



# CONSOLATA SHRINE TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



24th SEPTEMBER 2017 - YEAR A

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

*“My thoughts are not your thoughts”*

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

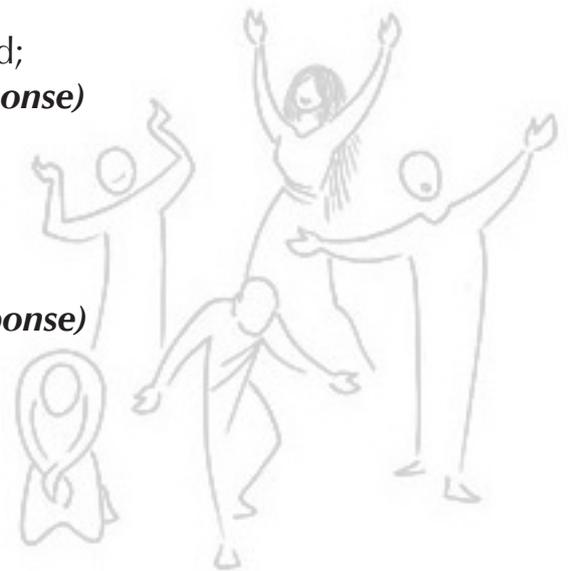
Psalm 145:2-3.8-9.17-18

**Response. The Lord is close to all who call him**

I will bless you day after day,  
and praise your name forever and ever.  
The Lord is great and highly to be praised;  
his greatness cannot be measured. **(Response)**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **(Response)**

The Lord is just in all his ways,  
and holy in all his deeds.  
The Lord is close to all who call him,  
who call on him in truth. **(Response)**



## SECOND READING

Philippians 1: 20c-24.27a

*“For to me to live is Christ.”*

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians**

Brethren: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

*The word of the Lord*



**Alleluia**

Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may  
listen to the words of your Son

**Alleluia**



*“Do you begrudge my generosity?”*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. “Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing and he said to them. ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ “They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ “He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ “And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired

about the eleventh hour came, each of them received denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ “But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

*The Gospel of the Lord*

### REFLECTION

**‘FIRST AND LAST’ by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.**

The house of Israel is the vine of God - who planted and watered it, preparing the Israelites to bear fruits of righteousness. Israel failed to yield good fruits and the Lord allowed His vineyard, Israel’s kingdom, to be overrun by conquerors. But God promised that one day He would replant His vineyard and its shoots would blossom to the ends of the earth. This is the biblical backdrop to Jesus’ parable of salvation history in today’s Gospel. The landowner is God. The vineyard is the kingdom. The workers hired at dawn are the Israelites, to whom He first offered His covenant. Those hired later in the day are the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, who, until the coming of Christ, were strangers to the covenants of promise. In the Lord’s great generosity, the same wages, the same blessings promised to the first-called, the Israelites, will be paid to those called last, the rest of the nations. This provokes grumbling in today’s parable. Doesn’t the complaint of those first laborers sound like that of the older brother in Jesus’ prodigal son parable? God’s ways, however, are far from our ways, as we hear in today’s First Reading. And today’s readings should caution us against the temptation to resent God’s lavish mercy. Like the Gentiles, many will be allowed to enter the kingdom late - after having spent most of their days idling in sin. But even these can call upon Him and find Him near, as we sing in today’s Psalm. We should rejoice that God has compassion on all whom He has created. This should console us, too, especially if we have

loved ones who remain far from the vineyard. Our task is to continue laboring in His vineyard. As Paul says in today's Epistle, let us conduct ourselves worthily, struggling to bring all men and women to the praise of His name.



# CONSOLATA SHRINE

*Presents*



# Upendo DAY

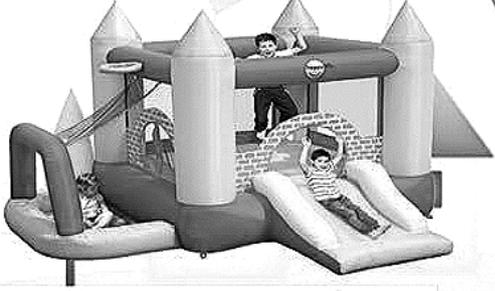
**Saturday 30th September 2017**  
**7:00am - 5:00pm at Consolata Shrine**



## SUPPORTING THE POOR AND NEEDY IN OUR SOCIETY

### Activities

- Misa Takatifu - 7.00am, 9.00am & 5.30pm
- Holy Hike
- 10km Fundraising Walk
- King Solomon Treasure Hunt
- Sports, Games include;
- Soccer, Relay 4x100
- Teams: Mum vs Dad  
SCCs vs SCCs
- Face Painting (Free)
- Trampoline, Bouncing Castles
- Pony Rides
- Food courts for snacks, meals etc



**PAY BILL No.**  
**508702**  
**ACCOUNT:**  
**"UPENDO**  
**DAY"**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Senior Youth Group will head to Adu, Malindi, for missionary work on the 29th September and travel back on 3rd October. You can assist their missionary activities with foodstuff donations or monetary contributions. You may visit the desk outside the Gazebo for more information.
2. The Charity committee has organized the **UPENDO DAY for 30th September 2017, right here at CONSOLATA SHRINE**. It is an opportunity to raise funds to assist the needy in the parish, especially those who need to go to school. It is also an opportunity to have fun together for a full day. There will be a walk, mass, and fun, a lot of fun, here in the compound of the Church. We invite you to get already now a T-shirt at Kshs. 1,000/- which has the purpose of raising funds towards this cause. Get it for yourself, for your family, for your friends! All from 7am up to 5pm. Please put it in your diary and see more details in the bulletin!
3. Next Sunday, being the first Sunday of the month, there will be a second collection of St Vincent de Paul to assist the needy of the parish.
4. Next Sunday also after the 12 o'clock Mass we shall have the Eucharistic Rosary prayed before the Blessed Sacrament.
5. Consolata Self Help Group will have a sensitization/recruitment of new members on next Sunday outside the Church. Come prepared.
6. The Parishes of Nairobi have organized a MASS WEDDING on 25th November 2017 at Holy Family Basilica to facilitate the reception of the graces of the sacrament of marriage. Come forward to regularize your situation of marriage in a meaningful way. Approach the catechist's office for more information.
7. The Construction of the ALLAMANO CENTRE to build a new block of pastoral offices, hall and parking is on-going. We kindly request you to stop by the tables at the entrances of the church and get detailed information about the project. We also invite you to give your contribution or make a pledge towards the project. We thank all those who donated towards the project by participating in the Raffle. May God bless you all! The pay bill number 804877 and USSD \*369\*2# remains open for donations.

## WEEKLY MEETING

- Ecumenism Committee, on Monday at 6.15pm
- Small Christian Communities Committee, on Monday at 6pm

## DAILY READING

**Monday:** Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1-6; Lk 8:16-18

**Tuesday:** Ezr 6:7-8.12.14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21

**Wednesday:** Ezr 9:5-9; Ps Tb 13:1-4.6.8; Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday:** Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1-6.9 ; Lk 9:7-9

**Friday:** Dn 7:9-10.13-14; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51

**Saturday:** Zec 2:5-9.14-15; Ps Jer 31:10-13; Lk 9:43b-45

## SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

**Sunday:** 7.30 am **Kiswahili**

9.00 am, 10.30 am, 12.00 noon  
and 5:30 pm **English**

**Saturday: English** 7.00 am, 9.00 am  
and 5.30 pm

**Monday to Friday: English** 7:00 am  
and 1.15 pm; 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

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 Consolata Shrine, Westlands, Nairobi

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