when sad shadows of suffering and violence seem to loom on the horizon. We may be sure of it: from on high, Mary follows our footsteps with gentle concern, dispels the gloom in moments of darkness and distress, reassures us with her motherly hand.

## 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.

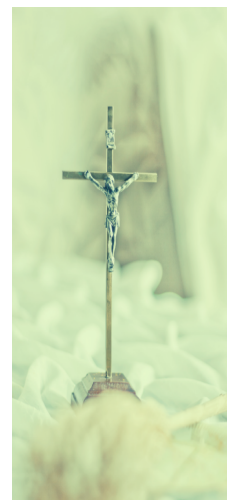
We humbly beseech you to help us win back our Land in this dispute. Save us from violence, discord and confusion and the evil plans of our adversaries.

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

## ORDINARY TIME II



*Living Ordinary Time*

"REMEMBER THE MARVELS  
THE LORD HAS DONE!"



**SS THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER**  
**WELCOMES**  
 YOU TO THE BESOHWE FAMILY



**REV. FR.**  
**CLEMENT QUAGRAINE**  
 ASST. PARISH PRIEST

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**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


### NEVER LET ONE FAILURE FROM THE PAST HOLD YOU BACK IN THE FUTURE

“As a man was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at anytime, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

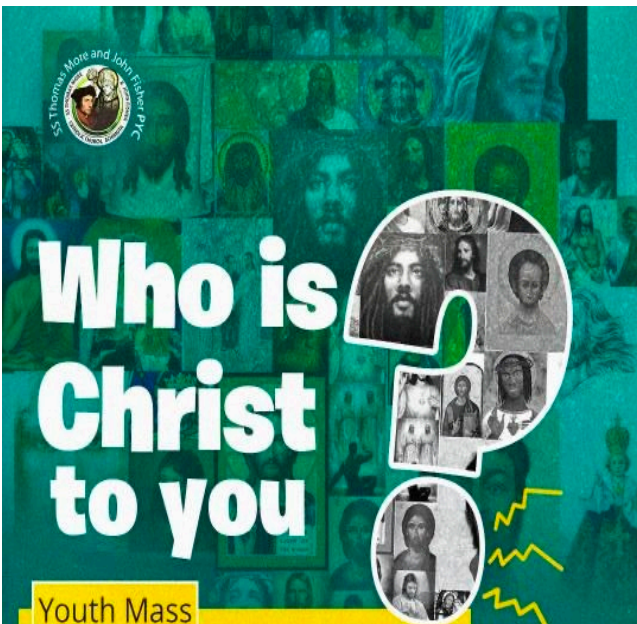
He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. ‘Well,’ trainer said, ‘when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it’s enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free.’

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn’t, they were stuck right where they were.”

## YOUTH CORNER



**Who is Christ to you**



**Youth Mass**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Aug. @ 7:00am**  
 St Thomas More, Achimota School  
 (GA-246-1294)

**Kindly come along with offertory items.**

Stmasf\_youth Instagram | Stmasfyouth Facebook | Thomasmorejohnfisher.com Website | SS Thomas More And John Fisher

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are reminded and encouraged to pay our Harvest levy of **GH¢100** per Adult, **GH¢50** per working Youth and **GH¢20** per child. Those in arrears of Harvest Levy, and pledges are entreated to redeem them and fulfill all other Church Financial Obligations. (e.g., Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund).
- Marriage Banns:** 3rd Publication, between **Prince Boe**, son of Emmanuel Frank Boe & Regina Kafui Kwadzodza. And **Eunice Akpene Domie**, daughter of Edward Yao Domie & Christiana F. A Domie.
- Funeral Arrangements:**
  - Mad. Elizabeth Adzoa Ackie**, a member of the New Achimota Kopevi Akwehman Achimota Town Community and St. Vincent de Paul Ward is as follows:
    - **Friday 25th August, 2023:** Family gathering from 7:00pm to 10:00pm at hse no. 603/26 behind Liliput School.
    - **Saturday 26th August, 2023:** Reception of body & Filing past at 8:00am and Burial Mass at SJF at 9:00am. Attire: Black & White
    - Sunday 27th August, 2023: Thanksgiving Mass at SJF at 9:30am.
  - Mr. Michael Elicot Malm**, father of Mrs. Justin Martey of the Main Choir & Alogboshie Community is as follows:
    - **Friday 25th August, 2023:** Wake keeping from 7:00pm at Alogboshie.
    - **Saturday 26th August, 2023:** Reception of body & Filing past at 8:00am and Burial Mass at SJF at 9:00am. Attire: Black & White.
    - Sunday 27th August, 2023: Thanksgiving Mass at SJF at 9:30am.
  - Mr. Joseph Kwame Attah**, was a former Catechist and a member of the Alogboshie Community is as follows:
    - Saturday 9th September, 2023: Burial Mass at SJF at 8:00am.
    - Sunday 10th September, 2023: Thanksgiving Mass at SJF at 9:30am.

## 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: 9:00am - 1:00pm & 2:00pm - 5:00pm**

**Sunday: 9:00am - 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 AUG. WEEK1	STM AUG. WEEK2
SUNDAY	855.00	20.00
MONDAY	962.00	20.00
TUESDAY	581.00	20.00
WEDNESDAY	892.50	-----
THURSDAY	698.00	-----
FRIDAY	838.00	-----
SATURDAY	398.00	-----
AUG. BORN	135.00	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5359.50</b>	<b>60.00</b>

### Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM AUG. WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	2654.20
SECOND COLLECTION	1940.40
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1170.00
TITHE	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5774.60</b>

# FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

## Details of Last Sunday's Collections

WEEKDAYS	SJF AUG. WEEK1	SJF AUG. WEEK2
SUNDAY	1307.00	5.00
MONDAY	1675.00	100.00
TUESDAY	1300.40	-----
WEDNESDAY	510.00	655.00
THURSDAY	2097.50	358.00
FRIDAY	5057.70+\$2	-----
SATURDAY	3986.50	1000.00
AUG. BORNS	233.50	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16167.60</b>	<b>2118.00</b>

SUNDAY	SJF AUG. WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	3282.40
SECOND COLLECTION	1958.90+ 1000CFA
OFFERTORY ENVELOPS	220.00
TITHE	150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5630.30</b>

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.**



SS THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER  
PARISH

# Have You Paid Your Harvest Levy



Payments can be  
made through **059 585 0922**

Adult	-	<b>100.00</b>
Youth	-	<b>50.00</b>
Kids	-	<b>20.00 or more</b>



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