



**CONSOLATA SHRINE
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
25TH DECEMBER 2017**



A CHILD IS BORN TO US

The light was brought into the world by the child of Bethlehem and the light shone brightest for the poor

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

"All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God"

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns". Listen, your watchmen lift up their voice, together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98:1-6 (R. 3cd)

Response. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. *(Response)*

The Lord has made known his salvation,
has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth for the house of Israel. *(Response)*

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song,
and sing out your praise. *(Response)*

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
raise a shout before the King, the Lord. *(Response)*



“God has spoken to us by a Son.”

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the ages. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by His word of power. When He had made purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name He has obtained is more excellent than theirs. For to what angel did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you?” Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son?” And again, when He brings the first-born into the world, He says, “Let all God’s angels worship him”.

The word of the Lord

Alleluia Alleluia

A hallowed day has shone upon us: come, O nations, and
adore the Lord;
for today a great light has come down to earth.

Alleluia



GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”.

The beginning of the holy Gospel according to John



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father.

(John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only-begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has made Him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

IN THE NEW BEGINNING: REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF CHRISTMAS DAY

The birth of Jesus marks a new creation, the start of a new heavens and a new earth. That's why the first words of today's Gospel reprise the Bible's first words - "In the beginning". Jesus is the Word that God spoke when He said, "Let there be," and all things came to be. The Wisdom through whom all things were made, Jesus is also the mighty Word by whom God sustains all things. The Word of God has become flesh. This is the mystery we sing of in today's Psalm - the revelation of mankind's salvation in the sight of the nations. The Word comes as God and king, we hear in today's First Reading. Enthroned at God's



right hand, He is the royal Son who has received all the nations as His inheritance. The Word comes, too, as a heavenly high priest, as we hear in today's Epistle. Through His blood, He accomplished atonement and purification from sin. And by this, He has made it possible for each of us to live as children of God, as "new creations". In the beginning, God made men and women in His image. In the new creation, He brings that divine image to perfection in Jesus, who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, and the firstborn from the dead. Let us resolve this Christmas to give Jesus rule over our hearts, to ever more mold our hearts in the image of our Creator - that the Christ-child may be the firstborn of a worldwide family of God.

SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:
25th December, Christmas Day
Masses follow Sunday Schedule

31st Sunday December 2017
5.30pm. Evening mass
9:00pm The New Year Vigil Holy Mass
11pm Adoration

New Year, 1st January 2018
Masses will be at 8am (Swahili Mass), 10am and 5.30pm (English Mass)

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