



CONSOLATA SHRINE
5th SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR "A"
2nd April 2017



FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:12-14

"I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live."

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves. O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put your Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done it, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 130:1-8

Response. With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleading. **(Response)**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But with you is found forgiveness, that you may be revered. **(Response)**

I long for you, O Lord,

my soul hopes in the Lord more than watchman for day break.

More than watchmen for daybreak, let Israel hope for the Lord. **(Response)**

For with the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. **(Response)**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:8-11

"The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you."

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brethren: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you.

The word of the Lord



Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:
he who believes in me shall never die.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL

John 11:1-45 [Short Version: Jn 11:3-7.17.20-27.33b-45]

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John



The sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go into Judea again”. Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha

said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world.” He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odour, for he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” So they took away stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that you have sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

AT LAZARUS' TOMB by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

As we draw near to the end of Lent, today's Gospel clearly has Jesus' passion and death in view. That's why John gives us the detail about Lazarus' sister, Mary - that she is the one who anointed the Lord for burial. His disciples warn against returning to Judea; Thomas even predicts they will "die with Him" if they go back. When Lazarus is raised, John notices the tombstone being taken away, as well as Lazarus' burial cloths and head covering - all details he later notices with Jesus' empty tomb. Like the blind man in last week's readings, Lazarus represents all humanity. He stands for "dead man" - for all those Jesus loves and wants to liberate from the bands of sin and death. John even recalls the blind man in his account today. Like the man's birth in blindness, Lazarus' death is used by Jesus to reveal "the glory of God". And again like last week, Jesus' words and deeds give sight to those who believe. If we believe, we will see - that Jesus loves each of us as He loved Lazarus, that He calls us out of death and into new life. By His Resurrection Jesus has fulfilled Ezekiel's promise in today's First Reading. He has opened the graves that we may rise, put His Spirit in us that we may live. This is the Spirit that Paul writes of in today's Epistle. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will give life to we who were once dead in sin. Faith is the key. If we believe as Martha does in today's Gospel - that Jesus is the resurrection and the life - even if we die, we will live. "I have promised and I will do it," the Father assures us in the First Reading. We must trust in His word, as we sing in today's Psalm - that with Him is forgiveness and salvation.

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 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. 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.



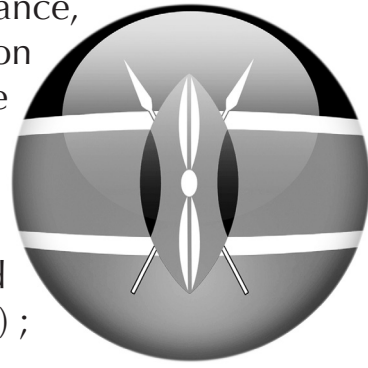
WEEK 5: NEGATIVE ETHNICITY AND CLANNISM

United we stand and divided we fall. Kenya has 42 ethnic groups and 114 sub-ethnic groups. There is beauty in diversity and when this concept is embraced we become proud of the ethnic, cultural and religious diversities and we also become determined to live in peace and unity as one indivisible country.

Negative ethnicity and clannism have been witnessed over the years in different parts of the country. The colonial government used this to their advantage to rule and further divide regions. This negativity has grown over the years and has been used by politicians to further

divide people. This has as a result, led to nepotism claims, job imbalance, inequitable sharing of resources and massive looting. Such negative division hinders equitable distribution of resources which in turn threatens peace and development of our country.

We need therefore to elect leaders not based on ethnicity but people who espouse good characters as provided for first and foremost in the Holy Book and the Constitution. These include the National Values and Principles of Leadership (article 10); Leadership and Integrity (Chapter 6) ; and Ethnicity and freedom from discrimination (article 27).



Ethnicity is God-given but we must allow the Spirit of God to enlighten it. The Spirit of God shows us how to live like brothers and sisters. We must never discriminate any one because of their colour, religion, ethnicity, language or class since we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today there will be the second collection of St. Vincent de Paul for the needy of our Parish.
2. Today the Eucharistic Rosary will be prayed in front of the Blessed Eucharist after 12 o'clock Mass. All are welcome.
3. Next Friday 7th of April the way of the cross after the 5.30pm will be from the movie the passion of the Christ.
4. Friday 7th, is the first Friday of the Month. Night Vigil will start at 9.00pm and end up with a holy Mass at 5.00am. All are welcome.
5. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday the beginning of the Holy Week. Palms will be blessed at all Masses. The solemn procession will start at 10.30am in school compound. The 12.00 o'clock Mass is rescheduled to start at 12.30pm. Palms will be given as usual to all, free of charge in the church compound.
6. Couples planning for marriage are invited to register for premarital counselling sessions. Sessions begin with their parents meeting on Saturday 5 April 2017 at 3pm. Kindly register at the catechist's office.
7. Justice and peace committee is registering new members. Those who are interested are invited to register at the desks outside the Church.
8. Catechism classes for children in boarding schools will begin on Tuesday 18 April 2017. Kindly register your child at the catechist's office.
9. The ground breaking of the Allamano Centre to build a new block of pastoral offices, hall and parking took place on the 18th of March. 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.

DAILY READING

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, Ps 23 Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9, Ps 102, Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, Dn 3:52, Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9, Ps 105, Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13, Ps 18, Jn 6:63c
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28, Jer 31:10, Jn 11:45-56

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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