



# CONSOLATA SHRINE

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

11th MARCH 2018



### FIRST READING

2 Chronicles 36:14-16.19-23

#### A reading from the second Book of Chronicles

In those days: All the leading priests and the people were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of the Lord which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place; but they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, till the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, till there was no remedy. And the Chaldeans burnt the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels. The king of the Chaldeans took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the Lord his God be with him. Let him go up.'"

#### *The word of the Lord*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 137:1-2.3.4-5.6

**Response.** O let my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not.

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Sion;  
on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. (*Response*)

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.

"Sing to us," they said, "one of Sion's songs." (*Response*)

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on foreign soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (*Response*)

O let my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem as the first of my joys! (*Response*)

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 2: 4-10

*“When we were dead through our trespasses, we were saved by grace.”*

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brethren: God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### *The word of the Lord*



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

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son;  
that whoever believes in him should have eternal life.

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



## GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John



**A**t that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his

deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.

### *The Gospel of the Lord*

## REFLECTION

### LIVING IN THE LIGHT by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God’s covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai. In today’s First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God’s final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David. His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today’s Psalm. But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple. God is rich in mercy, as today’s Epistle teaches. He promised that David’s kingdom would last forever, and that David’s son would be His Son and rule all nations. In Jesus, God keeps that promise. Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation. Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross to draw all people to himself. Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father’s love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves. But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God’s handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth. Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One and rededicate ourselves to living the “good works” that God has prepared us for.

## SECURITY

In the past, security was defined in relation to states in terms of being at war or at peace with each other or a state’s capacity to defend itself from external aggression. Today definition of security has changed as the human person has become the focus. Security is therefore diverse which includes family security, food security, health and personal security over and above the state being secure and free from danger. The United Nations defines security as the protection of “the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment. Environmental degradation has a direct impact on health and food security. Kenya and most African countries have suffered greatly from the effects of climate change. The widespread poverty, recurrent droughts, floods, inequitable land distribution, over dependence on rain-fed agriculture and few coping mechanisms all combine to increase people’s vulnerability to climate change. Pope Francis reminds us that “our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God (Laudato Si, 119). To save ourselves we must take responsibility to care for the earth, which is our common home. Lack of a proper health care has a direct impact on the quality of life of citizens. School drop outs and lack of gainful employment, creates an ever increasing threat to terrorism and personal security. The government has a pivotal role in addressing all these forms of insecurity. However as citizen each has a role in all these issues. Human security threats, therefore, cannot be tackled through conventional mechanisms alone. Instead, they require a new consensus that acknowledges the linkages and the interdependencies between development, human rights and national security. Human security means protecting fundamental freedoms – freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and

situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. We must create political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today Charities Committee are having a Jumble sale to support the charity activities in our parish.
2. Charities Committee will be visiting Kamiti Medium Prisons on 18th March 2018. If you would like to join them kindly register at the gazebo. They are also appealing for donations eg. Soap, Toilet Papers, tooth brushes, tooth paste, sanitary towels, etc.
3. Also the professionals group of Lawyers will visit Jamhuri Prison at Ngong Road on 24th March. You can join them personally as to bring items too to share with those in prison, making the visit a success: "Whatsoever you do to the list of my brothes, you have done it unto me"
4. 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.
5. The Envelopes for Lenten contributions are available at all the entrances of the Church. Kindly pick one and put back into the blue boxes.
6. 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. We really thank you for your support. Let's not get tired of doing our best. The normal collections and pledges are on-going at the gazebo. 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.

## DAILY READINGS & SCHEDULE FOR MASSES:

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2.4-6.11-13; Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9.12; Ps 46:2-3.5-6.8-9; Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9.13-14.17-18; Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

**Friday:** Wis 2:1a.12-22; Ps 34: 16-23; Jn 7:1-2.10.25-30

**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3. 9-12; Jn 7:40-53

**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 - Friday: English** 7.00am  
and 1.15 pm; 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

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