

## **Reconciliation**

In the first week of lent, we reflected on good governance. In week 2 we are called upon to reflect deeper on reconciliation. Reconciliation has been defined by different scholars by many names or phrases such as: reuniting, reunion, bringing back together, restoration of friendly relations, restoration of harmony, agreement, compromise, understanding, peace, an end to hostilities etc. Kenya like many developing countries and especially among the African countries, has a history whereby some communities strongly feel that some historical injustices were vented on them starting from the colonial times. The various governments have not managed to address these issues thus causing divisions within the different communities. Some politicians have used these differences to create even further divisions for their own political gain leaving the communities very polarized. Despite efforts through various commissions such as Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC), the Ndungu Commission on Illegal and Irregular Allocation of Public Land, among others, the country has not been reconciled with her 'pasts'. Some of the recommendations by the various commissions included, apologies, restitution and reparations. None of this has been done and therefore Kenya has not reconciled with her past. Whenever justice is seen or perceived not to have been done creates a recipe for divisions. Thus Kenya as a country needs to be reconciled with her past so that there is cohesion and integration. An attempt by National Cohesion and Integration Commission, made a few strides towards cohesion and integration, but as country we have not reconciled our past. This continues to create division and tension in the country and so more during general elections. For reconciliation to take place our leaders must address the issues at hand so that all Kenyans can feel that they are equal citizens. We must be agents of reconciliation as individual Christians in our communities, at our place of work and anywhere we may be in place of authority. Lent is time of reconciliation not only between people but above all reconciliation with God. There is no reconciliation with God unless we reconcile first within ourselves individually and with our fellow countrymen and women. The church together with the political leaders needs to come together and devise a strategy on how to bring true reconciliation in our country for peaceful co-existence. We must be courageous enough to point out at who or what is responsible for the disharmony and address it without fear or favor. Those responsible must face the consequences to deter a repeat of the same as is only then can we progress as one nation.

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8-9.11.13; Lk 6:36-38  
Tuesday: Is 1:10.16-20; Ps 50:8-9.16-17.21.23; Mt 23:1-12  
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6.14-16; Mt 20:17-28  
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:14. 6; Lk 16: 19-31  
Friday: Gen 37:3-4. 12-13a. 17b-28; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43. 45-46  
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15. 18-20; Ps 103:1-4. 9-12; Lk 15:1-3. 11-32

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## CONSOLATA SHRINE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

25<sup>th</sup> February 2018



### **FIRST READING**

**Genesis 22:1-2.9-13.15-18**

*"The sacrifice of Abraham, our Father in faith"*

### **A reading from the Book of Genesis**

In those days: God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only-begotten son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order. Then Abraham put forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only-begotten son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only begotten son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 116:10**

**and 15 -19 (R.9)**

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living**

I trusted, even when I said, "I am sorely afflicted."

How precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **R**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I, the son of your handmaid;  
you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;  
I will call on the name of the Lord. **R**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 8:31b-34**

*God did not spare his own Son.*

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brethren: If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?

### **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

*From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*



## GOSPEL

**Mark 9:2-10**

*"This is my beloved Son."*

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**



At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and he was transfigured before them, and his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say, for they were exceedingly afraid. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly looking around they no longer saw any one with them but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of man should have risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant.

### **Reflection: Bonds Loosed by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.**

Last Sunday, we heard the trial of Jesus in the desert. In this week's First Reading, we hear of how Abraham was put to the test. The Church has always read this story as a sign of God's love for the world in giving His only begotten son. In today's Epistle, Paul uses exact words drawn from this story to describe how God, like Abraham, did not withhold His only Son, but handed Him over for us on the cross. In the Gospel today, too, we hear another echo. Jesus is called God's "beloved Son" - as Isaac is described as Abraham's beloved firstborn son. Jesus is shown to be the true son that Abraham rejoiced to see. In His transfiguration, He is revealed to be the "prophet like Moses" foretold by God - raised from among their own kinsmen, speaking with God's own authority. Like Moses, He climbs the mountain with three named friends and beholds God's glory in a cloud. He is the one prophesied to come after Elijah's return. And, as He discloses to the apostles, He is the Son of Man sent to suffer and die for our sins. As we sing in today's Psalm, Jesus believed in the face of His afflictions, and God loosed Him from the bonds of death. His rising should give us the courage to face our trials, to offer ourselves totally to the Father - as He

did, as Abraham and Isaac did. Freed from death by His death, we come to this Mass to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and to renew our vows - as His servants and faithful ones.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Today at all Masses the Perpetual Eucharist Adorers (PEA) are registering new Members. All are welcome. For more information, please visit their desk at the Gazebo.
2. Every Friday of Lent is a day of abstinence. There is a Way of the Cross at 2pm and 4pm in the prayer Garden and after the 5.30pm Mass in the church.
3. The envelopes for Lenten contributions are available at all the entrances of the Church. Kindly pick one and put back into the blue boxes.
4. The Consolata Youth Rehabilitation Programme (COYREP) is offering courses in Tailoring & Dressmaking, Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy and Leatherwork. For registration visit the Parish Office.
5. Consolata Youth Rehabilitation Programme (COYREP) is seeking to recruit a Nursery School Teacher in Charge for Deep Sea Nursery School. For more information, check the notice board.
6. On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, there will be a special mass at 3pm to dedicate work & businesses to God. You are all invited to bring your tools of work or business with you for blessing. We will have tea/snack session afterward; feel free to carry some snacks. RSVP for planning purposes by sending a SMS to Catherine 0721842033 or Sharon 0708427661.
7. For better service to the community, the Parish has set up an Information Desk outside the Church, at the Gazebo. You can approach it for any information that you may require. Also the desks for the Allamano Centre collections will be all at the Gazebo, instead of being at the entrances of the Church.
8. The Construction of the ALLAMANO CENTRE to build a new block of pastoral offices, meeting rooms, hall and parking is on-going as you can see and even visit. The normal collections and pledges are on-going. As the car stickers to support the same cause are also on sale. You can pay using the Paybill number 804877 in instalments or in full.

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and alms-giving in order to restrain of our wrong desires and to be in solidarity with others. That is why we are invited to share from what we have and of what we abstain in view of the needs of others. Every year the Charities Committee of the Parish comes up with different proposals. For this year the proposals are two. The Education Project at St. Joseph - Deep Sea; and, that we offer our sacrifices still for the Allamano Centre which will help many people in the parish and beyond. Kindly, pick one of the envelopes for Lenten contributions available at all the entrances of the Church and put back into the blue boxes with the result of your sacrifice and your sharing spirit.