



# 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

17TH MARCH, 2024: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **NEVER LET FEAR MAKE YOU  
ABANDON A "GLORIFIED TASK" MEANT FOR YOU.**

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: Jer 31:31-34:** Jeremiah tells the people that the Lord will make a new covenant with them, planting the law within their hearts.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 51:3-4, 12-15**

**CREATE A PURE HEART FOR ME, O GOD.**

**Second Reading: Heb 5:7-9:** Through his sufferings, Jesus gained salvation for all who obey him.

**Gospel Reading: Jn 12:20-33:** Jesus teaches his disciples about the way in which he will be glorified by God, and a voice from heaven is heard to affirm this teaching.

### REFLECTION

Beloved fear sometimes drives us to abandon the "glorified tasks" that are specifically meant for us. It is a "glorified task" because it brings honour to God's name and also to us. But many a time, we see it as too heavy a cross to carry. The very moment we recall the task, our souls become troubled and we lose focus. Yes, we may have troubled souls, but let us be encouraged by the fact that Jesus understands our plight and knows what we go through because He, by taking on our human nature, went through challenges. In His human state, He also had a troubled soul like us when He remembered the task He had to accomplish. He was aware that He would be persecuted for no real reason. However, He never abandoned the task, nor did He tell his father to save him from that hour of condemnation. Rather, He said, "For this purpose, I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name". His father gave him the inmost strength to carry on the task, by so doing affirming with a sure statement, "I have glorified it, and I will glory it again. In the same manner, no matter how difficult the task may seem, let us not abandon it but rather ask God for the innermost strength to carry on with it.

### WEEKLY READINGS

<b>Mon 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 202</b> Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 Ps 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6 Jn 8:1-11	<b>Tue 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> <b>St. Joseph, Spouse of BVM</b> 2Sam 7:4-5a,12-14a,16 Ps 89:2-3,4-5,27, 29 Rom 4:13,16-18,22 Mt 1:16,18-21 or Lk 2:41-51a
<b>Wed 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95 Ps Dn 3:52,53,54,55,56 Jn 8:31-42	<b>Thurs 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> Gen 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-5,6-7,8-9 Jn 8:51-59
<b>Fri 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-3a,3bc-4,5-6,7 Jn 10:10:31-42	<b>Sat 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 2024</b> <b>Ez 37:21-28</b> Ps Jer 31:10,11-12,13 Jn 11:45-57

Readings for Next Sunday <b>PALM SUNDAY, YEAR B</b>	
First Reading	Is 50:4-7
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24
Second Reading	Phil 2:6-11
Gospel	Mk 14:1----15:47

Mass Schedule for Next Sunday	
<i>St. Thomas More</i>	<i>St. John Fisher</i>
One Mass: 7:30 AM	One Mass: 8:30 AM



## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

### UNDERSTANDING THE CATHOLIC MEANING OF THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

#### The Passion in Perspective

The main action in *The Passion of the Christ* consists of a man being horrifically beaten, mutilated, tortured, impaled, and finally executed. The film is grueling to watch — so much so that some critics have called it offensive, even sadistic, claiming that it fetishizes violence.

To understand the brutality of Gibson's *Passion* within the film's own redemptive context, one must begin a full hour before the first blow at the pillar falls, in the opening scene in the garden of Gethsemane.

As imagined here, Jesus' agony in the garden harkens back to two earlier events in salvation history: the temptation in the wilderness, and the Garden of Eden. The agony in the garden and the temptation in the wilderness are the two ordeals at either end of Christ's public ministry in which he was ministered to by angels, but Gibson's film, like other recent dramatizations (e.g., *The Miracle Maker*), omits the angels, instead depicting Satan returning to tempt Jesus, testing him on the eve of his passion just as he did at the outset of his public ministry.

This opening image of Satan there in the garden, tempting Jesus, the second Adam, recalls another scene from the opening chapters of the scriptures, the temptation of the first Adam in another garden, Eden. Gibson even uses a literal serpent, strengthening the Genesis 3 resonance — and also, perhaps, alluding to what is probably the only other film to use a literal serpent in depicting Christ being tempted, namely, *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

It may seem strange to think of the traditionalist Gibson alluding to Scorsese's notoriously controversial film, the last major Jesus film before *The Passion of the Christ*. However, *The Passion* does seem to be consciously aware of the earlier film.

If Gibson did consciously re-use the serpent image, it wasn't as an homage to Scorsese's film, but as a rebuttal of it. The most striking thing about the two serpent scenes is how they highlight two utterly antithetical ideas of what it meant for Jesus to be tempted. In sharp contrast to *Last Temptation*, where the confrontation between Jesus and the serpent is inconclusive, *The Passion* brings the temptation to a decisive end with Jesus quite literally putting his foot down in an unmistakable allusion of Genesis 3:15, a verse sometimes called the "protoevangelion" or "first Gospel": "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he will crush your head, and you shall strike at his heel."

To be continued .....

## 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

## LENTEN SEASON 2024

**‘Unless the grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit’ (Jn 12:24).**



5th Sunday of Lent B

**EASTER**  
Programs 2024



<b>Olivet to Calvary</b>	<b>17</b> MAR	St. John Fisher 5PM
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>24</b> MAR	St. John Fisher 8:30am St. Thomas More 7:30am
<b>Holy Thursday</b>	<b>28</b> MAR	St. John Fisher 7:00pm St. Thomas More 7:00pm
<b>Good Friday</b> (Stations of the Cross)	<b>29</b> MAR	St. John Fisher 7:00am St. Thomas More 7:00am
Divine Mercy Novena & Veneration of the Cross		St. John Fisher 2:45pm St. Thomas More 2:45pm
<b>Holy Saturday</b> Easter Vigil	<b>30</b> MAR	St. John Fisher 7:00pm St. Thomas More 7:00pm
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>31</b> MAR	St. John Fisher 6:30am & 9:30am St. Thomas More 7:30am

**Mass & Picnic**  
1st April @ St. John Fisher 10:00am



**How to make all church statutory payments through MTN momo**  
**Ss Thomas more & John Fisher**  
**059 585 0922**

Dial **\*170#**  
Select Option 2  
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Enter Merchant ID: **247834**  
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## MOTIVATION

### BURIDAN'S ASS

A hungry ass finds himself between two equally large and delicious-looking bales of hay. He looks from one to the other and back again, unsure which to choose.

This goes on for a long while until, unable to make a decision, the poor old donkey dies of starvation.

**Moral of the story:** *Once again, take action! Don't linger too long on the precipice of a big (or small) decision when the outcomes are positive.*

## YOUTH CORNER

### RALLYING AROUND THE RED, YELLOW, BLACK AND GREEN

Continued from last week

Sometimes I wonder, where are we heading as a country? What are the aspirations of the Ghanaian, how are we going there, and who is leading there? We seem lost to me. The lyrics of Osibisa's "We are going, heaven knows where we are going" come to mind. It feels like that's the path we are on- only Heaven knows where we are going.

You know I always wonder, who is holding who accountable? As a friend of mine pointed out, comparatively, the president of Ghana is more powerful in Ghana than the president of the USA in the USA. It appears that we have an autocratic president operating within democratic parameters. It seems that from parliament to the judiciary, to anti-corruption institutions of the state, everyone seems powerless against the president, encouraging impudent and despondent behaviour from presidential appointees.

I have a lot to say about the economy and politics, but it's best to hold my tongue.

Before writing, I intended to urge Ghanaians to unite and support the national flag. However, it seems that all they can see is the red colour, which symbolizes their suffering and difficulties. Therefore, I want to pose a question instead: is it possible for us to come together and rally behind our country's flag despite the challenges we face?

## 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 today 17<sup>th</sup> March, at SJF at 5:00pm. We humbly solicit your presence to make the program a success. Come and be blessed.**
- Funeral Arrangements:**
  - The Funeral Arrangement of the late **Mad. Felicia Amegatse**, Mother of Mr. Samuel Vidza, a member of the Ave Maria Singing Group is as follows:
    - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024: Wake keeping in the Family House at Hohoe (Volta Region) opposite the Holy Trinity Catholic Church.
    - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2024: Laying-in-State & Burial Mass at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hohoe Gborxome at 8:00
    - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2024: Thanksgiving Mass at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hohoe Gborxome at 9:30am.
  - The Funeral Arrangement of the late **Mad. Mary Akua Atiso**, a member of the Alogboshie Community is as follows:
    - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2024: Wake keeping at her residence at Alogboshie.
    - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2024: Burial Mass at the SS. Thomas More & John Fisher Catholic Church at 8:00am
    - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2024: Thanksgiving Mass at the SS. Thomas More & John Fisher Catholic Church 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: 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 MAR. WEEK1	STM MAR. WEEK2
SUNDAY	955.00	-----
MONDAY	2595.00	100.00
TUESDAY	1392.00	770.00
WEDNESDAY	1390.50	-----
THURSDAY	1143.00	-----
FRIDAY	1321.00	20.00
SATURDAY	341.50	-----
MAR. BORNS	95.00	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9233.00</b>	<b>890.00</b>

### Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM MAR. WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	2535.80 +\$5
SECOND COLLECTION	1338.20
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	340.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4277.30</b>

# FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF MAR. WEEK1	SJF MAR. WEEK2
SUNDAY	1072.00	200.00
MONDAY	3850.50	-----
TUESDAY	1987.00	5.00
WEDNESDAY	691.00	100.00
THURSDAY	2010.00	-----
FRIDAY	7212.00	50.00
SATURDAY	1441.00	800.00
MAR. BORNS	550.00	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18813.50</b>	<b>1155.00</b>

## Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF MAR. WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	4990.52
SECOND COLLECTION	2608.65
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	550.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8149.17</b>

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

# Have You Paid Your Harvest Levy?

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



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

For more info: **030-3931800**

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