

## Regina Coeli of Pope Francis April 24, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, *Buongiorno!*

Today, the last day of the Octave of Easter, the Gospel recounts the first and second apparition of the Risen One to the disciples. Jesus comes at Passover, while the Apostles are shut in the Upper Room, out of fear, but since Thomas, one of the Twelve, is not present, Jesus returns eight days later (cf. *Jn 20:19-29*). Let's focus on the two main characters, Thomas and Jesus, looking first at the disciple, and then at the Master. There is a good dialogue between these two.

The Apostle Thomas, first of all. He represents all of us, who were not present in the Upper Room when the Lord appeared, and did not have other physical signs or apparitions from him. We too struggle at times like that disciple: how can we believe that Jesus is risen, that he accompanies us and is the Lord of our life without having seen him, without having touched him? How can one believe in this? Why does the Lord not give us some clearer sign of his presence and love? Some sign that I can see better... Here, we too are like Thomas, with the same doubts, the same reasoning.

But we do not need to be ashamed of this. By telling us the story of Thomas, in fact, the Gospel tells us that the Lord is not looking for perfect Christians. The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith. When a Christian is like that, something isn't right. No, the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows. Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be? It knows times of comfort, zeal and enthusiasm, but also of weariness, confusion, doubt and darkness. The Gospel shows us Thomas' "crisis" to tell us that we should not fear the crises of life and faith. Crises are not sins, they are part of the journey, we should not fear them. Many times, they make us humble because they strip us of the idea that we are fine, that we are better than others. Crises help us to recognize that we are needy: they rekindle the need for God and thus enable us to return to the Lord, to touch his wounds, to experience his love anew as if it were the first time. Dear brothers and sisters, is better to have an imperfect but humble faith that always returns to Jesus, than a strong but presumptuous faith that makes us proud and arrogant. Woe to those, woe to them!

And, faced with Thomas' absence and his journey, which is often also our own, what does Jesus do? The Gospel says twice that he "came" (vv. 19, 26). First once, then a second time, eight days later. Jesus does not give up, he does not get tired of us, he is not afraid of our crises, our weaknesses. He always comes back: when the doors are closed, he comes back; when we are doubt, he comes back; when, like Thomas, we need to encounter him and to touch him up close, he comes back. Jesus always comes back, he always knocks on the door, and he does not come back with powerful signs that would make us feel small and inadequate, even ashamed, but with his wounds; he comes back showing us his wounds, signs of his love that has espoused our frailties.

Brothers and sisters, especially when we experience moments of weariness and crisis, the Risen Jesus wishes to return to stay with us. He only waits for us to seek him, to call on him, or even, like Thomas, to protest, bringing him our needs and our unbelief. He always comes back. Why? Because he is patient and merciful. He comes to open the upper rooms of our fears and unbelief because he always wants to give us another chance. Jesus is the Lord of "other chances": he always gives us another one, always. So let us think about the last time – let's try to remember a little – that, during a difficult moment or a period of crisis, we closed in on ourselves, barricading ourselves in our problems and shutting Jesus out of the house. And let us promise ourselves, the next time, in our fatigue, to seek Jesus, to return to him, to his forgiveness – he always forgives, always! – to return to those wounds that have healed us. In this way, we will also become capable of compassion, of approaching the wounds of others without inflexibility and without prejudice.

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González  
P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez  
P. Vicar: Rev. Paul Passant

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### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



#### HOLY MASS

**Saturday:** 05:30pm English, Church.

**Sunday:** 09:00am English, Church.  
10:30am Creole, Church.  
12:30pm Spanish, Church.

**Weekdays:** 05:30pm English, Blue Chapel.

**Fridays:** 04:00pm Adoration of Blessed  
Sacrament and Rosary.  
05:30pm Blue Chapel.

#### SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

**Baptisms:** Contact one of the priests in person.

**Confessions:** Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Upon request.

**Marriage:** Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

**1st Communions:** 19 June, 2022.

**Confirmation:** TBA

Jesus asks Peter, 'Do love me more than these?' We are all Peter and Jesus is asking you today the same question. If you are sincere you will see that you do not love Jesus more than the others. You love your family, your friends, your reputation, your money, more than Jesus Christ. But what about St. Peter? Well, it's true he betrayed his Lord in his hour of need. Also, even after Pentecost, where Peter received the Holy Spirit, he still managed to put other things before the Lord. For example, in the letter to the Galatians, St. Paul speaks how Peter sided with those Jewish Christians who tried to force the Jewish Law on the pagans who had become Christians and St. Paul corrects him very strongly because Peter was trying to please this group of his fellow Christians at the cost of the other side. Then there is the tradition that as St. Peter was leaving Rome he ran into Jesus heading the other way and asks Jesus, "Quo vadis Domine?" which means "Where are you going, Lord?" and Jesus answers that He is going to get on the cross that Peter is trying to escape. Every day you do not love the Lord in different ways, either by your cowardice, in not speaking about Him to others, or you deny Him by putting everything else before Him etc. But then how can Peter (and you) say "You know that I love you?" Because it's true. I am weak but Lord you know everything you know I do really love you", and let us lift up our eyes to Him and recognise the times we fail to love Him but confidently say "Lord I love you.", Fr. Paul

## HOW CAN WE SERVE GOD IN OUR CHURCH?

If any one is interested in serving God in any ministry like: the Eucharist, Lector, hospitality or singing in the choirs, please notify the pastor.

Fr. Orlando.

If you join the choir to sing,  
you will pray twice says

St. Augustine.

Contact one of the members after Mass.

## HOLY HOUR

All are invited to come and adore the Lord in the blessed sacrament at the **new time of 4:00 pm –5:15pm** on every Friday in the daily mass chapel. There will be adoration, rosary, spiritual reading and confessions. This can also be a good preparation for the daily mass at 5:30pm. The change comes so that those who could not stay after 6pm due to other reasons can now come earlier.

## Parish Events May 1-8

**Sunday:** Holy Mass: 09:00am, 10:30am, 12:30pm

04:00pm Coeur de Marie: Children's group.

05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.

05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.

05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice

05:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

**Monday:** 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

St.

**Tuesday** 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel,

07:00pm 1st English. JP II

07:00pm 2nd English Maria Goretti

07:00pm 1st Spanish. Blue Chapel

07:00pm 2nd Spanish. Red Room

**Wednesday:** 05:30pm Mass Church

07:00pm 1st Creole, Red Room.

07:00pm 3rd English, Maria Goretti

07:00pm 2nd Creole, B. Sacrament

07:00pm 4th English Blue Chapel

**Thursday:** 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.

06:00pm Creole Choir Practice  
Parish Hall.

**Friday:** 04:00pm Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament & Benediction.

Confessions

05:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.

**Saturday:** 05:30pm Mass, Church

07:00pm NCW Eucharist



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875



### Spirituality

Holy Family Academy welcomed back its students from Easter break with a solemn mass to celebrate the feast of Saint Mark and the resurrection of Jesus Christ in our

lives. The celebration continued throughout the day with students enjoying their class parties.

### Academics

HFA held its Annual Sports day within the campus and the children were ecstatic to participate in several categories. They enthusiastically cheered each other on throughout the day and had a wonderful day being in communion with their companions and team

[www.hfa.catholic.tc](http://www.hfa.catholic.tc)

### SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies. Any help God will reward you a hundred fold. If you would like and are able to help contact us at [holyfamilytci@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilytci@gmail.com)

**You can also donate from the US in the following link:**

<https://www.rcan.org/mission-turks-and-caicos-islands>

### Wish List

This is another way to help the missionary school or students who are in need, by donating any of the following:

- Abacus
- Jumping Ropes, Pingo Pong table
- Hand Sanitizer, alcohol and paper hand towels
- Cleaning Tools (mops, brooms, gloves.)
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255