



CONSOLATA SHRINE

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

17th March 2024



FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"I will make a new covenant... and I will remember their sins no more."

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, and I showed myself their Master, says the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each man teach his neighbour and each his brother saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 51:3-4.12-15

R Create a pure heart for me, O God

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your merciful love;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions.
O wash me completely from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

Create a pure heart for me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
take not your Holy Spirit from me. **R**

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;
sustain in me a willing spirit.
I will teach transgressors your ways,
that sinners may return to you. **R**



SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:7-9

“He learned obedience, and he became the source of eternal salvation.”

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him. **The word of the Lord.**



Glory and praise to you, O Christ

*If anyone serves me, he must follow me,
says the Lord; and where I am,
there shall my servant be also.*

Glory and praise to you, O Christ



GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

“If a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it bears much fruit.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with Philip and they told Jesus. And Jesus answered them. “The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honour him. Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” He said this to show by what death he was to die. **The Gospel of the Lord.**

LENTEN CAMPAIGN WEEK FIVE

THEME: Emerging Threats to the Family.

Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45

The family is recognized as the fundamental unit of society in the Kenyan Constitution, with Articles 45(1) and (2) affirming its importance and guaranteeing individuals the right to marry based on mutual consent. Echoing this sentiment, the Church emphasizes the significance of the family unit, comprising a man, a woman, and their children, as an institution preceding the State, with inherent and inalienable rights. This provision not only highlights the vital role of the family in Kenyan society but also safeguards individuals' rights to form families based on mutual agreement. Consequently, the family plays an important role in shaping an individual's character and attitude towards society. (The Holy See, Charter of the Rights of the Family, October 22, 1983, D; The Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 2202).

Various threats are eroding the cohesion of families, leading to numerous issues including neglect, divorce, violence, and substance abuse. Pope Francis has addressed these challenges, criticizing materialism and individualism for undermining family bonds and emphasizing the importance of community and support within families.

To address all these issues, the family must become a school of deeper humanity. It requires a kind communion of minds with clear roles, spending time together, communicating well, adapting to stressors, and appreciating and encouraging one another. Moreover, the Church demands that both

the national and international community "must protect the family through measures of a political, economic, social, and juridical character, which aim at consolidating the unity and stability of the family so that it can exercise its specific function" (see 'The 1983 Vatican Charter of the Rights of the Family'). As members of the Christian community, and as part of the family of God, we are called to reflect on the following:

- What is the family's role in instilling and upholding moral values?
- How am I involved in promoting family values and contributing to countering emerging threats to the family?

To foster the well-being of families and counter the growing threats, the church suggests implementing the following action.

- Establish, promote, and strengthen family life programmes in the Small Christian Community, parish and community.
- Strengthen and establish (church-led) mentorship programmes for PMC, youth, CMA, CWA, and families.
- Set up programmes that support families to enhance their sources of livelihood.

Announcement

1. Next Sunday 24th, is Palm Sunday, the beginning of the Holy Week. All Masses will begin with a solemn procession starting from School Compound. Palms will be provided in all Masses.
2. This year's Lenten Campaign contributions will be channeled to support the Adoration Chapel. Kindly pick an envelope from blue boxes and return them with your offering.
3. Small Christian Communities Coordinating Team invites all the people who registered to join a Jumuiya and have not been contacted or placed in a Jumuiya and all those interested to join. Visit the desk outside the church for more information and registration.

4. Consolata Shrine Self-help Group is recruiting new members today outside the church in the tent.
5. The Way of the Cross in Fridays of Lent will be after 1:15 Mass and at 4:00 pm in the Prayer Garden and after 5.30 pm Mass inside the Church.
6. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Small Christian Community will animate the Rosary prayer next Saturday after 5 pm Mass.
7. There will be a spiritual pilgrimage to Italy from 23rd September to 4th October this year. The following places will be visited: Milan, Turin, Padova, Siena, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo and Rome. The total cost will be 2,900 Dollars. For more information please visit the parish office during the week.

PARISH WEBSITE: www.consolatashrine.org; **PARISH E-MAIL:** info@consolatashrine.org; communications@consolatashrine.org; **PARISH PRIEST'S E-MAIL:** parishpriest@consolatashrine.org; **Tithe Account No:** 002215001004856 – ABC Bank: A/C Name: Consolata Fathers –Shrine; Allamano Project Account No. 002215001004394.: ABC Bank: Consolata Father-Shrine Project; **PARISH MPESA NUMBER:** 508702, Account Reason for payment; **ALLAMANO PROJECT MPESA NUMBER:** 804877; P.O. Box 14930 - Nairobi; **TEL:** 0722-615105