



CONSOLATA SHRINE
PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
29TH MARCH 2026



FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-7

“I hid not my face from shame, and I know I shall not be put to shame.”

-Third song of the Servant of the Lord

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary. Morning by morning he wakens, he wakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been confounded; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.



*I have
set my
face
like flint.*

The Word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24
(R. 2a)**

R. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me;
they curl their lips, they toss their heads:
“He trusted in the LORD, let him save him;
let him release him, for in him he delights.” **R.**

For dogs have surrounded me;
a band of the wicked besets me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;
I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothing among them,
they cast lots for my robe.
But you, O LORD, do not stay afar off;
my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my kin,
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;
“You who fear the LORD, give him praise;
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel.” **R.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:6-11

“He humbled himself, and God has highly exalted him.”

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians



Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto

death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Philippians 2:8b-9

R. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Christ became obedient for us unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him:
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:14-27:66

In the following Passion narrative: **N.** = narrator; **+** = Christ; **S.** = speakers other than Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

N. At that time: One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, **S.** “What will you give me if I deliver him to you?”

N. And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.

And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.



Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread
the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

S. “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

N. He said,

+ “Go into the city to such a one, and say to him,
‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand;
I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’”

N. And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them,
and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples;
and as they were eating, he said,

+ “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

N. And they were very sorrowful,
and began to say to him one after another,

S. “Is it I, Lord?”

N. He answered,

+ “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me,
will betray me.

The Son of man goes as it is written of him,

but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed!

It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

N. Judas, who betrayed him, said,

S. “Is it I, Master?”

N. He said to him,

+ “You have said so.”

N. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread,
and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,

+ “Take, eat; this is my body.”

N. And he took a chalice,

and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

+ “Drink of it, all of you;

for this is my blood of the covenant,

which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

N. And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them,

+ “You will all fall away because of me this night; for it is written, I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

N. Peter declared to him,

S. “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

N. Jesus said to him,

+ “Truly, I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

N. Peter said to him,

S. “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you.”

N. And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

+ “Sit here, while I go over there and pray”

N. And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Then he said to them,

+ “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death: remain here, and watch with me.”

N. And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed,

+ “My Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me;

nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

N. And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping;
and he said to Peter,

+ “So, could you not watch with me one hour?
Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation;
the spirit indeed is willing,
but the flesh is weak.”

N. Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed,

+ “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it,
your will be done.”

N. And again he came and found them sleeping,
for their eyes were heavy.

So, leaving them again,
he went away and prayed for the third time,
saying the same words.

Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

+ “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?
Behold, the hour is at hand,
and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
Rise, let us be going;
See, my betrayer is at hand.”

N. While he was still speaking,
Judas came, one of the Twelve,
and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs,
from the chief priests and the elders of the people.
Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

S. “The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him.”

N. And he came up to Jesus at once and said,

S. “Hail, Master!”

N. And he kissed him.

Jesus said to him,

+ “Friend, why are you here?”

N. Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

+ “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

N. At that hour Jesus said to the crowds.
+ “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place, that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”

N. Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter followed him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council sought false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

S. “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.’”

N. And the high priest stood up and said,

S. Have you no answer to make?

What is it that these men testify against you?"

N. But Jesus was silent.

And the high priest said to him,

S. "I adjure you by the living God,
tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

N. Jesus said to him,

+ "You have said so,

But I tell you,

hereafter you will see the Son of man
seated at the right hand of Power,
and coming on the clouds of heaven."

N. Then the high priest tore his robes, and said,

S. "He has uttered blasphemy.

Why do we still need witnesses?

You have now heard his blasphemy.

What is your judgement?"

N. They answered,

S. "He deserves death."

N. Then they spat in his face, and struck him;
and some slapped him, saying,

S. "Prophecy to us, you Christ!

Who is it that struck you?"

N. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard.

And a maid came up to him, and said,

S. "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

N. But he denied it before them all, saying,

S. "I do not know what you mean."

N. And when he went out to the porch,

another maid saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

S. "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

N. And again he denied it with an oath,

S. “I do not know the man.”

N. After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

S. “Certainly you are also one of them,
for your accent betrays you.”

N. Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,

S. “I do not know the man.”

N. And immediately the cock crowed.

And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus,

“Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came,

all the chief priests and the elders of the people

took counsel against Jesus to put him to death;

and they bound him and led him away

and delivered him to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that he was condemned,

he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver

to the chief priests and the elders, saying,

S. “I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.”

N. They said,

S. “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”

N. And throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple,

he departed;

and he went and hanged himself.

But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said

S. “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury,

since they are blood money.”

N. So they took counsel,

and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

Therefore that field has been called

the Field of Blood to this day.

Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet

Jeremiah, saying,

“And they took the thirty pieces of silver,
the price of him on whom a price had been set
by some of the sons of Israel,
and they gave them for the potter's field,
as the Lord directed me.”

Now Jesus stood before the governor;
and the governor asked him,

S. “Are you the King of the Jews?”

N. Jesus said to him,

+ “You have said so.”

N. But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders,
he made no answer.

Then Pilate said to him,

S. “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”

N. But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge;
so that the governor wondered greatly.

Now at the feast

the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd
any one prisoner whom they wanted.

And they had then a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas.

So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

S. “Whom do you want me to release for you,
Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?”

N. For he knew that it was out of envy
that they had delivered him up.

Besides, while he was sitting on the judgement seat,
his wife sent word to him,

“Have nothing to do with that righteous man,
for I have suffered much over him today in a dream.”

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people
to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

The governor again said to them,

S. “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”

N. And they said,

S. “Barabbas.”

N. Pilate said to them,

S. “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

N. They all said,

S. “Let him be crucified.”

N. And he said,

S. “Why, what evil has he done?”

N. But they shouted all the more,

S. “Let him be crucified.”

N. So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing,
but rather that a riot was beginning,

he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying

S. “I am innocent of this righteous man’s blood;
see to it yourselves.”

N. And all the people answered,

S. “His blood be on us and on our children!”

N. Then he released for them Barabbas,
and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor

took Jesus into the praetorium,

and they gathered the whole battalion before him.

And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him.

and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head,

and put a reed in his right hand.

And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying,

S. “Hail, King of the Jews!”

N. And they spat upon him,

and took the reed and struck him on the head.

And when they had mocked him,

they stripped him of the robe,

and put his own clothes on him,

and led him away to crucify him.

As they were marching out,
they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name;
this man they compelled to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha
(which means the place of a skull),
they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall;
but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

And when they had crucified him,
they divided his garments among them by casting lots;
then they sat down and kept watch over him there.

And over his head they put the charge against him,
which read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews."

Then two robbers were crucified with him,
one on the right and one on the left.

And those who passed by derided him,
wagging their heads, and saying,

S. "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days,
save yourself!

If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

N. So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders,
mocked him, saying,

S. "He saved others; he cannot save himself.

He is the King of Israel;

let him come down now from the cross,
and we will believe in him.

He trusts in God;

let God deliver him now, if he desires him;
for he said, I am the Son of God."

N. And the robbers who were crucified with him
also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour

there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.
And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice,

+ “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”

N. that is

+ “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

N. And some of the bystanders hearing it said,

S. “This man is calling Elijah.”

N. And one of them at once ran and took a sponge,
filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed,
and gave it to him to drink.

But the others said,

S. “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

N. And Jesus cried again with a loud voice
and yielded up his spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two,
from top to bottom;

and the earth shook, and the rocks were split;

the tombs also were opened,

and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep
were raised,

and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection
they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

When the centurion and those who were with him,
keeping watch over Jesus,

saw the earthquake and what took place,

they were filled with awe, and said,

S. “Truly this was the Son of God!”

N. There were also many women there,

looking on from afar,

who had followed Jesus from Galilee,

ministering to him;

among whom were Mary Magdalene,

and Mary the mother of James and Joseph,

and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening,

there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph,
who also was a disciple of Jesus.

He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus

Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.

And Joseph took the body,

and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud,

and laid it in his own new tomb,

which he had hewn in the rock;

and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb,

and departed.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there,

sitting opposite the tomb.

Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation,

the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate

and said,

S. “Sir, we remember how that impostor said,

while he was still alive,

‘After three days I will rise again.’

Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day,

lest his disciples go and steal him away,

and tell the people, He has risen from the dead,’

and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”

N. Pilate said to them,

S. “You have a guard of soldiers;

go, make it as secure as you can.”

N. So they went and made the tomb secure

by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

The gospel of the Lord.

Reflection: All is Fulfilled by Scott Hahn, Ph. D

“All this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled,” Jesus says in today’s Gospel (see Matthew 26:56). Indeed, we have reached the climax of the liturgical year, the highest peak of salvation history, when all that has been anticipated and promised is to be fulfilled. By the close of today’s long Gospel, the work of our redemption will have been accomplished: the new covenant will be written in the blood of His broken body hanging on the Cross at the place called the Skull. In His Passion, Jesus is “counted among the wicked,” as Isaiah had foretold (see Isaiah 53:12). He is revealed definitively as the Suffering Servant the prophet announced, the long-awaited Messiah whose words of obedience and faith ring out in today’s First Reading and Psalm. The taunts and torments we hear in these two readings punctuate the Gospel as Jesus is beaten and mocked (see Matthew 27:31), as His hands and feet are pierced, as enemies gamble for His clothes (see Matthew 27:35), and as His enemies dare Him to prove His divinity by saving Himself from suffering (see Matthew 27:39–44). He remains faithful to God’s will to the end. He does not turn back in His trial. He gives Himself freely to His torturers, confident that, as He speaks in today’s First Reading, “The Lord God is My help . . . I shall not be put to shame.” Destined to sin and death as children of Adam’s disobedience, we have been set free for holiness and life by Christ’s perfect obedience to the Father’s will (see Romans 5:12–14, 17–19; Ephesians 2:2; 5:6). This is why God greatly exalted Him. This is why we have salvation in His name. Following His example of humble obedience in the trials and crosses of our lives, we know we will never be forsaken. We know, as the centurion realizes today, that truly this is the Son of God (see Matthew 27:54).

Announcements

1. The Lenten campaign contributions will go towards renovating pews and kneelers in the entire Church. We kindly invite you to support this project by picking an envelope from the blue boxes at the entrance of the Church.
2. St. Julia of Corsica will animate the Rosary on Saturday 4th April, after the 5.00pm Mass. All are welcome.

3. Easter Dues envelopes are available at the entrances of the Church. Please pick and return them in the blue offertory boxes.
4. Next week is Holy week. The program will be as follows:

Time	Place	Activity
Confession (Mon 29th March to Wed 1st April 2026): 9am – 12pm & 2.00pm to 5.00pm at all Masses		
Holy Thursday (Confession not available)		
7.00am	Shrine	Morning Prayers
10.00am	Holy Family Basilica	Chrism Mass. All are invited
6.00pm	Shrine & Deepsea	Mass of the Lord's supper
Good Friday – Friday of the Passion of the Lord		
7.00am	Shrine	Morning Prayers
10.00am	Shrine & Deepsea	Way of the Cross– animated by the youth
12.30pm	Shrine	Movie: Passion of Christ
3.00pm	Shrine	Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil		
7.00am	Shrine	Morning Prayers
6.00pm	St. Joseph Deepsea	Start of Easter Vigil
7.00pm	Shrine	Start of Easter Vigil celebration. To gather at 6.45pm at the fire in front of the Church
Easter Sunday		
Shrine & Deepsea: Mass as per normal Sunday Schedule		
Easter Monday		
Shrine : Mass at 7.00am & 5.30pm		

5. Next Sunday 5th April, we shall have the blessing of your tithe and family. Kindly pick an envelope at the entrance of the Church.
 - Children will animate Mass at 9.00am. There will be no Children Sunday Service.

- The Rosary will be prayed in front of the Blessed Sacrament after 1 p.m. Mass
- 6. The Archdiocese of Nairobi remains committed to foster unity with the Holy See and to support the mission of the universal church. In light of this, there will be a second collection on Good Friday 3rd April, the collection will go towards preserving the Holy places where Jesus lived and taught. All are welcome to support this course.
- 7. 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
- 8. The *'Life in the Spirit'* Seminar continues today at the Parish hall at 2.00pm. For more information, kindly contact Grace on 0722609518.
- 9. Bible study classes continue on Wednesday 1st April at 11.00am (Morning session) and 7.00pm (Evening Session) at the Children's hall, Allamano Centre. All are welcome
- 10. We wish to inform all Parishioners that in a bid to promote veneration and reverence of the Blessed Sacrament, the Shrine shall implement a more orderly ushering process during Communion at all Masses starting from Holy Thursday. Kindly follow the guidance of the ushers to ensure that movement during Mass is orderly and efficient.
- 11. Consolata School, Nairobi, invites all alumni to a meeting on Saturday 11th April 2026 from 10.30am at Consolata School, Westlands. To register, kindly scan the QR code on the posters displayed on the Church notice board.
- 12. The Pastoral team wishes you a fruitful Holy week.

Wedding Bans

There is a promise of marriage between:

1. *Joseph Vincent Gichamba & Elizabeth Wangechi Ndungu*
(3rd Announcement)

Kindly visit the parish notice board for more information. If anyone has an objection, please notify the Father in-charge.

PARISH WEBSITE: www.consolatashrine.org; **PARISH E-MAIL:** info@consolatashrine.org; communications@consolatashrine.org; **PARISH PRIEST'S E-MAIL:** parishpriest@consolatashrine.org; Tithes 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