



CONSOLATA SHRINE
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT
1ST MARCH 2026



FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

The call of Abraham, the father of the People of God.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days:

The LORD said to Abram,
“Go from your country and
your kindred and your
father's house to the land
that I will show you. And I
will make of you a great
nation, and I will bless you,
and make your name great.
so that you will be a
blessing. I will bless those
who bless you, and him
who curses you I will curse;
and by you all the families
of the earth shall bless
themselves.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

The Word of the Lord.



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22
(R. 22)**

**R. May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord.**

The word of the LORD is faithful,
and all his works to be trusted.

The LORD loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth. **R.**

Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the LORD.
He is our help and our shield.
May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

God calls and enlightens us.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy



Beloved:

Take your share of suffering for the Gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.

The word of the Lord

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

R. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

From the shining cloud the Fathers voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

“His face shone like the sun.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mathew

At that time:

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart.

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to



them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He was still speaking, when behold. a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying. “Rise, and have no fear.” And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain. Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Reflection: Listen to Him by Scott Hahn, Ph. D

Today's Gospel portrays Jesus as a new and greater Moses. Moses also took three companions up a mountain and on the seventh day was overshadowed by the shining cloud of God's presence. He too spoke with God, and his face and clothing were made radiant in the encounter (see Exodus 24, 34). But in today's Lenten Liturgy, the Church wants us to look back past Moses. Indeed, we are asked to contemplate what today's Epistle calls God's "design . . . from before time began." With His promises to Abram in today's First Reading, God formed the people through whom He would reveal Himself and bestow His blessings on all humanity. He later elevated these promises to eternal covenants and changed Abram's name to Abraham, promising that he would be the father of a host of nations (see Genesis 17:5). In remembrance of His covenant with Abraham, He raised up Moses (see Exodus 2:24; 3:8) and later swore an everlasting kingdom to David's sons (see Jeremiah 33:26). In Jesus' transfiguration today, He is revealed as the One through whom God fulfills His divine plan from of old. Not only a new Moses, Jesus is also the "beloved son" promised to Abraham and again to David (see Genesis 22:15-18; Psalm 2:7; Matthew 1:1). Moses foretold a prophet like him to whom Israel would listen (see Deuteronomy 18:15, 18), and Isaiah foretold an anointed servant in whom God would be well pleased (see Isaiah 42:1). Jesus is this prophet and this servant, as the Voice on the mountain tells us today. By faith we have been made children of the covenant with Abraham (see Galatians 3:7-9; Acts 3:25). He calls us, too, to a holy life, to follow His Son to the heavenly homeland He has promised. We know, as we sing in today's Psalm, that we who hope in Him will be delivered from death. So like our father in faith, we go forth as the Lord directs us: "Listen to Him!"

LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2026

WEEK TWO: Ballooning Debt and Over-Taxation

Genesis 12:1-4a; Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9

The theme of Week two is the heavy burden of ballooning public debt and rising taxes that have left ordinary Kenyan families struggling to meet even the simplest needs and carry quiet pain that often goes unseen. A central lesson is the sacred duty to handle borrowed money with accountability and complete transparency. We cannot continue borrowing without clear benefits and still hope to hand over a healthy nation to our children.

The week also asks us to reflect on taxation, not just simply as a means of collecting money but as an expression of shared responsibility for the well-being of the nation. When citizens give generously but do not see improvement in health care, education, infrastructure, or social support, taxation becomes unjust. Development should never suffocate families or push them into despair. With reasonable borrowing, fair taxation, and honest stewardship, this country can flourish and build an economy that reflects compassion, justice, and respect for human dignity.

Kenyan households today are facing severe economic pressure as the cost of basic necessities, food, fuel, electricity, and education, continues to rise. Families are increasingly forced to make painful choices between meeting immediate needs and securing their future. At the center of this hardship is Kenya's ballooning public debt, which as of March 2025 stands at approximately Kshs 11.3 trillion, equivalent to 69 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. This level of indebtedness has significantly constrained fiscal space and shaped national economic policy.

To secure external financing, the Government has often committed to austerity measures that include raising taxes, reducing subsidies, and cutting public expenditure. While intended to stabilize the economy and meet debt servicing obligations, these measures have disproportionately burdened low- and middle-income households.

The 2024 Finance Bill illustrated this tension, proposing steep tax increases on essential goods and services in order to meet revenue targets. The proposals triggered widespread youth-led protests, reflecting deep public concern over the fairness, transparency, and inclusiveness of the budget-making process. Despite public outcry, the Bill was passed, further eroding trust in fiscal governance.

Salaried workers have been particularly affected. In addition to income tax, employees face multiple statutory deductions, including contributions to the housing levy, the Social Health Insurance Fund, and the National Social Security Fund. At the same time, households bear indirect taxes such as VAT and fuel levies, while often paying privately for services that are expected to be publicly provided. The cumulative impact is reduced disposable income and growing economic vulnerability.

Public frustration is intensified by concerns over transparency and accountability in the use of borrowed funds. While some infrastructure development is visible, numerous large-scale projects remain incomplete, mismanaged, or associated with corruption allegations. Citizen participation in debt decisions is minimal, and questions persist regarding the legality and sustainability of certain loans. The repayment of such debts through escalating taxation deepens perceptions of injustice.

Beyond its economic dimensions, the debt crisis presents a profound moral challenge. Sound public finance management must serve the common good, protect human dignity, and ensure that the most vulnerable are not unfairly burdened. Responsible borrowing, equitable taxation, transparent expenditure, and accountable leadership are essential to restoring public trust and promoting sustainable development.

Ultimately, Kenya's debt and taxation dilemma calls for both structural reform and ethical leadership. It demands informed citizen engagement, prudent fiscal management, and a renewed commitment to justice, integrity, and shared responsibility in nation-building.

Each Christian is called upon to reflect and examine their conscience by asking oneself the following questions.

- Do we know the country's total debt?
- Are loans being used on their planned projects?
- How well do we understand how our taxes are collected and spent?
- How do the loans hurt our healthcare, education and food supply?
- Have I spent more than I earn, borrowing for items I can't afford?
- Have I overlooked or supported corruption and wastefulness that increase the national debt and misuses taxes?
- Have I asked for clear, honest records on how the Government borrows and spends public money?
- Have I met a poor and vulnerable family that needs help and real solidarity? What have I done to support them?

In the spirit 2026 Lenten campaign, we are reminded as Christian; to make Personal Commitment and to ensure we continuously take action to hold our leaders accountable to the wellbeing of citizens and ensure they aren't burdened with taxation.

For more information, refer to the Lenten Campaign booklet shared on the different groups.

Announcements

1. St. Gregory Choir will animate the Rosary on Saturday 7th March, after the 5.00pm mass. All are welcome.
2. Today, we will have the blessing of your tithe and family. Kindly pick an envelope at the entrance of the Church.
 - The Rosary will be prayed in front of the Blessed Sacrament after 1 p.m. Mass
3. The meeting for parents of children preparing to receive First Holy Communion and confirmation will be held today at 2.30 pm in the Auditorium, Allamano Centre.
4. This year's Lenten campaign contributions will go towards purchasing pews and kneelers for our elderly and physically challenged parishioners. We kindly invite you to support this project by picking an envelope from the blue boxes at the entrance of the Church.
5. The Marriage Life Department has organized a Christian Life programme for married couples and couples preparing for marriage. The programme began on Sunday 22nd February and will continue every Sunday until 26th April 2026 in room 3F, Allamano centre from 11.00am to 12.30pm. All welcome to join
6. The *'Life in the Spirit'* Seminar continues today at the Parish hall at 2.00pm. For more information, kindly contact Grace on 0722609518.
7. Bible study classes resume on Wednesday 4th March at 11.00am (Morning session) and 7.00pm (Evening Session) at the Children's hall, Allamano Centre. All are welcome
8. The Christian Education Committee, in collaboration with the Catholic Justice and Peace Department (CJPD), wish to invite all Parishioners for a sensitization forum on the 2026 Lenten Campaign. The session will be held today at 9.00am in the Auditorium, Allamano Centre, the forum will be facilitated by Fr. Makau. Let us all come and learn how we can contribute effectively cascading the voice of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops on the issues affecting us in the society.

9. All Consolata Shrine and Deepsea Small Christian Communities (Jumuiyas) are recruiting new members. To join, Parishioners are invited to scan the QR code on the banners around the Church or visit the desk in the blue tent outside the Church for more information.

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; Mass Intentions (text messages): 0111376737 Bookshop: 0113681608; Parish office: 0722 615105