



CONSOLATA SHRINE
4th SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR "A"
26th March 2017



FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1b.6-7.10-13a

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

In those days: The Lord said to Samuel, "Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.



The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23:1-3a. 3b-4.5.6

Response. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul. **(Response)**

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name.

Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **(Response)**

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(Response)**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own houses shall I dwell for length of days unending. **(Response)**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brethren: Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light

The word of the Lord**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

John 9: 1-41 [Short Version: Jn 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38]

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John



At that time; As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. [...] he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar said "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." [...] They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man

who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eye?" He said, "He is a prophet." [...] "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshipped him. [...]"

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

EYESIGHT TO THE BLIND by PhD Scott Hanh

God's ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel—as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind. The blind man stands for all humanity. "Born totally in sin" he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth, Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay (see John 9:11). As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means "Sent." Jesus is the One "sent" by the Father to do the Father's will. He is the new source of life-giving water—the Holy Spirit who rushes upon us in Baptism.

This is the Spirit that rushes upon God's chosen king David in today's First Reading. A shepherd like Moses before him, David is also a sign pointing to the good shepherd and king to come—Jesus. The Lord is our shepherd, as we sing in today's Psalm. By his death and Resurrection, He has made a path for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the verdant pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church. In the restful waters of Baptism, He has refreshed our souls. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation and spread the Eucharistic table before us, filling our Cups to overflowing. With the once-blind man we enter His house to give God the praise, to renew our vow: "I do believe, Lord." "The Lord looks into the heart," we hear today. Let Him find us, as Paul advises in today's Epistle, living as "children of light"—trying always to learn what is pleasing to our Father.

WEEK 3 : ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION

The environment is the sum total of all surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives. God created a perfect and clean environment. We, however, have failed to take good care of it which has in turn has led to pollution problems and threatening the very existence of the forest cover as well as the lives of animals. Over the years our environment in Kenya has been under pressure and still is under pressure from a number of sources including urban and industrial waste as well as agricultural activities that are mainly dependant on the use of chemicals. Over-exploitation has reduced the country's timber resources. Cutting down of trees to create more land for cultivation, charcoal burning, quarrying, encroachment of wet and riparian lands among other social occupational practices are the major causes of environmental degradation. The loss of forest cover aggravates erosion, exacerbates silting of dams, flooding and loss of biodiversity. There is a wide variety of wildlife species whose habitats are threatened by the encroachment of man and poachers. Currently, elephants and rhino herds in Kenya have decreased at an alarming rate. The number of confiscated ivory containers is worrying wildlife conservationists. We are faced with inadequate garbage collection and disposal systems in our Kenyan urban areas. This has led to littering and subsequent clogging of rivers and drainage systems, resulting in floods, displacement of families, disease and loss of lives and property when it rains. God gives us the environment so that we can have life. When we destroy the environment, God sees our actions the same way he saw the past to the Samaritan woman. We cannot help but emphasise Pope Francis message to us in 'Laudato Si' that we should desist from polluting our environment and avoid waste and throwaway culture.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today Charity Committee are having Jumble sale in Church compound after every mass, proceeds will go to the Lenten Campaign.
2. Today the Homeless of Nairobi are polishing shoes outside the Church. Support them in this venture of making a living for themselves
3. Next Sunday there will be the second collection of St. Vincent de Paul for the needy of our Parish.
4. Next Sunday the Eucharistic Rosary will be prayed in front of the Blessed Eucharist after 12 o'clock Mass. All are welcome.
5. Saturday 1st, The Marathon Rosary will be prayed in the prayer garden from 10am to 5pm. All are welcome.
6. We remind all parishioners that Lent is a time of repentance, sacrifice and solidarity with the needy. Remember the three projects that the parish offers you to participate in, so to make your sacrifice meaningful, that is Deep Sea Education Project, and to support the areas of famine in some Consolata Missions and in the Diocese of Lodwar. Pick the envelopes at the entrance of the Church for more information.
7. Every Friday during Lent, we have the Stations of the Cross as follows: at the Prayer Garden **after the 1.15pm**; at the Prayer Garden **at 4pm** and inside the church **after the 5.30pm** Mass.
8. The ground breaking of the Allamano Centre to build a new block of pastoral offices, hall and parking took place last weekend, so the construction is starting soon. 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.
9. The Regina Caeli arts theatre group will be performing a modern Easter Musical production titled "Sea of Swords" by Elizabeth Watkins on 7th, 8th and 9th April 2017 from 4pm to 6pm at Regina Caeli Parish Hall, Karen. Tickets are on sale outside the Church.

WEEKLY MEETING

- Communication Committee on Monday at 6.15pm.

DAILY READING

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2.4.5-6.11-13;

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 2:1.12-22; Ps 34:17-23;

Jn 7:1-2.10.25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3.9-12; Jn 7:40-53

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**