



CONSOLATA SHRINE
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8th JANUARY 2017



The Star that Guides All People

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

“Glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall walk by your light, and kings in the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72:1-2.7-8.10-11.12-13

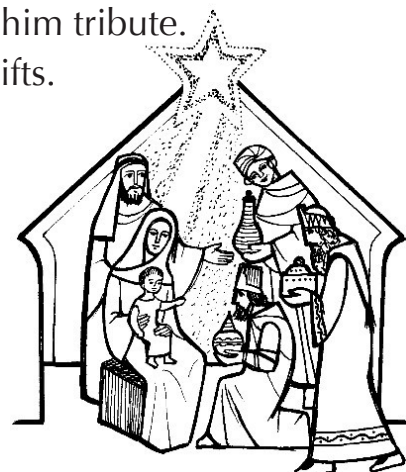
Response. All nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgment to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgment. **(Response)**

In his days shall justice flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth. **(Response)**

The kings of Tarshish and the islands shall pay him tribute.
The Kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **(Response)**

For he shall save the needy when they cry,
the poor, and those who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy. **(Response)**



“It has now been revealed that the Gentiles are fellow heirs of the promise.”

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brethren: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to this holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

The word of the Lord



Alleluia

We have seen his star in the east,
and have come to worship the Lord.

Alleluia



GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

“We have come from the East to worship the king.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and



assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.” Then Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” When they had heard the king they went their way; and behold, the

star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord

A KING TO BEHOLD

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendid lights and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears. Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise - one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David, the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth”. Those promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. The psalm celebrates David’s son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch “to the ends of the earth,” and the world’s kings will pay Him homage. That’s the scene too in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king. The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfilment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob. Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth”. Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon. One greater than Solomon is here. He has come to reveal that all peoples are “co-heirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches. His manifestation forces us to choose: Will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and the scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today, there will be a second collection for the Holy Childhood. Proceeds will be sent to Pope Francis to assist Children of the world.
2. Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. There will be a Special Mass at 3.00pm at

the Shrine with the blessing of Children, traditionally dressed. All are welcome.

3. The Parish has organized the Pilgrimage to Holy Land during lent in preparation for Easter. For more information, please look at the posters outside the Church or pick a brochure from the tables outside the church.
4. Due to the festive season there will be no PMC and Children Sunday Services until 5th February 2017.
5. The Bible Diaries 2017 which include daily reflection are available at the desk outside the Church and in the bookshop. Get a copy for yourself and a gift to your loved ones.
6. Couples planning to get married are asked to register for premarital counselling sessions for 2017. Sessions will begin with their parents meeting on Saturday 14th January 2017. Kindly register at the Catechists office
7. Registration for Baptism and first Holy Communion for children and adults is in progress at the Catechists Office, children have to be 8 years and in class three. Kindly bring the original baptism card and a registration fee of Kshs 200/-. Adults who were baptized in other Christian churches and wish to become fully Catholics are also asked to register.
8. Next Sunday all CWA members both the Shrine and St. Joseph Deep Sea are requested to attend the 9am Mass and meet at 10.30am.
9. All New CWA members planning to be commissioned will meet on January 29th at 10.30am. This will be the last meeting for the CWA class of 2016. Deep Sea new members are invited.

WEEKLY MEETING

- Liturgy committee meeting on Wednesday 11th at 12.30pm

CONSOLATA SHRINE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Let's use social media to spread God's word.

Remember to "follow" and "like" us.

 @ConsoShrine  Consolata Shrine, Westlands, Nairobi

DAILY READING

Monday: Act 13:46-49; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 28:16-20

or Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1-2. 6-7. 9 Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2a.5-9; Mk 1:21b-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:14. 6-9; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5.11; Ps 78:3-4.6-8; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19: 8-10. 15; Mk 2:13-17

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**

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**

Cell Phone: **0722 615 105**