



**CONSOLATA SHRINE**  
**SOLEMNITY OF THE**  
**ASCENSION OF THE LORD**  
**12<sup>th</sup> May 2024**



**FIRST READING**

**Acts 1:1-11**

*“As they were looking on, he was lifted up.”*

**The beginning of the Acts of the Apostles**

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and



teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, for John baptized with water,

but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or season which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9 (R.6)**

**R. God has gone up with shouts of joy. The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

All peoples clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, the great king over all the earth. **R**

God goes up with shouts of joy. The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God; sing praise! Sing praise to our king; sing praise! **R**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill.

God reigns over the nations. God sits upon his holy throne. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Ephesians 4:1-13

*"To the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."*

#### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Ephesians

Brethren: I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. **The word of the Lord.**



#### Alleluia, Alleluia

*Go and make disciples of all nations,  
says the Lord; I am with you always,  
to the close of the age. Alleluia,*



## GOSPEL

### Mark 16:15-20

*"He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God"*

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

At that time: [Jesus, appearing to the Eleven,] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up



serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the sign that attend it. Amen. **The Gospel of the Lord**

## **Reflection: The Good News: by PhD. Scott Hahn**

In today's first reading, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is



more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and he has

still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies. The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf. Indeed, his intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the first reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit". Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through baptism. The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord". The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace. The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called

“illumination” or “enlightenment” because of the light that came with God’s saving grace. Their “hope” is “his inheritance among the holy ones,” the saints who have been adopted into God’s family and now rule with him at the Father’s right hand. This is the “good news” the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the first Ascension. It’s the good news we must spread today.

### **Announcements**

1. The Easter Envelopes are available at the entrances of the Church. Pick & return with your offering in the blue boxes.
2. We are appealing for donations to help families affected by floods. Donations can be in the form of dry food, cooking oil, sugar, flour, clothing, blankets, monetary or any other household items. Kindly drop them in the Parish office during the week. They will be taken to the Archdiocese of Nairobi Office for distribution.
3. Couples planning to get married or solemnize their marriage are asked to register in the Catechist’s office during the week.
4. The Novena of Pentecost organised by the Charismatic Group is ongoing after 5:30 pm Mass; on 18<sup>th</sup> May it will be from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.
5. The CJPD is urging all parishioners to take part in protecting the environment by planting at least two trees during this long rain period. Kindly get a seedling at the cost of Kshs. 100 in the tent.
6. Our Lady of Fatima Small Christian Community will animate the Rosary on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> after 5.30 pm and St Jude Small Christian Community will animate the Rosary next Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, after 5 pm Mass.
7. There will be a spiritual pilgrimage to Italy from 23<sup>rd</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**PARISH WEBSITE:** [www.consolatashrine.org](http://www.consolatashrine.org); **PARISH E-MAIL:** [info@consolatashrine.org](mailto:info@consolatashrine.org); [communications@consolatashrine.org](mailto:communications@consolatashrine.org); **PARISH PRIEST’S E-MAIL:** 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