



MAY 2019 (YEAR C)

# ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monthly News Bulletin

P. O. BOX 1865, Osu- Accra

## *Welcome To Our Parish*

### **MASS SCHEDULES**

Morning Mass: Monday - Friday 6:30am  
Sunday Mass: 8:00am

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION**

Saturdays at 5:30pm - 6:30pm or by  
appointment.

### **COMMUNION TO THE SICK**

Please ensure the parish office is informed of  
a parishioner's ill health. Arrangements will  
be made for a home or hospital visit.

### **BAPTISM**

Dates are communicated by announcements  
during Sunday Mass.

### **HOLY MATRIMONY**

Wedding arrangements should be made with  
the Parish or Associate Priest. Please contact  
the Parish office at least six months prior  
to wedding.

Counselling takes place twice a year:  
January - June  
July- December

### **PARISH PRIEST**

Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Mawuli Tettejji  
0243 044 431

### **ASSOCIATE PARISH PRIEST**

Rev. Fr. Prince E. Adelaayitar  
0262 154 881

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**

Esther  
Tel: 0505 256 484 / 0302 798 781

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Mondays 8:00am - 12:00pm  
Tuesday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

### **ST. JAMES MINI MART**

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00am - 7:00pm  
Sundays 6:30am - 2:00pm



## IN THIS EDITION

- **Pastor's Column**
- **Reflections**
- **Spiritual Focus**
- **Parish News**
- **Youth Corner**

### EQUIPING THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY AND BUILDING UP OF HIS BODY, THE CHURCH (EPH 4:7, 11-13)

*Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Tettedji*

Dear Cherished Parishioners, I welcome each and every one of you to the month of May. This month is very special for obvious reason:

-Marian month. In this month, we commemorate Mary's first apparition at Fatima on 13th May, 1917. This apparition explains why we pray the Holy Rosary in this month. We are therefore encouraged to seek mother Mary's intercession through the praying of the Holy Rosary.

-Providentially, we also celebrate our mothers. On 12th May, we shall honour all mothers as the world celebrates Mothers' Day. Considering the significant role mothers play in our world, it is important that, we pray for them, and ask for God's abundant blessings upon them. We also must thank them for all the sacrifices they embrace, and give them a special treat. At the parish level, as has been the tradition, the men will honour our mothers. I pray that, it will be day of joy and happiness for all mothers.

-The Sunday Borneo are inviting the whole church to join them for a Half-Night prayer session. The date is 10th May. It begins at 6pm, and should end at 9pm. The Theme: For freedom, Christ has set us free (Gal. 5:1]. We shall Rev. Fr. Delight Carbonu from St. Sylvanus Catholic Church, Porkuase to lead us. Let us all endeavour to attend.

### **PENTECOST NOVENA: PENTECOST NOVENA 2019**

In 1897, Pope Leo XIII published an encyclical about the Holy Spirit, called *Divinum Illud Munus*. He also called for the Church to pray the Novena for Pentecost at the beginning of the new century. A novena is a prayer said for nine days, which recalls how the early Christians prayed for the nine days between Christ's Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Just as Pope Leo XIII prayed for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, in 1901, Pope John XXIII prayed in 1962 for **"a new Pentecost."** In preparation for the Second Vatican Council, he prayed to God, **"Renew Your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost".**

On 20th of May 2018, Pope Francis said the power of the Holy Spirit does not revolutionize life around us, but changes our hearts.

This year we also come together to pray for the renewal of hearts, minds, and spirits for a better world as we pray:

***Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of thy faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of Your love!***

***Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.***

## FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

**"Forgive them, Father! They do not know what they are doing"** [Luke 23:34]

The power of forgiveness and reconciliation is demonstrated most succinctly during the three sad days before Easter. Jesus forgives us even when he is unjustly vilified and crucified. Instead of condemning the thieves who were on either side of Him, he rather forgave the one who admitted his wrongdoing and said to him: **"... I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me."** [Luke 23:43] It is the nature of God to be love and He cannot be anything else. That is why He is able to forgive when humans would have been ranting and raving about their innocence.

The Easter Triduum, sad as it is, is also an occasion for rejoicing as our Lord shows us just how much He loves and cares for us. He gives us three gifts, three commandments:

1. Forgiveness of sin when we repent
2. The Eucharist so He remains with us
3. Love – Sacrificial Love

Jesus' forgiveness of the criminal forebodes the institution of Reconciliation. Jesus heard the confession of the thief and absolved him, promising him a place with him in Heaven. Likewise, when we repent of our sins and confess them to a priest, and the priest, *in persona Christi*, forgives us our sins are truly forgiven. Remorse is a key part in Reconciliation and that is the difference between Simon Peter and Judas Iscariot. Peter recognised his mistake and felt remorse but was hopeful that he would receive forgiveness from Jesus. However, Judas, even though he also recognised his mistake had no hope and did not believe he could be forgiven if he went to Jesus to ask Him for forgiveness.

During the period of His imminent death, Jesus thought about his followers more than about Himself. He thus instituted the Eucharist to ensure that we receive Him often and therefore remember Him: **"... This is my body, which is for you. Do this in memory of me. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup and said, 'This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me'"** [1 Corinthians 11:24-25] Again this moment foreshadows the institution of priesthood in the persona of Christ. We know that in the Old Testament there were priests who offered sacrifices to atone for the sins of the people as well as for their own sins and this atonement had to be repeated often. Whereas, the priests of the New Testament act in the persona of Christ and therefore have no need to continuously atone for our sins. Rather, when we confess to them, they absolve us in the name of Jesus, who took all the sins of the world and nailed them to His Cross. **"Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God."** [2 Corinthians 5:21]

Jesus always taught by example. The washing of the feet of His disciple was the ultimate show of love. Jesus was the epitome of the servant leader. He took the role of a servant to teach His disciples that love is sacrificial and it often entails doing menial things for one's followers. **"After Jesus had washed their feet, He put his outer garment back on and returned to His place at the table. 'Do you understand what I have just done to you? ... You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do as I have done for you.'"** [John 13:12-14]

As if the above three commandments for our salvation were not enough, Jesus, through St Faustina Kowalska, added a fourth gift – that of His Mercy and instructed that we say the Divine Mercy Novena prior to the Divine Mercy Sunday for Him to wash away any punishment accumulated for our sins. *"He taught her that His mercy is unlimited and available even to the greatest sinners, and He revealed special ways for people to respond to His mercy."*

Let us always remember the ABC of Jesus' mercy"

- A. Ask for His Mercy, God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly.
- B. Be Merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others.
- C. Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust.

## **MARY MODEL FOR MOTHERS**

In our age when motherhood is gradually being sacrificed for career, I dare to point out that the true role of a woman (if called to) is sharing in God's act of creation. A woman becomes a co-creator when she gives birth to life. The Bible provides so many models of motherhood but one woman stands out — Mary.

Many women were loved and blessed by God in the Scriptures, but one in particular was highly favored by God. The angel Gabriel was sent to her to say:

Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you! . . . Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. (Luke 1:28, 30)

And why did God call her?

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. (Luke 1:30-32)

Her high calling is motherhood!!! And she is to become the greatest mother in all of history because she mother's God's very Son. Therefore, Elizabeth calls her Blessed among all women!!!!

Of all the women in history, God chose Mary, set this peculiar favor on her, and gave all moms a model to study closely.

### **A Personal Mother**

Mary was no womb-for-hire as some other churches claim she is. She was not a surrogate mother God used, paid off, and sent away. That is not how God works. He relates with and rewards those who calls to serve him whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Amos, etc. Mary was a real mother to her son, Jesus. In her very real pregnancy she experienced a real labor and a real delivery. Mary went through all this as a flesh and blood woman. She delivered him in the same manner that mothers have been delivering babies since Eve. And Mary nursed Jesus at her breast with real colostrum until her milk came in. And when her milk came in, she probably nursed him for close to two years, as was the custom in those days.

Mary's firstborn and only child was Jesus. Scripture tells us that Jesus lived a sinless childhood. Think about your toddler throwing a tantrum — Jesus never did that. What of the child that doesn't make his bed or do his chores — Jesus never did that. Jesus was an obedient son and Mary had the privilege but also the heavy responsibility of parenting a perfect (in the fullest sense of that word) child along with the other children. Think about the wisdom and temperance a mother in that situation needs.

Mary was a personal mother to Jesus. He was her human son. All the hugs, kisses, and love we pour on our children — Mary must have done the same with Jesus. They were very close.

### **A Correcting Mother**

One remembers when Jesus was only 12 years old and how he stayed behind in the Temple and had to be looked for by his parents for three days (indication of his three days in the tomb). Mary, knowing fully who Jesus is did not spare him the expression of her frustration: "When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." (Luke 2:48). We should not be afraid of correcting our children for the sake of their future without us. That they may be pleasing to God.



**A Pondering Mother**

Many times in the Gospels we read about Mary “observing” and “pondering.” These are marks of a deep and thoughtful woman. Although Mary was young and poor, she was by no means uneducated. She knew her Scriptures. Luke 2: 51 states: Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

But it’s clear Mary had more than head knowledge. She had a fruitful faith, and this becomes clear in Mary’s response to the angel Gabriel in humility and her acquiescence to a providence that would subject herself to public shame and hardship. We see her faith as she stood by her son all the way to the end. She was there at the cross. And Gabriel’s words, well pondered no doubt, were ringing in her ears.

**A Submissive Mother**

For me, Mary has been the prime example of a submissive woman. Mary’s submission has always struck me as a contented yielding — not servility. This kind of submission is attended with dignity, courage, honor, and grace. It is neither slavish nor degrading.

We see it first in her interaction with Gabriel. She questions him, but not with faithlessness or impudence. The fact that Gabriel answers her instead of rebuking her, as he did to Zechariah, reveals much about Mary’s response.

The words I hope to speak are the words Mary does speak to Gabriel: “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

I shiver whenever I read these words. A poor young virgin has just been told that she will become pregnant in a culture where the penalty for that is stoning to death!

This is the *contented yielding* of a faith-filled young woman whose trust in God was deep. In Mary’s relationship with Joseph, and particularly in her three big moves, she is submissive. Joseph says they will go to Bethlehem — she goes. Joseph says they have to flee to Egypt — she goes. Joseph says they will settle down in Nazareth when returning from Egypt — she goes. The fact that she never let her encounter with the angel Gabriel puff her up nor used it against Joseph, speaks of her true humility.

She could have legitimately doubted Joseph — after all, God only spoke to him in a dream (and you never know about dreams), whereas Mary had been visited by a high-ranking angelic being!

Her deep contented yielding is a mark of the fruit of the Spirit.

**A Model for Mothers**

Indeed, we should praise God for Mary!

Mary has much to teach all women of all ages and all situations, as well as being a model for mothers: Unshaken trust in God, thoughtfully understanding, a lover of the Bible, humbly gracious, sacrificial, and content in her yielding.

This month of May, as we celebrate our mothers, let us meditate on the Lord of glory who came as a real baby boy, may we also spend a little time meditating on the kind of mother God providentially ordained for him — Mary, a beautiful model for all mothers.

Original article by Luma Simms edited by Fr. Prince Adelaayitar.

**2019 EASTER; CELEBRATION OF ALL CELEBRATIONS**

*By Mena Ekua Feneba*

The most significant of all celebrations in the Church is undoubtedly Easter. On our Catholic Calendar, this is preceded by Lent, and climaxed with the Holy Week, and specifically the Holy Triduum.

The whole world woke up to the news of a burning Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on the 15th of April 2019 (Holy Monday), which led to the burning of the Cathedral's roof and also the Spire. The entire mood around the world was one of somberness, wistfulness and sadness, contributing to making the Holy Week Celebrations around the world more personal (I hope). Personally, it was significant, and I felt somewhat sorry for the Bishop of Paris? Because I could not imagine our Beautiful St James Church Building burning (May God forbid!).

At St James, Holy Week was also the last chance most Parishioners had to do an actual fast in Lent, being technically the last week of Lent. Holy Tuesday brought glimmers of hope when we heard some millionaires make substantial donations to fix the devastation caused by the fire (God is faithful) .

On Holy Thursday, the tradition of the last supper was observed by Catholics all over the world, and we were not left out. The most significant aspect of Holy Thursday is the institution of the Holy Eucharist, when Christ the Bread of Life, perpetually gives us His Body to eat for our lifetime on earth to keep us nourished and mellow. Jesus further teaches all mankind his humility (you call me Lord and rightly so...understand what it is I have done for you, since I your Lord have deigned to wash your feet, then you should wash each other's feet).

For a true Catholic, and a true Christian, Easter is no joke. We were back to Church early on Good Friday to do the Stations of the Cross with our Lord. The entire Church made a procession through Osu, practically living out the Stations with our Lord. It was made impactful with the youth enacting the Passion of our Saviour, with the Choir leading in the singing, and selected readers leading in the meditations. At quarter to 3pm, we were assembled back in Church for the Chaplet of Mercy and the Good Friday Service where we were 'delighted' to the incredibly long Good Friday readings. The service terminated with silence, with each one meditating on the Passion and Death of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

But on Holy Saturday, Christ was already risen. Historically, in ancient Israel a fresh day starts at 6 pm (or the previous one ends at 6pm, however you look at it). Therefore, strictly speaking, Jesus is believed to have risen anytime from 6pm on Holy Saturday to 6 pm on the Easter Sunday, after three days in the belly of the earth. Consequently, it was mandatory to come back and glorify our risen Lord together. The Mass began with the Easter Bonfire, and a candlelight procession into the Church – where we sang the Lumen Christi; significantly telling that Christ is the light of the World, who illumines the whole universe especially by his defeat over sin, death and the principalities. We were told in the Sermon that after Jesus Christ died and rose again, he made spot of all the principalities, and bound them like slaves and led them in a procession, proclaiming Victory at the fore! (No Easter without Holy Saturday really.)

All culminated on Easter Sunday at which we are told in the readings that when Mary Magdalene came to the tomb Christ was already risen. Thankfully, the Mass was well attended. Those who had suffered with Christ during Lent, and died with Him on Good Friday, celebrated His rising from the dead. Christ, the firstborn from the dead, making all of us heirs in His Resurrection from the dead. ALLELUIA.







## THREE (3) QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE FROM OBAMA

For those who do not like black people, that is, the racists and the white supremacists, Barack Obama has been their worst nightmare come true. Here is a black man who is intelligent, responsible and dependable; and above all, has a great marriage, even under the strain of their very public lives.

That Obama and Michelle have a great relationship and marriage is open to all to see. Their chemistry and respect for each other is undeniable even to their enemies and worst critics. The question is, how have they managed it? How has it been possible for Obama and Michelle to have such a great marriage?

It turns out that the secret is three questions to ask, which I call the three Obama questions, for choosing the person to marry. These questions came out when a senior advisor to President Obama shared with the public an intimate conversation he had with the President in 2015.

That Senior Advisor is Dan Pfeiffer who served under President Obama as the White House Communications Director from 2009 to 2013 and became Obama's Senior Advisor for Communication and Strategy from 2013 to 2015.

Dan has written a book entitled, **"Yes, We Still Can"**. In the book, Dan reveals that on his last day at the White House in 2015, he and the President had a conversation. The President asked him about his future plans and Dan said, among other things, that he was considering taking his relationship with his girlfriend to the next level. Obama then offered his outgoing senior advisor advice on marriage.

This is what I want to share with you because I believe that if we pay attention to it we will all ensure that our marriages will be so much fun.

According to Obama, these are three questions everyone should ask before they marry. He believes that if anyone can answer **"yes"** to all the three questions, he can guarantee himself a great marriage.

- The first question is; *"Is she someone you find interesting?"*

Dan writes that this question puzzled him and so Obama had to explain why it is important. He said, "You will spend more time with this person than anyone else for the rest of your life, and there is nothing more important than always wanting to hear what she has to say about things."

Is the person you want to marry someone you find interesting? Is she someone whose views and opinions you always want to hear? Talking and listening are important ingredients to a happy and successful marriage. And if you cannot bear to hear what your partner has to say, then your marriage will struggle and suffer.

- The second Obama question to a happy marriage is; "Does she make you laugh?" Life is tough and stressful. And laughter is the most effective antidote to stress. So living with a spouse who can make you laugh is a great blessing. Unfortunately, when people are choosing a marriage partner, this question often does not feature.

The danger is that if your spouse does not make you laugh, you will go out to look for someone who can make you laugh and that could be the beginning of trouble for you and for your marriage.



- The third Obama question to a happy marriage is; "Do you think she will be a good mum?"

Now, I know that this is the man's question to answer, but I think the woman's version of the question is also relevant and that is, "Do you think he will be a good dad?"

We often forget that when you are looking for a spouse, you are also looking for the mother or father of your children, should God bless you with any. The truth is there are people who are lousy parents. And when you marry someone like that, you put your future children at a great disadvantage in life.

The goal of the three questions is to help you assure yourself of a marriage that is fun all the way. Now the value of any counsel is how much it has helped the counsellor himself. And it is worth noting that after twenty-six years of marriage; years that include raising two girls, being in the eye of the storm of politics and in the centre of public scrutiny, Michelle Obama can say that she and Obama are "still having fun".

Last year, Michelle wrote of her marriage and of her husband: "Twenty-five years later, we're still having fun, while also doing the hard work to build our partnership and support each other as individuals ... I can't imagine going on this wild ride with anybody else."

I wonder how many married people can sincerely say after three years of marriage that they are still having fun. For many couples the fun ended with courtship. There are even cases where even courtship was not fun and yet the couple went on to marry.

If you are already married, then the wisdom in these three Obama questions are too late for you. But if you are not married, then do yourself a big favour and take these three questions seriously.

Your spouse is the one person you will see and hear every day after marriage until death or debt or divorce do you part, as the case may be. Your spouse will be there at your worst times and also at your best times. Now if you cannot stand the person you call your spouse and if that person cannot make you laugh, then when you are down, you will stay down for much longer than you need to.

Marriage is a choice we make. Blessed are those who make that choice freely and wisely without yielding to any pressure. As Michelle wrote, "building a great relationship takes hard work", but if the foundation for the relationship is not strong, then no amount of hard work can save it. And what better way to build a strong foundation than to ensure that your choice of a partner is solid and spot on.

And to get that right, you cannot do better than answer the three Obama questions.

Author: James Ebo Whyte

Source: Rover Report Monthly

## THE SLAVE QUEEN

*Written by Mena Ekua Feneba  
(Miss St James 2018)*

The Angel Gabriel emphatically said, "For with God, nothing shall be impossible", Luke 1:37.

In the Book of Proverbs, the Teacher has said: "Under three things the earth trembles, under four it cannot bear up: a servant who becomes king, a godless fool who gets plenty to eat..." Let our focus be on the first: a servant who becomes king, while keeping in mind the words of the Angel.

A favourite book of mine in the Bible opens with the description of a powerful king by name Ahasuerus (of which the Greek variant is Xerxes). The book describes the throne of King Ahasuerus, whose power was described to the extent of India and Ethiopia. He held a feast in the third year of his reign for all his servants, and nobles and princes of his provinces, and 'showed the riches of his glorious kingdom' and 'the honour of his excellent majesty'. His palace gardens were described as: "with white, green and blue hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black marble..." One word: OPULENCE.

This king sent that his wife by name Vashti be brought before him with the crown royal, to display to his subjects the extent of her beauty. But she, in sheer disobedience refused, therefore she was deposed and the king sought her replacement by another maiden 'better than her'. (We are not advancing any of feminists' agenda at all).

Now Esther was a Jew, fair and beautiful to behold, and a virgin. At that time, her Uncle Mordecai – a Benjamite, who was also her adoptive Father was one of those carried into Babylon into captivity, therefore Esther and her Uncle could fairly be described as slaves. Now, Mordecai had charged her not to disclose her kindred, and she in obedience to the king's commandment partook of a beauty contest, much like what happens in the fairytales, and won the king's favour along with his heart. And she who was considered a slave, became the Queen of Persia, married to a great king of the house of King Darius.

So, whereas the Teacher; wise and knowledgeable, believed that the earth could not at all bear to see a servant made king, in the fullness of time, God permitted a servant to be made Queen, toppling every high-held principle. For indeed, with God, nothing shall be impossible. Other variants of the Angel's words:

### **Genesis 18:14**

*"Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you--in about a year--and Sarah will have a son."*

### **2 Kings 3:18**

*"This is a simple matter in the sight of the LORD, and He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand."*

### **Jeremiah 32:17**

*"Oh, Lord GOD! You have made the heavens and earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for You!"*

### **Matthew 19:26**

*"But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

### **Numbers 11:23**

*And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD'S hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not*

*Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Tettedji*

**Theme: Divine Mercy, the world's medicine**

**Introduction:** Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. In the year 2000, St. Pope John Paul 11 in canonising Faustina Kowalska, declared that the Sunday following Easter Sunday should be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. This is because for the pope, Divine mercy is the Easter gift that the church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity. The gospel reading from John 20 explains this as Jesus came on the Easter Sunday evening and after wishing them peace, gave them the power to forgive sin. This is Mercy! This is the Easter gift which the church has the mandate to offer to humanity.

Four biblical passages to drum home the concept of divine mercy

- Genesis 3 talks about the sin of disobedience by our first parent: Adam and Eve. Realizing that they were naked, they sewed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness. Now, the question to ask is, what happens when the wind blows? Their nakedness will definitely be exposed. They were therefore at the mercy of the wind. God, because of his merciful nature, in his wisdom, rather sewed leather garment to cloth them. This is indeed a display of divine mercy. That even when their own sin had exposed them, God was still interested in protecting their dignity.

- Exodus 34:5-7. After the people had sinned and Moses in anger destroyed the tablets of the commandment in Exodus 32, God asked Moses in Exodus 34 to cut two stone tablets like the old and come onto the mountain. When The Lord appeared, he cried out as he proclaimed his name: "The Lord, The Lord, a merciful and gracious God...". What is God trying to teach Moses? That He is merciful.

- Isaiah 1:15-18. When Israel had sinned, and the sin was comparable to the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, one would have expected that Israel is also punished like the two cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Ironically, God says in 1:18, "Come now, let's reason this together, says The Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow. Though they be red as crimson, I will make them as white as wool". Now when one imagines the colors red and white, one can tell the sharp contrast between them, yet when one's state is like the color red, God can transform it to become white. The only condition here, is for the person to take a step of faith to God. This is to demonstrate God's mercy. In other words, there is no sin that is beyond God's mercy.

- Psalm 118:1-4 which is part of the responsorial psalm also talks about thanksgiving to God because of his mercy which endures forever.

What Lessons can we learn from the above passages

1) Mercy is God's nature - This should be the foundation of our relationship with God. If we do not have the right mindset of who God is, we miss the point, and the foundation of our faith experience will be weak and shaky

2) God, because of who he is will not and does not want to give up on anybody. If God will not give up on you, why must you give up on yourself? When Judas betrayed the lord, he could not forgive himself and therefore committed suicide. Judas gave up on himself. From the World Health Organisation (WHO), every year about one million attempt suicide. This means that people still give up on life. They give in to despair. Dear friends, with God, no one should give in to despair. No matter the situation, God is still there for us.

3) Can one say that because God is merciful, and for that matter is always there for us, he or she can continue sinning, in fact wallow in sin, and keep on enjoying God's mercy? Truth be told, the mercy of God should not make any one complacent ( where one thinks that he can wallow in sin because God is merciful). Any one who experiences the divine mercy, falls in love with God, and the faith deepens. A classic example is Mary Magdalene. After she was delivered from demon possession, her love and faith in The Lord grew so much so that, when The Lord was in the tomb, scripture says at dawn, she alone walks to the tomb. Upon realizing that the lord was not there, she goes to tell the disciples. When Peter and John had visited the tomb, and saw that indeed the body was not there, they left, yet she alone stayed on and was weeping. When finally the lord appeared to her, unknown to her that it was the lord, thinking that it was the gardener, she to him to show her where the body had been laid so she could go for it (Jn 20:1-15). This is indeed a display of deep affection for the lord.

4) The need to become ambassadors of mercy. We who are celebrating Easter, and for that matter are described as Easter People must make every effort to imitate our father. Having enjoyed this mercy, we become ambassadors of mercy. Our world becomes a better place when we offer mercy. In the year 2015, precisely on 8th December, Pope Francis declared the year of Mercy with the theme: Be merciful like the father. When we experience so much division, unforgiveness, pain and impatience in our families, societies, churches and world, Divine Mercy is the medicine - Easter gift to be offered to humanity

**Conclusion:** Cece Winans is her beautiful song titled "Mercy says no", has the last line of the first verse "... When sin demanded justice for my soul", the chorus is "Mercy says no.

Cece Winans song: Mercy says no...





**CATHOLIC INSTITUTE OF  
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY (CIBT)**  
ADABRAKA, ACCRA, GHANA

## Programmes

**BSc. Public Administration**

**BSc. Information Technology**

**BSc. Business Administration**

Options: Accounting, Banking & Finance,  
Human Resource Management & Marketing

**BA. Religious Studies & Church  
Administration**

Accredited by NAB; Affiliated to  
the UG Legon, & KNUST Kumasi.

**Day, Evening & Weekend Sessions**

**Admission  
Periods:  
January &  
September**



## Certificate Courses in:

Health Administration  
Religious Studies  
Information Technology

## Location:

Behind Ministry of Information,  
Adjacent the Teachers' /GNAT Hall,  
Adabraka, Accra, Ghana.

**Hostels  
Available**

## Admission Requirements

**WASSCE/ SSCE / A-LEVEL / Bacc / HND / Mature (25 yrs +)**

Forms are available at **EMS Offices** and on **Campus**

**Tel: (+233) 307033547 / (+233) 307035242**

✉ [info@cibt.edu.gh](mailto:info@cibt.edu.gh) / [registry@cibt.edu.gh](mailto:registry@cibt.edu.gh) 🌐 [www.cibt.edu.gh](http://www.cibt.edu.gh)



**QUALITY INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.**

## QUALITY INSURANCE COMPANY (QIC)

Parishioners are encouraged to insure with  
Quality Insurance Company (QIC)  
You can contact these numbers for further  
information.

**050 - 1277400 / 050 - 1409463 &  
0302 - 258135 / 028 - 9601819**

## WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

### Mondays

Bible sharing (6:15pm - 7:30pm)

Youth Choir (7:00pm - 9:00pm)

### Tuesdays

St. Anthony's Guild (6:30pm - 7:30pm)

### Wednesdays

Church Choir (6:30pm - 8:30pm)

### Thursdays

Youth Choir (7:00pm - 9:00pm)

Charismatic Renewal (6:30pm - 7:30pm)

### Fridays

Church Choir (6:30pm - 8:30pm)

Sacred heart Confraternity (6:30pm - 7:30pm)



### Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday preceding the first Friday of the  
month.

### Day born groups

Last Sunday of the month after Mass or by  
announcement.

### Faith Bookshop

Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 7:30pm

Saturdays 3:00pm - 7:30pm

Sundays 9:30am - 1:30pm

**For your social and corporate events,  
call 0248169954 / 020 4945740 to book and drink  
the healthiest local beverage**



|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>COCONUT</b> | <b>PALMWINE</b>          |
| <b>LAMUGIN</b> | <b>BRUKINA</b>           |
| <b>SOBOLO</b>  | <b>PINE &amp; GINGER</b> |
| <b>ZOMKOM</b>  | <b>MELON</b>             |
| <b>ASAANA</b>  | <b>PITO</b>              |

#### SPECIAL FEATURE:

**WAAKYE AND FINGER FOODS (SANDWICH, SAMOSA,  
SPRINGROLLS AND MANY MORE.....)**

We Cater for Weddings, Funerals, Corporate Parties  
and all Special Events.

**Deliveries Are Available...**

T : 0248169954 | 0542592252 | 0204945740 E : [Elolefinest@gmail.com](mailto:Elolefinest@gmail.com)

Enjoy To The Last Drop

