



CONSOLATA SHRINE  
TWENTY- SIXTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
26<sup>th</sup> September 2021



**First Reading**

**Numbers 11:25-29**

*“Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets.”*

**A reading from the Book of Numbers**

In those days: The LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses, and took some of the spirit that was upon him and put it upon the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did so no more. Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested upon them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua the son of Nun, the minister of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, forbid them.” But Moses said to him, Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!”

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 19:8.10.12-14 (R.9)**

***R The Precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart.***

The law of the LORD is perfect;  
It revives the soul.

The decrees of the LORD are steadfast;  
they give wisdom to the simple. **R**

The fear of the LORD is pure,  
abiding for ever.

The judgements of the Lord are true;  
they are, all of them, just. **R**

So in them your servant finds instruction;  
great reward is in their keeping.

But who can detect their own errors?  
From hidden faults acquit me. **R**



***R The Precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart.***

From presumption restrain your servant;  
may it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless,  
clean from grave sin. **R**

## **Second Reading**

**James 5:1-6**

*“Your riches have rotted.”*

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint James**

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have killed the righteous man; he does not resist you.



**Alleluia**

Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth.

**Alleluia**



## **GOSPEL**

**Mark 9:38-43.45.47-48**

*“He that is not against us is for us. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.”*

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

At that time: John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he was not following us. “But Jesus said, “Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is for us. For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward. “Whoever causes one of

these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung round his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

**Reflection: To Belong to Christ by Scott Hahn, Ph. D**

Today’s Gospel begins with a scene that recalls a similar moment in the history of Israel, the episode recalled in today’s First Reading.



The seventy elders who receive God’s Spirit through Moses prefigure the ministry of the apostles. Like Joshua in the First Reading, John makes the mistake of presuming that only a select few are inspired and entrusted to carry out God’s plans. The Spirit blows where it wills, and God desires to bestow His Spirit on all the people of God, in every nation under heaven. God can and will work mighty deeds through the most unexpected and unlikely people. All of us are called to perform even our most

humble tasks, such as giving a cup of water, for the sake of His name and the cause of His kingdom. John believes he is protecting the purity of the Lord’s name. But, really, he’s only guarding his own privilege and status. It’s telling that the apostles want to shut down the ministry of an exorcist. Authority to drive out demons and unclean spirits was one of the specific powers entrusted to the Twelve. Cleanse me from my unknown faults, we pray in today’s Psalm. Often, like Joshua and John, perhaps without noticing it, we cloak our failings and fears under the guise of our desire to defend

Christ or the Church. But as Jesus says today, instead of worrying about who is a real Christian and who is not, we should make sure that we ourselves are leading lives worthy of our calling as disciples. Does the advice we give, or the example of our actions, give scandal—causing others to doubt or lose faith? Do we do what we do with mixed motives instead of seeking only the Father's will? Are we living, as this Sunday's Epistle warns, for our own luxury and pleasure, and neglecting our neighbors? We need to keep meditating on His Law, as we sing in today's Psalm. We need to pray for the grace to detect our failings and to overcome them.

### **Announcements**

1. Today we have second collection to support Seminary formation. Choir please lead us with a song.
2. Next Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, there will be the blessing of our Tithes, our families and our work at the end of all Masses. Please come prepared.
3. Next Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, there will be choir AGM meeting at 2:30pm in the Allamano Auditorium. All choir members of Shrine and Deep Sea are invited to attend.
4. Couples planning to get married are invited for marriage preparation session. The session will begin on Thursday 30th September. This will be the last session in this year. Kindly register at the Catechists office.
5. The Adoration Chapel is open from 6am to 8pm daily. The Blessed Sacrament, once exposed, cannot be left alone. Parishioners are encouraged to register for a **WEEKLY HOUR OF ADORATION** at the Parish Office during the week.

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