



CONSOLATA SHRINE

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR A



23rd April 2017

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

"All who believed were together and had all things in common."

A reading from the Acts of Apostles

The brethren held steadfastly to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118:2-4.13-15ab.22-24 (R.1)

**Response. Give praise to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.**

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say, "His mercy endures forever." **(Response)**

I was thrust down, thrust down and falling, but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he is my savior.

There are shouts of joy and salvation in the tents of the just. **(Response)**

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

By the Lord has this been done, a marvel in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

(Response)

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

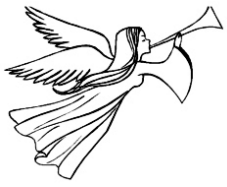
"We have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection, of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord





Alleluia

You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Alleluia



GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

“Eight days later Jesus came.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John



On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your fingers here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “You have believed because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

HIS MERCY ENDURES BY Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

We are children of Jesus’ Resurrection from the dead. Through this wondrous sign of His great mercy, the Father of Jesus has given us new birth, as we hear in today’s Epistle.

Today’s First Reading sketches the “family life” of our first ancestors in the household of God (see 1 Peter 4:17). We see them doing what we still do—devoting themselves to the Apostles’ teaching, meeting daily to pray and celebrate “the breaking of the bread.”

The Apostles saw the Lord. He stood in their midst, showed them His hands and sides. They heard His blessing and received His commission—to extend the Father’s mercy to all peoples

through the power and Spirit He conferred upon them.

We must walk by faith and not by sight, must believe and love what we have not seen (see 2 Corinthians 5:7). Yet the invisible realities are made present for us through the devotions the Apostles handed on.

Notice the experience of the risen Lord in today's Gospel is described in a way that evokes the Mass.

Both appearances take place on a Sunday. The Lord comes to be with His disciples. They rejoice, listen to His Word, receive the gift of His forgiveness and peace. He offers His wounded body to them in remembrance of His Passion. And they know and worship Him as their Lord and their God.

Thomas' confession is a vow of faith in the new covenant. As promised long before, in the blood of Jesus we can now know the Lord as our God and be known as His people (see Hosea 2:20-25).

This confession is sung in the heavenly liturgy (see Revelation 4:11). And in every Mass on earth we renew our covenant and receive the blessings Jesus promised for those who have not seen but have believed.

In the Mass, God's mercy endures forever, as we sing in today's Psalm. This is the day the Lord has made—when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.

This year the Universal Church celebrates 100 years since the Fatima Apparitions on **13th May 2017**. Please save this date.

Consolata Shrine in conjunction with Our Lady of Fatima Small Christian Community is organising 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. We shall have several activities on this day in union with the Universal Church. The highlight of the day is a grand procession with Our Lady and the climax will be the celebration of the Holy Mass in Her honor.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today we celebrate the Divine Mercy Sunday, there will be Veneration, Adoration and Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed after the 12 o'clock Mass.
2. The Junior Youth will have their April Seminar and Retreat from coming Tuesday 25th upto Thursday 27th April at the Parish including a day at the Resurrection Garden. For more information and registration visit the desks outside the church.
3. Ecumenism Committee has invited St. George Greek Orthodox Church & St Mark ACK next Sunday, for 12 noon Mass and there after a discussion on the message of Easter. All parishioners are invited to attend.
4. Construction of the Allamano Centre to build a new block of pastoral offices, hall and parking has begun. 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.

5. Every Friday of Easter time, instead of praying the Way of the Cross, we invite you to pray the Way of Light. You can get the booklets in the bookshop. You can join us at the Prayer Garden every Friday at 4pm.
6. From 1st May upto 15th June, we will have the pilgrim of the Icon of Our Lady Consolata to the homes from Mondays to Fridays. It is a special occasion to have our Mother visiting our families, in this Year of the Family. Everyday Mass and blessing of the house will take place in the home where the Icon will be. If you would wish the Icon to visit your home, please register in the Parish Office during the week.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

- Communication Committee on Monday at 6.15pm.
- Ecumenism Committee on Monday at 6.15pm

PRAYER FOR THE DIVINE MERCY

Eternal God, in whom Mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion – inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE ALLAMANO CENTRE

I lift up my eyes to the mountains: from where shall come my help? My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth. (Ps 121:1)

All-powerful and all-merciful father, you have created all things through your Son and have made him the unshakable foundation of your kingdom. Through the gift of your eternal wisdom, grant that the undertaking we begin today for your glory and the benefit of the Parish may progress day by day to its successful completion. May the Allamano Centre be the expression of our faith and of our missionary zeal to reach more people and in a better way. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for Us!

DAILY READING

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: 1Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89; Mk 16:15-20

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34; Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 32; Jn 6:16-21

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**

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