



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

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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

16TH JUNE, 2024: ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ,  
YEAR B

THEME FOR THE WEEK: **"MAY OUR CHURCH BE  
FRUITFUL."**

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: Ez 17:22-24:** I, the Lord, bring low the high tree and lift high the lowly tree.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16**

**IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD.**

**Second Reading: 2 Cor 5:6-10:** The lives of all are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ.

**Gospel Reading: Mk 4:26-34:** The reign of God is like a mustard seed.

### REFLECTION

Spiritual renewal is a gift from God, bestowed upon us through the Holy Spirit and through prayer. As Ezekiel vividly illustrates, it is God who performs the fundamental planting of His people. In our tradition, God's chosen tree is the holy Catholic Church, which is called to be a welcoming family and a source of both enlightenment and comfort to people of all nations. This tree, planted by God, is meant to "produce branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar," providing shade for all creatures. Jesus was a strong advocate for renewal, both in the personal outlook of his followers and in the structures and priorities of the Jewish religion. In today's parable, he highlights the mysterious miracle of growth and fruitfulness. While the gardener must do the initial spadework and continue with necessary weeding and watering, it is ultimately the Spirit of God who brings about fruitful change. Therefore, we call upon the Spirit to breathe strongly upon our Church today, awakening in our hearts a loving desire for sharing and communion. This idea is at the heart of each Eucharistic congress and indeed of every Mass. May the Spirit guide us to be a fruitful and welcoming community, bearing the light and love of God to all.

### WEEKLY READINGS

<b>Mon 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024</b> 1Kgs 21:1-16 Ps 5:2-3,5-7 Mt5:38-42	<b>Tue 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024</b> 1Kgs 21:17-29 Ps 51:3-6,11,16 Mt 5:43-48
<b>Wed 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024</b> <b>St. Romuald, Abbot</b> 2Kgs 2:1,6-14 Ps 31:20-21,24 Mt 6:1-6,16-18	<b>Thurs 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024</b> <b>Sir 48:1-14</b> Ps 97:1-7 Mt 6:7-15
<b>Fri 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE, 2024</b> <b>St. Aloysius Gonzaga</b> 2Kgs 11:1-4,9-18,20 Ps 132:11-14,17-18 Mt 6:19-23	<b>Sat 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE, 2024</b> <b>Ss. Paulinus of Nola, John Fisher &amp; Thomas More</b> 2Chr 24:17-25 Ps 89:4-5,29-34 Mt 6:24-34

Readings for Next Sunday		FEAST DAY
First Reading	Job 38:1,8-11	
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 107:23-24,25-26,28-29,30-31	
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 5:14-17	
Gospel	Mark 4:35-41	

Mass Schedule for Next Sunday	
St. John Fisher	
ONE MASS	8.30 AM



## KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

### THE ALTAR IS A SACRED THING - By Denis R. McNamara

It is worth noting that an altar is a place where sacred actions occur in what the Church again and again calls “sacred buildings.” *Sacrosanctum Concilium* even speaks of “sacred furnishings.”<sup>20</sup> To be made sacred is to be set apart from other things, and the Rite of Blessing of a Church notes that since churches “are permanently set aside for the celebration of the divine mysteries, it is right for them to receive a dedication to God” (1). Thomas Aquinas writes in the *Summa* that altars are not consecrated “because they are capable of receiving grace, but because they acquire special spiritual virtue from the consecration, whereby they are rendered fit for the Divine worship.”<sup>21</sup> While the altar does receive special treatment in its anointing, incensing, covering and lighting, *The Order of the Dedication of an Altar* indicates that “the altar becomes sacred principally by the celebration of the Eucharist” (13).

#### Conclusion

In the section entitled “Art at the Service of the Liturgy” in *Sacramentum Caritatis*, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: “Everything related to the Eucharist should be marked by beauty” (41). Beauty, theologically understood, results when a thing reveals its very nature— its ontological reality—to the viewer. And an altar becomes knowable, and therefore beautiful, when its “altar-ness” is revealed in the very matter of which it is made. A theologically informed architect makes decisions regarding the design of an altar—material, size, shape and level of enrichment— and these decisions are then made into built form. All of these choices in the mind of an architect join with the craftsman’s skill to become outward signs for others to see. Such signs lead the viewer to know what an altar is at the very level of its reality. In doing so, the altar participates in the process of mystagogical catechesis and plays its part in the “sanctification of man [which] is signified by signs perceptible to the senses” (SC, 7). Then an altar will “look like” an altar precisely because it is an altar at the ontological level: a sacred table for a sacrificial heavenly banquet which is an image of Christ himself.

## PRAYER FOR GOD’S INTERVENTION IN OUR

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.

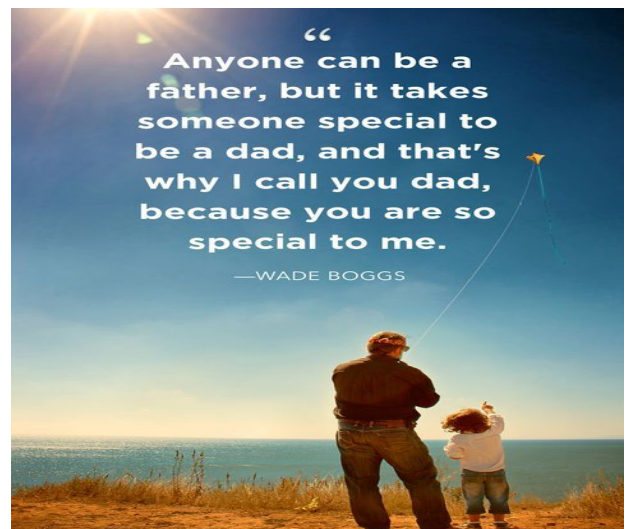
We humbly beseech you to help us win back our Land in this dispute. Save us from violence, discord and confusion and the evil plans of our adversaries.

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

## HAPPY FATHER’S DAY



## UPCOMING EVENT

### FEAST DAY CELEBRATION CLIMAX

**DATE: 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 2024.**

**VENUE: SS. THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER.**

**TIME: 8.30 AM.**

- Climax Mass (One Mass).
- Sacrament Of Confirmation.
- Dedication Of Children's Block.
- Socialization



How to make all church statutory payments through MTN momo

**Ss Thomas more & John Fisher**

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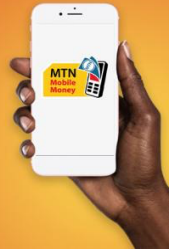
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## MOTIVATION

### SHAKE OFF PROBLEMS

A man and his donkey were on the way to graze when the donkey fell into a huge pit. The man was shaken and tried hard to pull his favorite donkey up to the ground.

Despite his strenuous attempts, he failed to bring the donkey back. But he can't leave the donkey to starve and die in pain for days.

So, he decided to bury him alive and make his death smoother. So, he started pouring soil over the donkey in the pit. When he poured the soil, the donkey felt the load and shook it off and he stepped on it. He does the same whenever the soil is poured into his body. In the end, he reached the ground level and easily walked away to graze in the green pastures.

**Moral:** *Every bad experience is a new learning. So, get the positives out of it and work towards your goals.*

## YOUTH CORNER

### KPEHE DEANERY LITERACY CHALLENGE!

Are you between the ages of 10 and 15 years? Here's an opportunity to showcase your creative writing skills in the Kpehe Deanery Essay writing competition.

**Topic:** "As this year has been declared the year of children, write an essay with five (5) points on how you think the church can help children seek Christ in this modern era".

- Your essay should be 250 words long
- Script must be handwritten
- Script must be endorsed by Parent/ Guardian and your Parish Priest or Priest in charge.
- Add your full contact details
- All essays must be submitted to your PYC executives on or before Sunday, June 23, 2024. Don't miss out!

**YOUTH CONGRESS:** The catholic archdiocese of Accra's youth congress will be coming off on the 29th of June at Elwak sports stadium. All interested youth who want to attend the Congress should register at the Church offices or any of the PYC Executives.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ACCRA  
YOUTH OFFICE - AADCYC



### **Present & Connected Youth Congress 2024 - Prayer**

Our compassionate and loving Father, we express gratitude for the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra, its Shepherd, Priests, and faithful, especially the youth. As we gather for the youth congress, "Present & Connected 2024," we humbly invite the Holy Spirit to ignite a passionate zeal within us for serving You.

Grant us the fervour to deepen our faith through meaningful dialogue with Church leaders. Fill our hearts with love, fostering unity within our community, and strengthening our devotion to Jesus Christ and His Church. Help us recognize ourselves as living gifts and actively participate in the Church's mission today.

Guide us, Lord Jesus, to fully engage and serve joyfully, inspiring us to embody the Church's mission by reaching out in love and service to those around us, reflecting Your face through our actions and words.

Empower us to be the hands, hearts, and voice of Your mission.

## 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). Those who have pledged for the Legacy of Hope Project are also reminded and entreated to redeem them.

**Marriage Banns: 2<sup>ND</sup>** Publication between **Kofi Agyapong Sarpong**, (son of Michael Dwomor Sarpong and Philomina Dwomor Sarpong) And **Francisca Mintah-Kwarteng** (daughter of Prince Obour-Mintah and Agnes Obour-Mintah). Kindly inform the Parish Priest in of any impediment why these two should not be joined in Holy Matrimony as soon as possible.

Our Lady of Grace Senior High School is seeking to admit 280 students into first year in the 2024/2025 academic year. Interested applicants are to sit for the entrance examinations in English Language, Mathematics and Science. The examinations are slated to take place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 at 21 centers across the country. To apply for the entrance examinations, please visit our school's website on [www.olagshs.edu.gh](http://www.olagshs.edu.gh) or apply.olagshs.edu.gh or check the notice board for more details.

**The Atiso family would like to thank all Parishioners who supported them during the burial for their late sister Elizabeth Atsupui Atiso. God bless you all.**

### Funeral Arrangements

The Funeral Details of the Late **Mad. Veronica Abla Dzisenu (Cofie)** of the Kissehman Community is as follows:

- i. **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2024:** Family Gathering at Kissehman Asco's House.
- ii. **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2024:** Burial Mass at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Achimota at 8.00 am. Dress Code: Black & White.
- iii. **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024:** Thanksgiving Mass at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Achimota at 7.00 am. Dress Code: All White.

The death is reported of Paa John Gaveh Ahiabile, he was the father of Mr. Justice Gaveh of the Amalgamated Community. Funeral Arrangements is as follows:

- i. **Friday, 26th July, 2024:** Family vigil at his residence, House No AN/6, Jericho Road, Valco Flats Down, Ashaiman.
- ii. **Saturday, 27th July, 2024:** Filing past at Tema Joint Church, Community 7, (presided over by AME Zion Church) from 6.30 am and Burial Service at 8.00am prompt. Funeral rites: at Tema Joint Church grounds, Community 7
- iii. **Sunday, 28th July, 2024:** Thanksgiving Service, A.M.E. Zion Church, Bethel Society, Ashaiman at 9.00 am. All are cordially and respectfully invited to mourn with us.

## 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 JUNE WEEK1	STM JUNE WEEK2
SUNDAY	1124.00	-----
MONDAY	1919.50	30.00
TUESDAY	1965.50	50.00
WEDNESDAY	1857.00	-----
THURSDAY	1533.20	-----
FRIDAY	1711.70	-----
SATURDAY	1365.00	-----
JUNE BORN	240.00	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11415.90</b>	<b>80.00</b>

### Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	STM JUNE WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	2706.60
SECOND COLLECTION	1751.10
TITHE	500.00
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES	680.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5637.70</b>

# FINANCE CORNER - ST. JOHN FISHER

WEEKDAYS	SJF JUNE WEEK1	SJF JUNE WEEK2
SUNDAY	2012.20	-----
MONDAY	3232.50	1000+\$100
TUESDAY	1012.00	1000.00
WEDNESDAY	1127.00	550.00
THURSDAY	3573.00	100.00
FRIDAY	2212.50	80.00
SATURDAY	1714.00	-----
JUNE BORN	462.00	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15345.20</b>	<b>4232.00</b>

## Details of Last Sunday's Collections

SUNDAY	SJF JUNE WEEK2
MAIN COLLECTION	4107.60
SECOND COLLECTION	3667.70
TITHE	430.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8205.30</b>

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ACCRA  
YOUTH OFFICE + AACYC



## YOUTH CONGRESS

26th - 29th June, 2024

### Why a Youth Congress?

To cultivate an active and collaborative youth ministry.

Give youth opportunities to explore and deepen faith, engage in meaningful dialogue with Church leadership

Foster community, a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

### What does it mean to be Present & Connected?

*The Youth are Present*  
Available, Gift & Today

*The Youth are Connected*  
In Christ, our communities and our shared Catholic faith

### How do I participate?

Be part of the local/parish dialogue sessions.

Be present and actively participate in the grand durbar.

Promote on social media @rcyouthaccra

### Roadmap

LAUNCH - APRIL, 2024  
PARISH DISCUSSION - MAY, '24  
DELEGATES SESSIONS 26-28TH JUN, '24  
GRAND DURBAR & CLIMAX 29TH JUNE, '24



For sponsorship & info: Dr. Linus +233 26 232 6483 / Youth Director +233 20 851 3145  
X @rcyouthaccra | #present&connected #beConnected #bePresent #beAgift



KPEHE DEANERY CATHOLIC YOUTH COUNCIL

presents

# Liferacy Challenge



### Activities:

Sunday, 19th May, 2024  
**LAUNCHING**  
All Parishes during Mass

are you between the ages of:

**Essay Competition:** 10 - 15 years

7 - 13 years

As this year has been declared the year of children, write an essay with five (5) points on how you think the church can help children seek Christ in this modern era.

Your essay should be 250 words long.

• Script must be in your own handwriting  
• Script must be endorsed by a Parent/ Guardian and your Parish Priest

• Add your full contact details  
**All essays should be submitted to your PYC executives**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION  
SATURDAY, 23RD JUNE, 2024

### Deanery Children's Quiz: Areas of Study

- The Gospel of St. Mark
- Catholic Doctrine
- Current Affairs

Date: SATURDAY, 20TH JULY, 2024  
Venue: ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH, ATOMIC  
Time: 7:00AM

FOR ENQUIRIES AND SUPPORT:  
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