



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

P.O. BOX AH 283, Achimota-Accra

Website: [www.thomasmorejohnfisher.com](http://www.thomasmorejohnfisher.com)

Email: [besohwe@yahoo.com](mailto:besohwe@yahoo.com)

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

3RD MARCH, 2024: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"GIVE UTMOST REVERENCE TO THE SACRED NATURE OF THE CHURCH."**

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:* Ex 20:1-17: Moses is given the Ten Commandments

*Responsorial Psalm:* Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11

**LORD, YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.**

*Second Reading:* 1Cor 1:33-25: Paul preaches Christ crucified to the Corinthians.

*Gospel Reading:* Jn 2:13-25: Jesus drives out the moneychangers from the Temple and says that he will destroy the temple and raise it up again.

### REFLECTION

Beloved, awareness of our surroundings must guide our behaviour, particularly within the church. What might be deemed acceptable in other environments—such as the workplace, market, home, or school—may not align with the standards expected within the sacred space of the Church. Actions that appear harmless elsewhere can be viewed as scandalous when enacted within these sacred walls. Consider the incident in John's gospel (John 2:13-25), where Jesus, witnessing profane activities in the temple, expressed righteous anger. Money changers and traders were expelled from the temple for conducting worldly business within His Father's House. The priests, entrusted with sacred duties, were complicit in these dishonourable transactions, prioritizing profit over reverence. While our actions may not mirror these scandalous examples, engaging in mundane activities such as eating, drinking, using phones, and playing profane music within the church desecrates its sanctity. Such behaviours set a detrimental example, especially for vulnerable young observers, who may mimic what they see without understanding the gravity of their actions. Let us, therefore, uphold the sacredness of the Church through our attitudes and actions, honouring the reverence owed to this holy sanctuary.

### WEEKLY READINGS

<b>Mon 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> <b>St. Casimir</b> 2Kgs 5:1-15ab Ps 42:2-3;43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30	<b>Tue 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> Dan 3:25,34-43 Ps 25:4-9 Mt 18:21-35
<b>Wed 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> Deut 4:1,5-9 Ps 148:12-13,15-16,19-20 Mt 5:17-19	<b>Thurs 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> <b>Sts. Perpetua &amp; Felicity</b> Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2,6-9 Lk 11:14-23
<b>Fri 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> <b>St. John of God</b> Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6,8-11,14,17 Mt 12:28-34	<b>Sat 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> <b>St. Frances of Rome</b> Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4,18-21 Lk 18:9-12

#### Readings for Next Sunday 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT B

<b>First Reading</b>	<b>2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23</b>
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Ps 137:1-2,3,4-5,6</b>
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Eph 2:4-10</b>
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Jn 3:14-21</b>

#### Mass Schedule for Next Sunday

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



## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

### SEVEN BENEFITS OF PRAYING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Continued from Last Week

This devotion is usually on Fridays, especially during Lent. You may wonder, what are the benefits of praying *The Stations of the Cross*?

**1. *We can look at suffering from a different perspective.***

Our Lord understands our struggles and gives us the grace we need to bear them well. We can learn how to do this from His example. He endured His suffering with patience, dignity, and humility. Jesus never stopped loving, forgiving, and praying for his persecutors. Even though the situation was so intense, He obeyed God’s Will. His response to such an extreme situation was one of love. He endured it for our salvation. From His example, we can learn to love with humility and patience despite our broken world.

**2. *Praying this devotion helps us grow in our love for God.***

We can express our love for Him as we pray the stations. It reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles. Jesus chose to embrace every aspect of human life, including suffering and death. He embraced human suffering on the Cross in a way no one else ever had before Him or ever will again. He made it redemptive by conquering evil with good. Through grace and our union with His suffering, we can learn to offer up our struggles out of love for others.

**3. *Praying the stations helps us to become holy.***

We learn to have more compassion for those who suffer. It pulls us out of our selfishness and teaches us to sacrifice for others. We can learn to be patient in situations of unavoidable suffering. It helps us to examine our conscience. We can think about how we have sinned, how it makes our Lord suffer, and then have remorse.

**4. *We learn to hope in the promise of salvation.***

Christ’s promise of salvation far outweighed the horrors he had to endure. His suffering was redemptive not because it was full of pain but because He endured it with great love. When we unite our struggles with our wounded Saviour, we can learn to bear them well. We can find courage and strength in times of difficulty because of His merciful love. We can trust in Him.

## PRAYER FOR GOD’S INTERVENTION IN OUR LAND CASE

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 |

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B



## UPCOMING PROGRAM

### ❖ LENTEN RECOLLECTION

- THEME: Rend your hearts and not your garments.... (Joel 2:13)
- DATE : Tuesday 12th to Wednesday 13th March, 2024
- VENUE: St. Thomas More Chapel
- Time : 6:30pm Each Evening

### ❖ LENTEN CONFESSION

- 14<sup>TH</sup> March, 2024 @ Both STM & SJF @ 6:30pm.



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

### THE STORY OF THE FIG TREE

I saw my life branching out before me like the green fig tree in the story. From the tip of every branch, like a fat purple fig, a wonderful future beckoned and winked.

One fig was a husband and a happy home and children, and another fig was a famous poet and another fig was a brilliant professor, and another fig was Ee Gee, the amazing editor, and another fig was Europe and Africa and South America, and another fig was Constantin and Socrates and Attila and a pack of other lovers with queer names and offbeat professions, and another fig was an Olympic lady crew champion, and beyond and above these figs were many more figs I couldn't quite make out.

I saw myself sitting in the crotch of this fig tree, starving to death, just because I couldn't make up my mind which of the figs I would choose. I wanted each one of them, but choosing one meant losing all the rest, and, as I sat there, unable to decide, the figs began to wrinkle and go black, and, one by one, they plopped to the ground at my feet.

**Moral:** *Decide! Take action. There's no right or wrong answer when you're choosing between two positive routes or outcomes. Wait too long and the decision will be made for you.*

## YOUTH CORNER

### GHANAS' DEMOCRATIC LIGHT SHINES ONLY AT THE TOP- Continued From Last Week

According to the 2021 Democratic Index report, the impunity of officials stood at 77%. Imagine that! There is massive impunity exhibited by officials in Ghana (elected or appointed). It's possibly because no real accountability exists in our democratic system. How many past or present appointees have you heard of being prosecuted for a crime? Or corruption? Do you have a number for me?

This brings me to the recent "Save Ghana Football" demonstrations in Accra on the 14th of February, 2024 in which I participated. I witnessed how officials from the GFA, used the police force to prevent demonstrators from submitting their petitions at the GFA headquarters. Well, I can't say I didn't see it coming, it was just a reflection of recent demonstrations in Ghana. Suddenly, the citizens' right to demonstrate is becoming a problem for the govt. who is slowly eating that Right away with cheap tactics (I don't have time to delve into this).

As I stood there looking on helplessly when the police prevented us from going to the GFA, I said to myself, our democracy stinks!

## 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 also fulfill all other Church Financial Obligations. (e.g., Church Dues, Welfare Dues and Building Fund).
- During the Season of Lent we shall have Stations of the Cross and Mass on Fridays at 7:00 pm at both STM and SJF.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the St. Raphael (Francophone Community) of their visits to Alogboshie Group A in March.
- As part of our Lenten activities, the STM and SJF Youth Choir, will be ministering a sacred classical dubbed "Olivet to Calvary" on the scenes of Christ's passion on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at SJF at 5:00pm. We humbly solicit your support to create awareness towards the programme and your presence on that day to make the program a success.
- Funeral Arrangements:**
  - The Death is reported of Mad. Felicia Amegatse, mother of Mr. Samuel Vidza of the Ave Maria Singing Group. Funeral details will be announced later.
  - The funeral Arrangement of **the late Mad. Agnes yaa Boatemaa Kissi**, a member of the Holy Family Akan Kuo is as follows:  
**Reading of tributes, Viewing and Burial Mass:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at SJF at 8:00am.  
**Thanksgiving Mass:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at SJF at 9:30am.
  - The funeral details of **the late Mad. Matilda Naa Kudjah Ankrah Kwame**, wife of Mr. Emmanuel Kwame is as follows:  
**Wake keeping:** March 15, 2024, at Nii Ankrah We, Hse no. B245/26, Achimota, behind the Total Filling Station.  
**Filing Past:** March 16, 2024: at 7:45 am, at Gethsemene Presbyterian Church, Achimota, and **Funeral Service:** at 9:00am at Gethsemene Presbyterian Church, Achimota.  
**Thanksgiving Service:** March 17, 2024: at 9:00am at Gethsemene Presbyterian Church, 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 FEB. WEEK1	STM FEB. WEEK2	STM FEB. WEEK3	STM FEB. WEEK4	GRAND TOTAL	
SUNDAY	1060.00	-----	-----	-----	1060.00	4 <sup>TH</sup>
MONDAY	2156.50	-----	-----	110.00	2266.50	1 <sup>ST</sup>
TUESDAY	1345.50	120.00	700.00	20.00	2185.50	2 <sup>ND</sup>
WEDNESDAY	1592.50	-----	-----	-----	1592.50	3 <sup>RD</sup>
THURSDAY	1012.50	-----	-----	-----	1012.50	6 <sup>TH</sup>
FRIDAY	1031.00	20.00	-----	-----	1051.00	5 <sup>TH</sup>
SATURDAY	608.20	-----	-----	20.00	628.20	7 <sup>TH</sup>
FEB. BORN	210.00	-----	-----	-----	210.00	
TOTAL	9016.20	140.00	700.00	150.00	10006.20	

### Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM FEB. WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	2413.30
SECOND COLLECTION	1434.30
TITHE	+ \$5
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	131.00
TOTAL	20.00
	4061.90

# FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF FEB. WEEK1	SJF FEB. WEEK2	SJF FEB. WEEK3	SJF FEB. WEEK4	GRAND TOTAL	
SUNDAY	1287.70	-----	-----	300.00	1587.70	6 <sup>TH</sup>
MONDAY	2522.00	100.00	400.00	-----	3022.00	5 <sup>TH</sup>
TUESDAY	2184.00	-----	-----	10000.00	12184.00	1 <sup>ST</sup>
WEDNESDAY	713.50	200.00	-----	-----	913.50	7 <sup>TH</sup>
THURSDAY	3420.00	50.00	-----	-----	3470.00	4 <sup>TH</sup>
FRIDAY	6804.30	100.00	-----	10.00	6914.30	2 <sup>ND</sup>
SATURDAY	3513.00 +\$10	-----	200.00	1035.00	4871.70	3 <sup>RD</sup>
FEB. BORNS	162.00	-----	-----	-----	162.00	
TOTAL	20730.20	450.00	600.00	11345.00	33125.20	

## Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF FEB. WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	5510.60
SECOND COLLECTION	3419.40
TITHE	460.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	210.00
31ST DEC. ENVELOPE	100.00
TOTAL	9699.40

**ALL FOREIGN CURRENCIES HAVE BEEN CONVERTED INTO CEDIS.**  
**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.**



SS THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER  
PARISH

## Have You Paid Your Harvest Levy



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

Adult - **100.00**  
 Youth - **50.00**  
 Kids - **20.00** or more

