

Pope Francis' Angelus 20 March 2022

We are at the heart of our Lenten journey, and today the Gospel begins by presenting Jesus who comments on some news of the day. While people still remember the eighteen who died when a tower collapsed on them, they tell Him about some Galileans whom Pilot had killed (cf. *Lk 13:1*). And there is a question that seems to accompany these tragic affairs: who is to blame for these terrible events? Perhaps those people were guiltier than others and God punished them? These are questions that also come up today. When bad news weighs on us and we feel powerless before evil, we often ask ourselves: is it perhaps a punishment from God? Did He bring about a war or a pandemic to punish us for our sins? And why does the Lord not intervene?

We must be careful: when evil oppresses us, we risk losing our clarity and, to find an easy answer to what we are unable to explain, we end up putting the blame on God. And so often the very bad habit of using profanities comes from this. How often we attribute to Him our woes and misfortunes in the world, to Him who instead leaves us always free and hence never intervenes imposing, but only proposing; He who never uses violence and instead suffers for us and with us! Indeed, Jesus refuses and contests strongly the idea of blaming God for our evils: those persons who were killed by Pilate and those who died when the tower collapsed on them were not any more at fault than others, and they were not victims of a ruthless and vindictive God, which does not exist! Evil can never come from God because "He does not deal with us according to our sins" (*Ps 103:10*), but according to His mercy. This is God's style. He cannot treat us otherwise. He always treats us with mercy.

Rather than blaming God, Jesus says we need to look inside ourselves: it is sin that produces death; our selfishness can tear apart relationships; our wrong and violent choices can unleash evil. At this point the Lord offers the true solution, and that is conversion: He says, "unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (*Lk 13:5*). It is an urgent call, especially during this time of Lent. Let us welcome it with an open heart. Let us turn from evil, let us renounce the sin that seduces us, let us be open to the logic of the Gospel because where love and fraternity reign, evil has no more power!

But Jesus knows that conversion is not easy, and he wants to help us here, given that so many times we repeat the same mistakes and the same sins. We can become discouraged, and sometimes our commitment to do good can seem useless in a world where evil seems to rule. So, after his appeal, He encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience God has for us. We must keep in mind God's patience that He has for us. He offers the consoling image of fig tree that does not bear fruit during the accorded season, but it is not cut down. He gives it more time, another possibility. I like thinking that a nice name for God could be "the God of another possibility": God always gives us another opportunity, always, always. That is what His mercy is like. This is how the Lord works with us. He does not cut us out of his love. He does not lose heart or tire of offering us again His trust with tenderness. Brothers and sisters, God believes in us! God trusts us and accompanies us with patience, the patience of God with us. He does not get discouraged, but always instills hope in us. God is Father and looks after you like a father. As the best of fathers, He does not look at the achievements you have not yet reached, but the fruits you can still bear. He does not keep track of your shortcomings but encourages your potential. He does not dwell on your past, but confidently bets on your future. This is because God is close to us. Let us not forget that the style of God is closeness, He is close with mercy and tenderness. In this way God accompanies us: with closeness, mercy, and tenderness.

So let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to fill us with hope and courage, and kindle in us the desire for conversion.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



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

Today is Joyful Sunday. Hence the rose colour. Why? Because by now it is hoped that you have begun to see your sinfulness and this can be overwhelming. So the Church gives us the Gospel of the Prodigal son. He had to go through the process of a sinful life to discover the truth and that is, that sin cannot make you happy. He learnt his lesson and became repentant. Let's hope we too can become repentant of our sinful ways and return to the Father. There is, however, the elder son. He is more like us who come to church, as he has been good all his life but deep down he has never really experienced the love of the Father and so, when his brother comes back he gets upset at the way the Father treats him with such kindness. He himself has never seen this. He has gone through life without discovering this immense love of the Father. How strange. The bad sinner is really the good one and the good boy is really the bad guy!

Finally to reiterate this, I hope you notice that the story does not have an ending. We do not know if the elder son ever entered the banquet or not. The Gospel writer has left it deliberately so. That means the ball is in our court so that we too can enter into the banquet of the Father. It is open to all, both sinners and Pharisees, as they are represented in the elder son. Brothers and sisters, let us pray during this Lent that we can discover the depth of our sinfulness so that we can truly repent of our sins and come to know the great loving mercy of God our Father.

Fr. Paul

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MORNING PRAYER: Monday to Friday at 6:20 am. Blue Chapel

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 6:00 pm. Fridays. Church.

PALM SUNDAY

Apr. 09: 05:30 pm English
Apr. 10:* 09:00 am English — Church.
11:00 am Multilingual

*Solemn Procession from downtown to the church. 10:00 am

HOLY THURSDAY— Apr. 14
06:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper and washing of the feet. Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.

GOOD FRIDAY — Apr. 15:
03:00 pm The Passion of the Lord.
 Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.
04:00 pm Living Stations of the Cross

SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

Apr. 16: 10:30 pm
 (There will NOT be any Mass this Saturday at 05:30pm).

EASTER SUNDAY
Apr. 17: 09:00 am English at the Church.
11:00 am Multilingual at the Church.
05:30 pm English at the Church.

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 Mar.27-April 3

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 Fraternitey, 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

Tuesday 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel,
 07:00pm 1st English. Church
 07:00pm 2nd English New Bldg
 07:00pm 4th English. New Bldg
 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, Blue Chapel.
 07:00pm 2nd Creole, B. Sacrament

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.
 06:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass, Church

Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW

07:00pm Church, Blue Chapel and Red Room.



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

Holy Family Academy students are ecstatic as they prepare for several spring events that are soon to come. Students are preparing spiritually for the coming of Easter and are using this time to give alms, fast, and pray.

They are also preparing for the coming of Sports day and have begun their first meeting this past week.

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

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