



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

24TH MARCH, 2024: PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION, YEAR B.

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **OUR PASSION MUST BE FOR GOOD GAIN AND NOT FOR WRONGFUL GAIN.**

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 50:4-7: The Lord's servant will stand firm, even when persecuted.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11: Christ was obedient even to death, but God has exalted him.

Gospel Reading: Mk 14:1-15:47: Jesus is sentenced to death and crucified. The centurion who witnessed his death declared, "This man was the Son of God."

REFLECTION

Today marks Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, a significant occasion where we reflect on the narratives presented in Mark's gospel (14:1-15:47), detailing Jesus' unjust accusation before the high priest, his trial before Pilate, condemnation, and eventual crucifixion. Within this narrative, we encounter two distinct passions: that of Jesus, leading him to innocent suffering and ultimate redemption for humanity, and the misplaced passion of Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus, along with the scribes, chief priests, high priest, and the crowd, falsely condemning Christ, resulting only in shame rather than glory. Like the scribes and their accomplices, we too sometimes misdirect our passions towards wrongful purposes. Reflecting on the countless instances where we have misplaced our priorities, we realise the missed opportunities to contribute positively to our growth and the betterment of humanity. Our passion should serve as a driving force, instilling within us a deep sense of commitment to pursue positive endeavours, energizing and inspiring us to be creative in our pursuits, thus leading to a fulfilling sense of productivity and satisfaction. Let us, therefore, strive to align our passions with noble causes, following the example of Jesus' unwavering dedication to the greater good.

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 25TH MARCH, 2024 Holy Week Is 42:1-7 Ps 27:1-3,13-14 Jn 12:1-11	Tue 26TH MARCH, 2024 Holy Week Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-6,15,17 Jn 13:21-33,36-38
Wed 27TH MARCH, 2024 Holy Week Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10,21-22,31,33-34 Mt 26:14-25	Holy Thurs 28TH MARCH, 2024 The Lord's Supper Ex 12:1-8,11-14 Ps 116:12-13,15-18 1Cor 11:23-36 Jn 13:1-15
Good Fri 29TH MARCH, 2024 The Lord's Passion Is 52:13 -- 53:12 Ps 31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25 Heb 4:14-16;5:7-9 Jn 18:1 -- 19:42	Holy Sat 30TH MARCH, 2024 Easter Vigil (Various Readings of OT) Rom 6:3-11 Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23 Mk 16:1-7

Readings for Next Sunday **EASTER SUNDAY**

First Reading	Acts 10:34a,37-43
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23
Second Reading	Col 3:1-4 or 1Cor 5:6b-8
Gospel	Jn 20:1-9

Mass Schedule for Next Sunday

<i>St. Thomas More</i>	<i>St. John Fisher</i>
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KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

UNDERSTANDING THE CATHOLIC MEANING OF THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST- *Continued from last week*

Establishing redemptive meaning

The temptation scene also serves to establish the meaning, purpose, and goal, of everything that follows. Ironically, just as the temptations in the wilderness implicitly bear witness to Christ's divinity ("If you are the Son of God..."), so here it's the tempter's insinuations that indicate the nature of Jesus' mission: "Do you think you can bear the weight of the world's sins? They aren't worth this. The burden is too great. No man can bear it."

These establishing lines, delivered in the opening scene, provide key context for the rest of the film. First, Jesus means to take upon himself the weight or burden of our sins. Second, this will prove to be a hideous ordeal. Third, he accepts this ordeal out of love for us — that is, he rejects the tempter's suggestion that mankind is "not worth this"; to him, manifestly, we are. This is the context in which every subsequent blow, every laceration, every fall of the hammer must be seen.

Another early scene recalls the scandalous and offensive aspects of Jesus' public ministry, providing necessary context for his persecution by the Jewish leaders. In the nighttime trial before the Sanhedrin or Jewish council, witnesses come forward to testify against him, essentially offering a synopsis of all that was controversial in Jesus' preaching and life: his claims to be able to forgive sins; his baffling words about rebuilding the temple after three days; the accusation that he performed exorcisms by diabolical means; his shocking teaching about the necessity of eating his flesh and drinking his blood; and of course his claim to be both the Messiah and the Son of God, leading the high priest Caiaphas to accuse him of blasphemy.

"Enmity between you and the woman"
The significance of Genesis 3:15 for *The Passion of the Christ* doesn't end with the opening scene. It can also be seen, less strikingly but more pervasively, in the film's approach to Mary the Mother of Jesus.

In traditional Christian exegesis, "the woman" and her "seed" have been interpreted as ultimately referring to Mary and Jesus; and the "enmity" established by God between the woman and the serpent has been understood to signify a total opposition of wills. Mary's "enmity" with Satan, Catholic dogma teaches, is uncompromised by any stain of sin, and is rooted in God's grace to her in her Immaculate Conception.

This complete opposition of Mary and Satan is evoked in an imaginative and poetic way in *The Passion of the Christ* in a number of scenes. One such moment occurs as Jesus carries his cross through the midst of the crowd, with Mary anxiously following him on one side and the tempter on the other side, mirroring and thus opposing her. Another takes place during the scourging at the pillar, as Satan manifests himself in a vision that amounts to a hideous parody of images of the Madonna and child.

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

SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



EASTER
Programs 2024



Olivet to Calvary	17 MAR	St. John Fisher 5PM
Palm Sunday	24 MAR	St. John Fisher 8:30am St. Thomas More 7:30am
Holy Thursday	28 MAR	St. John Fisher 7:00pm St. Thomas More 7:00pm
Good Friday (Stations of the Cross)	29 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
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil	30 MAR	St. John Fisher 7:00pm St. Thomas More 7:00pm
Easter Sunday	31 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
Select Option 1
Enter Merchant ID: **247834**
Enter Amt
Enter Reference: eg. *Dues*
Enter your Momo pin
Send



MOTIVATION

THE ULTIMATE GIFT

There was once a little girl who desperately needed an emergency blood transfusion to save her life. Her only chance of surviving would be to get a transfusion from her younger brother, who had miraculously overcome the same disease she had, and therefore had antibodies in his blood that were needed to fight the illness.

The doctor explained to the little boy that it would save his sister's life if he were to give her his blood. The boy hesitated for a moment before agreeing to give his blood if it would help his sister. At the age of 5, this was scary, but he would do anything to save his big sister's life. As the blood transfusion was happening, he lay next to his sister in the hospital and was overcome with happiness as he saw the color coming back to her cheeks. Then he looked up at the doctor and quietly asked, "When will I start to die?"

The doctor replied, explaining that he was not going to die, he was just going to allow his sister to live a long, healthy life alongside him.

Moral: *While we may not be faced with such a life-or-death decision, being selfless in general can help us connect with others, which is rewarding and fulfilling.*

YOUTH CORNER

THE PYC WOULD
LIKE TO CALL
FOR WRITERS
FOR THE
YOUTH CORNER.
INTERESTED
PERSONS
SHOULD
CONTACT AMA
ON 0578041989

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).
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the St. Raphael (Francophone Community) of their visits to Alogboshie Group A this Month and The Holy Family Akan Kuo to Alogboshie Group B in April.
- Death Report:** The death is reported of **Mr. John Ekow Banafu-Hakman**. He was a member of the Knights of St. John International. His funeral details will be announced later.
- Funeral Arrangements:**
 - The Funeral details of the late **Mad. Felicia Amegatse**, Mother of Mr. Samuel Vidza, a member of the Ave Maria Singing Group is as follows:
 - Friday 5th April 2024: Wake keeping in the Family House at Hohoe (Volta Region) opposite the Holy Trinity Catholic Church.
 - Saturday 6th April 2024: Laying-in-State & Burial Mass at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hohoe Gborxome at 8:00
 - Sunday 7th April 2024: Thanksgiving Mass at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hohoe Gborxome at 9:30 am.
 - The Funeral details of the late **Mad. Mary Akua Atiso**, a member of the Alogboshie Community is as follows:
 - Friday 12th April 2024: Wake keeping at her residence at Alogboshie.
 - Saturday 13th April 2024: Burial Mass at the SS. Thomas More & John Fisher Catholic Church at 8:00 am
 - Sunday 14th April 2024: Thanksgiving Mass at the SS. Thomas More & John Fisher Catholic Church at 9:30 am.

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	STM MAR. WEEK3
SUNDAY	955.00	-----	-----
MONDAY	2595.00	100.00	-----
TUESDAY	1392.00	770.00	-----
WEDNESDAY	1390.50	-----	100.00
THURSDAY	1143.00	-----	-----
FRIDAY	1321.00	20.00	20.00
SATURDAY	341.50	-----	500.00
MAR. BORNS	95.00	-----	-----
TOTAL	9233.00	890.00	620.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM MAR. WEEK3
MAIN COLLECTION	2996.30
SECOND COLLECTION	3055.10
TITHE	50.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	1260.00
TOTAL	7361.40

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF MAR. WEEK1	SJF MAR. WEEK2	SJF MAR. WEEK3
SUNDAY	1072.00	200.00	10.00
MONDAY	3850.50	-----	-----
TUESDAY	1987.00	5.00	-----
WEDNESDAY	691.00	100.00	-----
THURSDAY	2010.00	-----	-----
FRIDAY	7212.00	50.00	200.00
SATURDAY	1441.00	800.00	-----
MAR. BORNS	550.00	-----	-----
TOTAL	18813.50	1155.00	210.00

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF MAR. WEEK3
MAIN COLLECTION	4867.90
SECOND COLLECTION	3948.90
TITHE	300.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	310.00
TOTAL	9426.40

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	-	100.00
Youth	-	50.00
Kids	-	20.00 or more



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  Thomasmorejohnfisher.com
  SS Thomas More And John Fisher