

## Pope Francis Audience 26 March 2025

Today we will reflect on those moments in which it seems that Jesus is waiting right there, at that crossroads in our life. They are encounters that surprise us, so let us try to be prudent and to understand what is happening. This was probably also the experience of the Samaritan woman, mentioned in chapter four of John's Gospel (cf. 4:5-26). She did not expect to find a man at the well at noon; indeed she hoped to find no one at all. In fact, she goes to fetch water from the well at an unusual hour, when it is very hot. Perhaps this woman is ashamed of her life, perhaps she has felt judged, condemned, not understood, and for this reason she has isolated herself, she has broken off relations with everyone. To go to Galilee from Judea, Jesus would have had to choose another road and not pass through Samaria. It would also have been safer, given the tense relations between the Jews and the Samaritans. Instead, He wants to pass through there, and stops at that very well, right at that time! Jesus waits for us and lets Himself be found precisely when we think that there is no hope left for us. The well, in the ancient Middle East, is a place of encounter, where at times marriages are arranged; it is a place of betrothal. Jesus wants to help this woman understand where to find the true answer to her desire to be loved. The theme of desire is fundamental to understanding this encounter. Jesus is the first to express His desire: "Give me a drink!" (v. 10). For the sake of opening a dialogue, Jesus makes Himself appear weak, in order to put the other person at ease, making sure that she is not frightened. Thirst is often, even in the Bible, the image of desire. But Jesus here thirsts first of all for the woman's salvation. "He who was asking drink", says Saint Augustine, "was thirsting for the faith of the woman herself". [1] Whereas Nicodemus had gone to Jesus at night, here Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at midday, the time when there is most light. It is indeed a moment of revelation. Jesus makes Himself known to her as the Messiah and also sheds light on His life. He helps her to reread her history, which is complicated and painful: she has had five husbands and is now with a sixth who is not a husband. The number six is not accidental, but usually indicates imperfection. Perhaps it is an allusion to the seventh bridegroom, the one who will finally satiate this woman's desire to be truly loved. And that bridegroom can only be Jesus. When she realizes that Jesus knows her life, the woman shifts the conversion to the religious question that divided Jews and Samaritans. This happens sometimes to us too when we pray: at the moment in which God is touching our life, with its problems, we lose ourselves at times in reflections that give us the illusion of a successful prayer. In reality, we have raised barriers of protection. However, the Lord is always greater, and to that Samaritan woman, to whom according to cultural precepts He should not even have spoken, He gives the highest revelation: He speaks to her of the Father, who is to be adored in spirit and truth. And when she, once again surprised, observes that on these things it is better to wait for the Messiah, He tells her: "I am he, the one who is speaking with you" (v. 26). It is like a declaration of love: the One you are waiting for is Me; the One who can finally respond to your desire to be loved. At that point the woman runs to call the people of the village, because mission springs precisely from the experience of feeling loved. And what proclamation could she have brought, if not her experience of being understood, welcomed, forgiven? It is an image that should make us reflect on our search for new ways to evangelize. Just like a person in love, the Samaritan forgets her water jar, leaving it at Jesus' feet. The weight of that jar on her head, every time she returned home, reminded her of her condition, her troubled life. But now the jar is left at Jesus' feet. The past is no longer a burden; she is reconciled. And it is like this for us too: to go and proclaim the Gospel, we first need to set down the burden of our history at the feet of the Lord, to consign to Him the weight of our past. Only reconciled people can bring the Gospel. Brothers and dear sisters, let us not lose hope! Even if our history appears burdensome, complicated, perhaps even ruined to us, we always have the possibility of consigning it to God and setting out anew on our journey. God is merciful, and awaits us.

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

**1310 Leeward Highway, Providenciales.**  
**P.O. Box 340, Turks & Caicos Islands.**  
**Phone: (+1649) 941-5136**

[www.catholic.tc](http://www.catholic.tc) - [oldpchurch@catholic.tc](mailto:oldpchurch@catholic.tc)



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



### HOLY MASS

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

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

**Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.**

**Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.**

**05:30 pm Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.**

### SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

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

**1st Confession: 13 June, 2025.**  
**1st Communions: 22 June, 2025.**

**Confirmations: To be confirmed.**

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

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

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

.In today's Gospel Jesus shows what true wisdom really is. When the Scribes and Pharisees present the woman who was caught in adultery to Him and ask what should be done with her, Jesus doesn't say a thing. He remains silent and bends down and writes on the ground. He does not, in fact answer their question but instead he turns it back onto them. "If you are without sin cast the first stone." Clearly no one was without sin. So, this whole trap that was being set for Him turns out to convict the would be stone throwers back onto themselves. How ingenious is Jesus. Secondly, Jesus knows that people who want to cast stones at other people in their sins are doing this because they don't accept or they deny their own sinfulness. They are a bit like you. When you accuse someone else of something it's because deep down you do the same and are blind to it and so are unhappy with yourself so you look for a scapegoat. So today it's good to reflect on who you accuse, even if only in your heart, and of what are you accusing them? Hopefully, you will see that it's more about you than them. Why do you judge people? Because they show you who you are! This is my experience. Whenever I am tempted to judge or if in fact I do, then I begin to see that that is precisely what I don't accept about myself. If you judge, accuse, someone it's because you don't feel forgiven for doing the same thing. Perhaps you will say "No, I would never do a thing like that?" Well, be very careful as the Lord can allow you to fall into such and such a sin so that you don't become too proud.

Let us from today's Gospel ask the Lord to receive His immense mercy, the same mercy He had on the woman in Today's Gospel so as not to judge or accuse those around us.

Fr. Paul

## PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### PALM SUNDAY

5:30 p.m. (Saturday) English  
09:00 a.m. English — Church.  
11:00 a.m. Multilingual

\*Solemn Procession from downtown to the church. 10:00 a.m.

### HOLY THURSDAY

06:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper and washing of the feet.  
Multilingual

### GOOD FRIDAY

03:00 p.m. The Passion of the Lord  
Multilingual  
04:15 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross

### SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

10:30 p.m. Saturday evening.  
There will NOT be any Mass this Saturday at 05:30 pm.

### EASTER SUNDAY

09:00 a.m. English at the Church.  
11:00 a.m. Multilingual at the Church.

## LENTEN SCHEDULE

### Morning Prayer

Monday to Friday 6:20am  
St. Maria Goretti, Upper Room

### Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent after the daily mass, 6:00 pm in the Church.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY

### PLEASE HELP US GET THERE

(around 50 young & adults \$3,000 e/a)

Any help God will reward you a hundred fold, not only spiritually but materially as well.

## Parish Events 6 –13 April

### Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.

04:00pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.  
05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.  
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice.  
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.  
06:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

### Monday St. John Baptist de la Salle

05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

### Tuesday

05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room  
07:00pm First English Blue Chapel  
07:00pm Second English Red Room  
07:00pm Spanish SMG, Upper Room

### Wednesday

05:30pm Daily Mass., SMG Upper Room  
07:00pm Third English SMG, Upper Room  
07:00pm Fourth English Red Room  
07:00pm Fifth English Blue Chapel  
07:00pm Creole Blessed Sac. Chapel

### Thursday

05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room

### Friday St. Stanislaus

04:00 pm Adoration, SMG upstairs  
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs  
06:00 pm Stations of the Cross in the Church

### Saturday

05:30 pm Mass in Church  
07:00 pm Eucharist NCW



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

On Tuesday, Ezekiel's first reading described water flowing eastward from the Temple. We learned that the Temple was specifically oriented eastward, and the homily explained this symbolized our need to be oriented towards Christ's light in order to do God's will.



On Wednesday and Thursday students went to the inter-primary track and field competition with all the schools on island. 11 students went to compete and we met our schools personal goals and did very good!

[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.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- Asthma Inhalers & AED

Click on our [Wish List](#) or scan the code to see more!

