

Reflection: All Things Well by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

The incident in today's Gospel is recorded only by Mark. The key line is what the crowd says at the end: "He has done all things well." In the Greek, this echoes the creation story, recalling that God saw all the things He had done and declared them good. Mark also deliberately evokes Isaiah's promise, which we hear in today's First Reading, that God will make the deaf hear and the mute speak. He even uses a Greek word to describe the man's condition (mogilalon, or "speech impediment") that's only found in one other place in the Bible—in the Greek translation of today's Isaiah passage, where the prophet describes the "dumb" singing. The crowd recognizes that Jesus is doing what the prophet had foretold. But Mark wants us to see something far greater—that, to use the words from today's First Reading: "Here is your God." Notice how personal and physical the drama is in the Gospel. Our focus is drawn to a hand, a finger, ears, a tongue, spitting. In Jesus, Mark shows us, God has truly come in the flesh. What He has done is to make all things new, a new creation. As Isaiah promised, He has made the living waters of Baptism flow in the desert of the world. He has set captives free from their sins, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has come that rich and poor might dine together in the Eucharistic feast, as James tells us in today's Epistle. He has done for each of us what He did for that deaf mute. He has opened our ears to hear the Word of God, and loosed our tongues that we might sing praises to Him. Let us then, in the Eucharist, again give thanks to our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. Let us say with Isaiah, here is our God, He comes to save us. Let us be rich in faith, that we might inherit the kingdom promised to those who love Him.

DAILY READINGS

Monday: 1 Cor 5: 1-8; Ps 5:5-7; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: 1 Cor 6: 1-11; Ps 149:1-6,9; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12,14-17; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7,11-13; Ps 139; Lk 6:27-38
Friday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 78:1-2,34-38; Jn 3:13-17
Saturday: Heb 5:7-9; Ps 31:1-5,14-15,19; Jn 19:25-27

Schedules for Masses:

Sunday: 7.30 am Kiswahili
9.00 am; 10.30 am; 12.00 noon & 5.30 pm English
Saturday: English 7.00 a.m; 9.00 am & 5.30 pm
Monday to Friday: English 7.00 am & 1.15 am, 5.30 pm Kiswahili



CONSOLATA SHRINE

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9th September 2018



*God you redeem us & make us your children in Christ,
give us true freedom & bring us to the inheritance you promised*

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

"Then the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy."

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirst ground springs of waters.

Responsorial Psalm

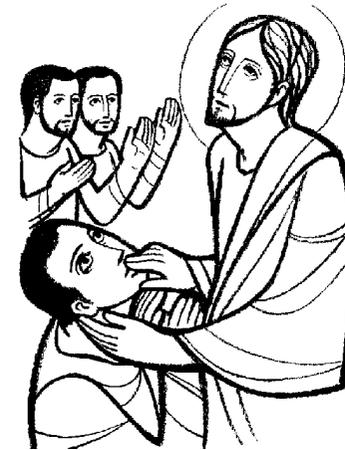
Ps 146: 6-10

R.: Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity forever, who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the LORD who sets prisoners free. **R**

It is the LORD who opens the eyes of the blind, the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the LORD who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger. **R**

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The LORD will reign forever, the God of Sion from age to age. **R**



Second reading

James 2:1-5

"Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be heirs of the kingdom?"

A reading from the Letter of Saint James

My brethren, show no partiality as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory. For if a man with gold rings and in fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in,

PARISH WEBSITE: www.consolatashrine.org; PARISH E-MAIL: info@consolatashrine.org

PARISH PRIEST'S E-MAIL: parishpriest@consolatashrine.org

PARISH MPESA BUSINESS NUMBER: 508702;

P.O. Box 14930 - Nairobi; TEL: 0722-615105

and you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "Have a seat here, please," while you say to the poor man, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him?



Alleluia

Jesus was preaching the Gospel of the kingdom,
healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Alleluia

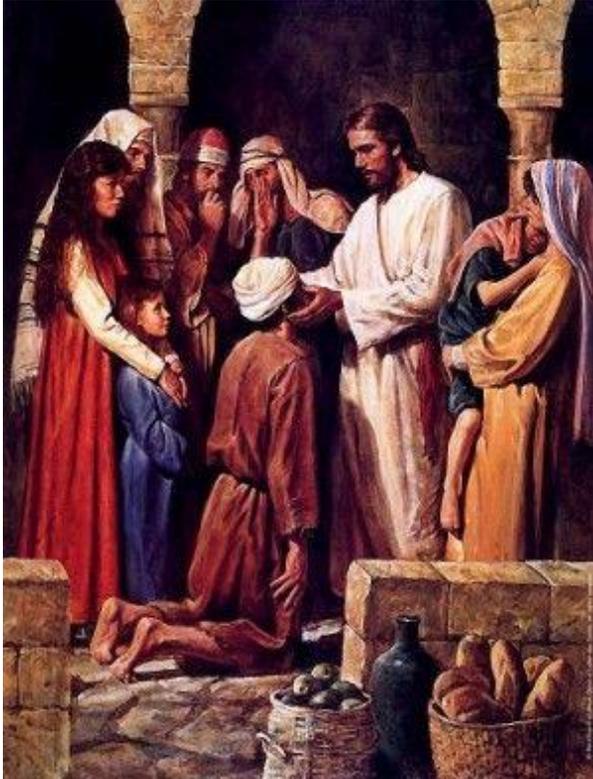


GOSPEL

"He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark



At that time: Jesus returned from the region of Tyre, and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, through the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand upon him. And taking him aside from the multitude privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue; and looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And he charged them to tell no one; but the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure,

saying, "He has done all things well; he even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Announcements

1. Invitation Cards for the final Main Harambee on 23rd September 2018 are being distributed. In case you need more cards later kindly visit the parish office during the week.
2. The remaining Events in support of the Allamano Centre are as follows:
 - a. Today St Theresa of the child Jesus S.C.C will hold a mini Harambee at 2pm in the Tent behind the Nursery School.
 - b. St. Maria Goretti will offer Car Wash services from Saturday 15th to Sunday 16th, at all Masses.
 - c. The Main Harambee for the Allamano Project will be on 23rd September 2018. All are welcome.

Your support, prayers, presence and contributions towards the project is appreciated.

3. Registration for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for children and adults is closing today at the catechist's office. Children who have received their **First Holy Communion** and are aged 11 years this year are asked to register. Please bring the baptismal card and a contribution of 200/=.
4. Couples planning to get married are asked to register for premarital sessions. The sessions will begin on Saturday 15th September 2018 with parents meeting at 3pm. Kindly register at the catechist's office.
5. Saturday 15th, is the memorial of **OUR LADY OF SORROWS**. There will be Candle lit procession and rosary after the evening mass. (Seven Sorrows Books available at the Bookshop)

Weekly Meeting

- Finance & Accounting Professionals Group will be holding their monthly meeting today at 10.30am in the Tent. New members are welcome

Saints of the week

The Most Holy name of Mary, - Wednesday 12th.
St John Chrysostom, Bishop & doctor, - Thursday 13th.
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, - Friday 14th.
Our Lady of Sorrows, - Saturday 15th.