

Lenten Campaign: WEEK 2: YOUTH AND SOCIETY

Our youth are tomorrow's leaders and if we do not mould them into moral and responsible citizens then we have failed in tomorrow's leadership. The youth face many challenges some of which include drug and substance abuse, radicalisation, violent militia groups and sects, social unrest in school and same sex relationships. These problems afflicting the youth cause a social drawback. Parents need to promote good social values and always guide their children to reduce the social unrest in society. More often than not the youth are referred to as the leaders of tomorrow and yet they are sidelined in development issues. They are only remembered when the leader needs to use them for their selfish political gain and other personal gains. The youths' participation in development has to be increased as well as decision making and implementation of activities. Parents and guardians are urged to give love, care and guidance to their children who will later become our youth. This will in effect help us have a good family which in turn leads to a good church and a good country Kenya. We should teach our children to fear God, respect others and develop confidence in them. Let our children grow in wisdom, intelligence and strength, allowing them to face the truth and realities of life for our youth are an asset, therefore let us organise structures that will engage, inspire and empower our young people.

Reflection: Striking the Rock by Ph.D. Scott Hahn

The Israelites' hearts were hardened by their hardships in the desert. Though they saw His mighty deeds, in their thirst they grumble and put God to the test in today's First Reading—a crisis point recalled also in today's Psalm. Jesus is thirsty too in today's Gospel. He thirsts for souls. He longs to give the Samaritan woman the living waters that well up to eternal life. These waters couldn't be drawn from the well of Jacob, father of the Israelites and the Samaritans. But Jesus was something greater than Jacob. The Samaritans were Israelites who escaped exile when Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom eight centuries before Christ. They were despised for intermarrying with non-Israelites and worshipping at Mount Gerazim, not Jerusalem. But Jesus tells the woman that the "hour" of true worship is coming, when all will worship God in Spirit and truth. Jesus' "hour" is the "appointed time" that Paul speaks of in today's Epistle. It is the hour when the Rock of our salvation was struck on the Cross. Struck by the soldier's lance, living waters flowed out from our Rock. These waters are the Holy Spirit, the gift of God. By the living waters the ancient enmities of Samaritans and Jews have been washed away, the dividing wall between Israel and the nations is broken down. Since His hour, all may drink of the Spirit in Baptism. In this Eucharist, the Lord now is in our midst—as He was at the Rock of Horeb and at the well of Jacob. In the "today" of our Liturgy, He calls us to believe: "I am He," come to pour out the love of God into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.



CONSOLATA SHRINE 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR "A" 19th March 2017



FIRST READING

Exodus 17:3-7

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people murmured against Moses, and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?" So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand the rod with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock and water shall come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the fault-finding of the children of Israel, and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95:1-2.6-9

R. O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord;

Hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;

Let us hail him with a song of praise. **R**

2. O come, let us bow and bend low. Let us kneel before the God who made us, for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your forebears put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work." **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-2.5-8

Brethren: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. While we were helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man – through perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.



*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water that I may not thirst.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*



GOSPEL John 4:5-42

[Shorter Form (Jn 4:5-15.19b-26.39a.40-42)]

At that time: Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealing with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink, 'you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him. "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst nor come here to draw. [...] The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain; and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." [...] Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.

Announcements

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. This week on Saturday 25th March we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**. There will be a Rosary procession after the evening Mass and blessing of Expectant mothers.
5. The Consolata youth group is recruiting new members to join the youth group. If you are an interested youth between the age of 18 to 30 kindly register with the youth at the gazebo and the sides of the entrances outside the church.

Consecration of the Family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus & Mary

Most holy Hearts of Jesus & Mary, united in perfect love, as you look upon us with mercy & caring, we consecrate our hearts, our lives, our family to you. We know the beautiful example of your home in Nazareth was meant to be a model for each of our family. We hope to have, with your help, the unity & strong, enduring love you gave to one another. May our home be filled with joy. May sincere affection, patience, tolerance & mutual respect be freely given to all. May our prayers be filled with the needs of others, not just ourselves & may we always be close to your sacraments. Bless those who are present, as well as those who are absent, both the living & the dead; may peace be among us & when we are tested, grant us the Christian acceptance of God's will. Keep our family close to your Hearts; may your special protection be with us always. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus & Mary, hear our prayer.

DAILY READINGS

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5.12-14.16; Ps 89; Rom 4:13.16-18.22 Mt 1:16.18-21.24

Tuesday: Dn 3:25.34-43; Ps 25; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1.5-9; Ps 147; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95; Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 8`1; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40; Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38