

## Reflection: Gateway to Life *BY Scott Hahn PhD.*



Our God is a Jesus doesn't answer the question put to Him in this Sunday's Gospel. It profits us nothing to speculate on how many will be saved. What we need to know is what He tells us today—how to enter into salvation and how urgent it is to strive now, before the Master closes the door. Jesus is “the narrow gate,” the only way of salvation, the path by which all must travel to enter the kingdom of the Father. In Jesus, God has come—as He promises in this week's First Reading – to gather nations of every language, to reveal to them His glory. Eating and drinking with them, teaching in their streets, Jesus in the Gospel is slowly making His way to Jerusalem. There, Isaiah's vision will be fulfilled: On the holy mountain He will be lifted up, will draw to Himself brethren from among all the nations – to worship in the heavenly Jerusalem, to glorify Him for His kindness, as we sing in Sunday's Psalm. In God's plan, the kingdom was proclaimed first to the Israelites and last to the Gentiles, who in the Church have come from the earth's four corners to make up the new people of God. Many however will lose their place at the heavenly table, Jesus warns. Refusing to accept His narrow way they will weaken, render themselves unknown to the Father. We don't want to be numbered among those of drooping hands and weak knees. So we must strive for that narrow gate, a way of hardship and suffering – the way of the beloved Son. As this week's Epistle reminds us, by our trials we know we are truly God's sons and daughters. We are being disciplined by our afflictions, strengthened to walk that straight and narrow path—that we may enter the gate, take our place at the banquet of the righteous.

### DAILY READINGS

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8-10; Ps 149; Mt 13:13-22  
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139; Mt 23:23-26  
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139; Mt 23:27-32  
Thursday: Jer 1:17-19; Ps 71; Mk 6:17-29  
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97; Mt 25: 1-13  
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98; Mt:14-30

### Schedules for Masses:

Sunday: 7.30 am Kiswahili  
9.00 am; 10.30 am; 12.00 noon & 5.30 pm  
English  
Saturday: English 7.00 a.m; 9.00 am & 5.30 pm  
Monday to Friday: English 7:00 am & 1.15 am  
5.30 pm Kiswahili



## CONSOLATA SHRINE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019



### FIRST READING

Isaiah 66:18-21

*“They shall bring all your brethren from all the nations.”*

### A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Thus says the Lord; “I know their works and their thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Put and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the islands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the sons of Israel bring their cereal offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. And some of them also I will take for priests and Levites,” says the Lord

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 117:1.2

### R. Go into all the world and preach the Gospel

O praise the Lord, all you nations;  
acclaim Him, all you people! **R**



For his merciful love has prevailed over us;  
and the Lord's faithfulness endures forever. **R**

### SECOND READING

Hebrews 12:5-7.11-13

*“The Lord disciplines him whom he loves.”*

### A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brethren: Have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands

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and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.



### **Alleluia**

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, but by me.*

### **Alleluia**



### **GOSPEL**

### **Luke 13:22-30**

*“Men will come from east and west, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.”*

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

At that time: Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching, and journeying towards Jerusalem. And some one said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, “Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the householder has risen up and shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us.’ “He will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from; depart from me, all you workers of iniquity!’ There you will weep and gnash your teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves thrust out. And men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Next Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September, there will be the blessing of our Tithe, our families and our work at the end of all Masses. Kindly pick an envelope from the blue box to prepare.
2. Today Homeless of Nairobi will be polishing shoes outside the church. Please support them.
3. Today Choir will be selling tea and snacks to support their activities including choir festivals. Please take a cup of tea and snacks after mass. They are also registering new members at the gazebo.
4. CWA is recruiting new members, kindly visit the desk at the gazebo for registration.
5. Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation for school children and adults is ongoing. For more information visit the Catechist’s office.
6. The premarital classes for the couples who will be getting married on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (during the Central Deanery family day at Consolata Shrine) will begin in 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 3.00pm. Couples who have not solemnized their marriage, kindly register so that you may start preparations on 15<sup>th</sup> September.



ALLAMANO CENTRE