

Lenten Campaign 2017

WEEK 1: SECURITY

Week one of the Lenten campaign 2017 has its focus on security. Security is crucial for the wellbeing of our society. Some of the leading causes of insecurity are neglect of the youth, greed for power, wealth and honour as well as uneven and unjust distribution of resources which can cause chaos and lead to food insecurity. There has to be security for us to co-exist in harmony as brothers and sisters. Security begins with you and me. For there to be security we have to be our brothers' keeper, embracing the Christian religious philosopher and writer John Mbiti's philosophy "I am because we are and we are because I am". Everyone has to play a part to ensure security by cooperating well with the security agents that it is the police and the CID detectives. God created man and provided him with food and psychological security until he sinned. Man was then kicked out of the Garden of Eden and had to toil forever to feed and clothe himself and seek God. We lost our original goodness. We are always tempted by earthly belongings but we pray to God not to fall into temptation and be like Jesus and overcome the temptations we encounter as revealed to us in the book of Roman 4:1-11 where Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. Only closeness with God will help us conquer the evil one. Adam and Eve became greedy and were expelled from the security of the Garden of Eden. One person's action affects others.



This year the Universal Church celebrates 100 years since the Fatima Apparitions on 13th May 2017. Consolata Shrine in conjunction with Our Lady of Fatima Small Christian Community is organizing the Centenary Celebrations here at the Shrine.

Pope Francis granted the Shrine of Fatima the right to offer a ***plenary indulgence*** to pilgrims – according to the usual conditions - during the jubilee year of the centenary of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary, starting on November 26, 2016

The indulgence may be granted to Catholics who participate in a celebration or a prayer in honor of Our Lady of Fatima in another church where the image of the Virgin is exposed, on the anniversary date of the apparitions, namely the 13th of each month between May and October 2017. Join us on 13th May in honoring Our Mother.



**CONSOLATA SHRINE
2nd SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR "A"
12th March 2017**



The Vocation of Abraham and the Vocation of the Christian

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

The call of Abraham, the father of the people of God

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days: The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33:4-5,18-19,20 and 22

R. May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord

The word of the Lord is faithful,
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth. **R.**

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. R

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
He is our help and our shield.
May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord. R

A circular graphic with a textured gray background. In the center, the word "Lent" is written in a large, cursive, black font. Around the center, there is a continuous ring of text in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The text in the ring reads "share + pray + fast" followed by a plus sign, which repeats three more times around the circle.

SECOND READING

God calls and enlightens us.

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: Take your share of suffering for the Gospel in the power of God, who save us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to life through the Gospel.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

*From the shinning cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

Matthew 17: 1-9

"His face shone like the sun."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn Listen to Him

Today's Gospel portrays Jesus as a new and greater Moses. Moses also took three companions up a mountain and on the seventh day was overshadowed by the shining cloud of God's presence. He too spoke with God and his face and clothing were made radiant in the encounter. But in today's Lenten Liturgy, the Church wants us to look back past Moses. Indeed, we are asked to contemplate what today's Epistle Calls God's "design...from before time began." With his promises to Abram in today's First Reading, God formed the people through whom He would reveal

himself and bestow His blessings on all humanity. He later elevated these promises to eternal covenants and changed Abram's name to Abraham,

promising that he would be father of a host nations. In remembrance of His covenant with Abraham he raised up Moses, and later swore an everlasting kingdom to David 's sons. In Jesus' transfiguration today, He is revealed as the One through whom God fulfills his divine plan from of old. Not only a new Moses, Jesus is also the "beloved son" promised to Abraham and again to David. Moses foretold a prophet like him to whom Israel would listen and Isaiah foretold an anointed servant in whom God would be well-pleased. Jesus is

this prophet and this servant, as the Voice on the mountain tells us today. By faith we have been made children of the covenant with Abraham. He calls us, too, to a holy life, to follow His Son to the heavenly homeland He has promised. We know, as we sing in today's Psalm, that we who hope in Him will be delivered from death. So like our father in faith, we go forth as the Lord directs us: "Listen to Him!"

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Every Friday during Lent the Stations of the Cross are after the 1.15pm mass and at 4.00pm at the Prayer Garden; and another in the Church after the 5.30pm Mass.
2. The **envelopes for Lenten contributions** are available at all the entrances of the Church. Kindly pick one and put back into the blue boxes with your dues.
3. The Allamano Centre project to build a new block of offices, hall and parking has been launched. 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.
4. Saturday 18th is the Ground breaking of Allamano Centre Project after 9am mass. Parishioners and our friends are encouraged to attend this big occasion of our parish.
5. Next Sunday 19th, St Joseph Deep Sea will celebrate the **Solemnity of St. Joseph**, the Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Being the year of the family all Christian are invited.

Weekly Meeting

- Charities Committee on Tuesday 14th at 6.15pm
- Pastoral Council meeting on Sunday 19th at 10.30am