



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

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

5TH MAY, 2024: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

THEME FOR THE WEEK: "FRIENDS OF CHRIST ABIDE IN THE LOVE OF HIS FATHER."

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: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48: The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to Cornelius and his household, and they are baptized.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 98:1,2-3,3-4

THE LORD HAS SHOWN HIS DELIEVRANCE TO THE NATIONS.

Second Reading: 1Jn 4:7-10: God is love.

Gospel Reading: Jn 15:9-17: Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.

REFLECTION

Beloved in Christ, it's truly overwhelming to consider that we are called friends of Christ, not merely His servants. Have we ever deeply reflected on this privileged title, 'friends of Christ'? The responsibility that comes with this honour is clear: we are called to obey the commandment of love, bestowed upon us by the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. Just as Christ abides in the love of His Father, we too must abide in love. Therefore, every aspect of our lives should overflow with love, recognising that, as friends of Christ, we have been specifically chosen by Him to live and act in love. Let us bear the fruits of patience and kindness, avoiding envy, boasting, or rudeness toward our neighbours. Furthermore, true love does not find joy in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It does not take pleasure in a friend's discomfort but delights in assisting them in overcoming it. May God grant us the grace to consistently live out the commandment of love, thus affirming our identity as friends of Christ."

WEEKLY READINGS

Mon 6TH MAY, 2024 Acts 16:11-15 Ps 150:1-6,9 Jn 15:26—16:4a	Tue 7TH MAY, 2024 Acts 16:15,22—18:1 Ps 138:1-3,7-8 Jn 16:5-11
Wed 8TH MAY, 2024 Acts 17:15,22—18:1 Ps 149:1-2,11-14 Jn 16:12-15	Thurs 9TH MAY, 2024 Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity) Acts 1:1-11 Ps 47:2-3,6-9 Eph 1:17-23 or 4:1-13 or 4:1-7,11-13 Mk 16:15-20
Fri 10TH MAY, 2024 Acts 18:9-18 Ps 47:2-7 Jn 16:20-23	Sat 11TH MAY, 2024 Acts 18:23-28 Ps 47:2-3,8-10 Jn 16:23b-28

Readings for Next Sunday

First Reading	Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20ab
Second Reading	1 Jn 4:11-16
Gospel	Jn 17:11b-19

Mass Schedule for Next Sunday

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



KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

WHAT ARE THE OILS USED FOR THE SACRAMENT AND HOW THEY ARE USED?

The Bishop, joined by the priests of the diocese, gathers at the Cathedral to celebrate the Chrism Mass. This Mass manifests the unity of the priests with their Bishop. Here the Bishop blesses three oils– the Oil of Catechumens (*Oleum Catechumenorum* or *Oleum Sanctorum*), the Oil of the Infirm (*Oleum Infirmorum*), and Holy Chrism (*Sacrum Chrism*)– which will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year.

Throughout the Bible, various references indicate the importance of olive oil in daily life. Oil was used in cooking, particularly in the making of bread, that basic food substance for nourishment (e.g. Number 11:7-9); as a fuel for lamps (e.g. Matthew 25:1-9); and as a healing agent in medicine (e.g. Isaiah 1:6 and Luke 10:34). Moreover, with oil the Jews anointed the head of a guest as a sign of welcome (e.g. Luke 7:46), beautified one’s appearance (e.g. Ruth 3:3), and prepared a body for burial (e.g. Mark 16:1). In religious practices, the Jews also used oil to dedicate a memorial stone in honor of God (e.g. Genesis 28:18); to consecrate the meeting tent, the ark of the covenant, the table, the lampstand, the laver, the altar of incense, and the altar of holocausts (e.g. Exodus 31:26-29); and to offer sacrifices (e.g. Exodus 29:40).

Sacred Scripture also attests to the spiritual symbolism of oil. For instance, Psalm 23:5 reads, “You anoint my head with oil,” signifying favor and strength from the Lord; and Psalm 45:8 reads, “You love justice and hate wickedness; therefore, God your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellow kings,” signifying the special designation from God and the joy from being his servant. Moreover, to be “the anointed” of the Lord indicated receiving a special vocation from the Lord and the empowered with the Holy Spirit to fulfill that vocation: Therefore, the symbolism of oil is rich– sanctification, healing, strengthening, beautification, dedication, consecration, and sacrifice.

Given this heritage, the early Church adopted the use of olive oil for its sacramental rituals. The “*Oil of Catechumens*” is used in connection with the Sacrament of Baptism. St. Hippolytus in his *Apostolic Tradition* (AD 215) wrote of an “Oil of Exorcism” used to anoint the candidates immediately before baptism. This practice still continues: In the current baptismal liturgy, the priest offers the prayer of exorcism and then anoints the person to be baptized on the chest, saying, “We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Savior; may He strengthen you with His power, who lives and reigns forever and ever.” Anointing with the Oil of Catechumens following a prayer of exorcism may also take place during the period of the Catechumenate on one or several occasions. In both cases, this anointing symbolizes the person’s need for the help and strength of God to sever the bondage of the past and to overcome the opposition of the devil so that he may profess his faith, come to baptism, and live as a child of God.

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.

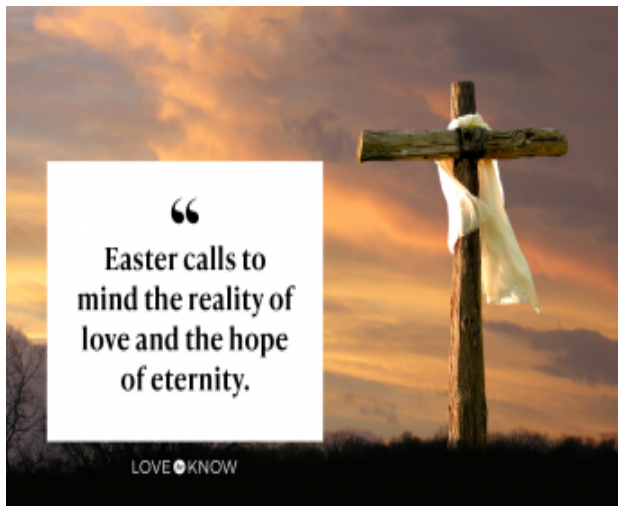
We humbly beseech you to help us win back our Land in this dispute. Save us from violence, discord and confusion and the evil plans of our adversaries.

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

EASTER SEASON




“
Easter calls to
mind the reality of
love and the hope
of eternity.”

THOSE WHO HAVE
PLEGGED FOR THE
LEGACY OF HOPE
PROJECT ARE
REMINDED AND
ENTREATED TO REDEEM
THEM. PAYMENT VIA
THE PROJECT MOMO
NUMBER SHOULD BE



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 DRUNKARD

The Drunkard is a story with a moral about seeking truth and wisdom.

A policeman sees a drunk man searching for something under a streetlight and asks what the drunk has lost. He says he lost his keys and they both look under the streetlight together. After a few minutes, the policeman asks if he is sure he lost them here, and the drunk replies, no, and that he lost them in the park. The policeman asks why he is searching here, and the drunk replies, "This is where the light is".

The moral of the story: *Truth and wisdom are found where you least want to look.*

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).
- MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY. WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO PRAY THE ROSARY AT HOME WITH OUR FAMILIES.
- The sacrament of Confirmation will be administered during this year's feast day on Sunday 23rd June. Parishioners who wish to receive the sacrament should register with the secretaries and attend class next Sunday after 1st Mass at STM and after the 2nd Mass at SJF
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind the St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Society of their visits to Christian Village in the month of May.
- Parent of the Newly baptized and Communicants are been informed to visit the Parish office for their children Baptismal Cards. Catechism Classes resume today at STM after the 7:00am Mass and at SJF after the 9:30am Mass. Parents and guardians are to pick up forms at the Parish Offices and register their kids.
- Marriage Banns: 1st Publication btn. Henry Kofi Gyasi, (son of Henry Yaw Gyasi and Felicia Mensah) And Bertha Agyapon, (daughter of Samuel Oppong and Janet Boamah) in case of any impediment, kindly inform the Parish Priest as soon as possible.
- The One Week of Leslie Kwabena Nyarko Gyimah, son of Mr. & Mrs. Gyimah comes off this Tuesday 7th May, 2024 at the Christ the King Parish, Cantonment, Accra at 8:00am. Attire: Black & White.

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 APR. WK1	STM APR. WK2	STM APR. WK3	STM APR. WK4	GRAND TOTAL	POSI- TIONS
SUN	784.50	230.00	-----	40.00	1054.50	6 TH
MON	1307.50	403.00	-----	120.00	1830.50	3 RD
TUES	1128.00	500.00	200.00	-----	1828.00	4 TH
WED	1669.00	-----	200.00	-----	1869.00	2 ND
THURS	473.5+\$100	10.00	50.00	1600.00	3474.50	1 ST
FRI	1057.10	140.00	20.00	-----	1217.10	5 TH
SAT	692.00	-----	-----	-----	692.00	7 TH
APR. BORNS	231.10	-----	-----	-----	231.10	
TOTAL	8683.70	1283.0	470.00	1760.00	12196.70	

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM APR. WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	1719.80
SECOND COLLECTION	1176.40
TITHE	520.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	250.00
TOTAL	3666.20

FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF APR. WEEK1	SJF APR. WEEK2	SJF APR. WEEK 3	SJF APR. WEEK4	GRAND TOTAL	POSITIONS
SUN	1595.70	-----	10.00	-----	1605.70	6 TH
MON	1694.20+\$5	900.00	-----	-----	2661.25	4 TH
TUES	2962.50	-----	100.00	-----	3062.50	3 RD
WED	922.00	15.00	215.00	-----	1152.00	7 TH
THURS	2399.50	-----	-----	-----	2399.50	5 TH
FRID	993.20	5410.00	255.00	-----	6658.20	1 ST
SAT	3107.00	1135.00	200.00	-----	4442.00	2 ND
APR. BORN	852.00	-----	-----	-----	852.00	
TOTAL	14593.15	7460.00	780.00	-----	22833.15	

Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF APR. WEEK4
MAIN COLLECTION	6475.60 +CFA500
SECOND COLLECTION	5017.10
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	420.00
TOTAL	11923.70

All Foreign Currencies have been converted into Cedis.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE MONTH APRIL.

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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