

## POPE Francis, Angelus 2 January 2022

Today's Liturgy offers us a beautiful phrase, that we always pray in the *Angelus* and which by itself reveals to us the meaning of Christmas. It says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (*Jn 1:14*). The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. These words, if we think about it, contain a paradox. They bring together two opposites: the *Word* and the *flesh*. "Word" indicates that Jesus is the eternal Word of the Father, infinite, existing from all time, before all created things; "flesh", on the other hand, indicates precisely our created reality, fragile, limited, mortal. Before Jesus there were two separate worlds: Heaven opposed to earth, the infinite opposed to the finite, spirit opposed to matter. And there is another opposition in the Prologue of the Gospel of John, another binomial: *word* and *flesh* are a binomial; the other binomial is *light* and *darkness* (cf. v. 5). Jesus is the light of God who has entered into the darkness of the world. *Light* and *darkness*. God is light: in him there is no opacity; in us, on the other hand, there is much darkness. Now, with Jesus, light and darkness meet: holiness and sin, grace and sin. Jesus, the incarnation of Jesus is the very place of the encounter, the encounter between God and humanity, the encounter between grace and sin. What does the Gospel intend to announce with these polarities? Something splendid: God's way of acting. Faced with our frailties, the Lord does not withdraw. He does not remain in his blessed eternity and in his infinite light, but rather he draws close, he makes himself incarnate, he descends into the darkness, he dwells in lands that are foreign to him. And why does God do this? Why does he come down to us? He does this because he does not resign himself to the fact that we can go astray by going far from him, far from eternity, far from the light. This is God's work: *to come among us*. If we consider ourselves unworthy, that does not stop him: he comes. If we reject him, He does not tire of seeking us out. If we are not ready and willing to receive him, he prefers to come anyway. And if we close the door in his face, he waits. He is truly the Good Shepherd. And the most beautiful image of the Good Shepherd? The Word that becomes flesh to share in our life. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who comes to seek us right where we are: in our problems, in our suffering... He comes there.

Dear brothers and sisters, often we keep our distance from God because we think we are not worthy of him for other reasons. And it is true. But Christmas invites us to see things *from his point of view*. God wishes to be incarnate. If your heart seems too contaminated by evil, if it seems disordered, please, do not close yourself up, do not be afraid: he will come. Think of the stable in Bethlehem. Jesus was born there, in that poverty, to tell us that he is certainly not afraid of visiting your heart, of dwelling in a shabby life. And this is the word: *to dwell*. To *dwell* is the verb used in today's Gospel to signify this reality: it expresses a total sharing, a great intimacy. And this is what God wants: he wants to dwell *with* us, he wants to dwell *in* us, not to remain distant. And I ask myself, you, all of us: what about us, do we want to make space for him? In words yes, no-one will say, "I don't!"; yes. But in practice? Perhaps there are aspects of life we keep to ourselves, that are exclusive, or inner spaces that we are afraid the Gospel will enter into, where we do not want God to be involved. Today I invite you to be specific. What are the inner things that I believe God does not like? What is the space that I believe is only for me, where I do not want God to come? Let each of us be specific, and answer this. "Yes, yes, I would like Jesus to come, but this, he mustn't touch it; and this, no, and this...". Everyone has their own sin - let us call it by name. And He is not afraid of our sins: He came to heal us. Let us at least let Him see it, let Him see the sin. Let us be brave, let us say: "But, Lord, I am in this situation but I do not want to change. But you, please, don't go too far away". That's a good prayer. Let's be sincere today.

In these days of Christmas, it will do us good to welcome the Lord precisely there. How? For example, by stopping in front of the Nativity scene, because it shows Jesus who came to dwell in all our real, ordinary life, where not everything goes well, where there are many problems: we are to blame for some of them; others are the fault of other people. And Jesus comes: the shepherds who work hard, we see the shepherds there, Herod who threatens the innocent, great poverty... But in the midst of all this, in the midst of so many problems - and even in the midst of our problems - there is God, there is God who wants to dwell with us. And he waits for us to present to him our situations, what we are living. So, before the Nativity, let us talk to Jesus about our real situations. *Let us invite him officially into our lives*, especially in the dark areas: "Look, Lord, there is no light there, the electricity doesn't reach there, but please don't touch, because I don't feel like leaving this situation". Speak clearly and plainly. The dark areas, our "inner stables"; each one of us has them. And let us also tell him, without fear, about the social problems, and the ecclesial problems of our time, even personal problems, even the worst, because God loves to dwell: in our stable. May the Mother of God, in whom the Word was made flesh, help us to cultivate greater intimacy with the Lord.

## 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, P.O. Box 340  
Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands  
Phone: (649) 941-5136

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



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



### 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.  
(Except Wednesdays)

**Fridays:** 05:30pm Blue Chapel.  
06:00pm Adoration Blessed  
Sacrament and Rosary.

### 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:** Corpus Christi, 2022.

**Confirmation:** January 16, 2022.

Today is the feast of the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. With it ends the Christmas season. John could have been tempted to say "Yes I am the Messiah" and to get all the glory but he does not. He is truly very humble unlike you and me. We want to claim the glory, even that which is not ours! For example, you may think you are a good parent or even a good person but if so, it is a gift from the Lord and you cannot claim the credit because if you were not a good parent or person then you would be a bad one! Also, Jesus shows His humility. By accepting to be baptised He makes himself one with us sinners who really need repentance and Baptism and because of His humility, the heavens are opened. Before this they were closed! No one could get into heaven before Jesus came in the flesh. It is Jesus' humility that opens heaven and the Holy Spirit comes down on Him. So it is humility that opens heaven for us and then the Holy spirit can come to us. But how to become humble? You need to ask the grace from the Lord to see your sins and your inadequacies. Pope Francis, in his audience of Dec. 22nd, said ,without humility you cannot see God and your life has no meaning. What stops you seeing God is this big mirror in front of you that focuses on you and your own strength. This mirror, the pope says, has to be broken. It means your pride needs to be broken and this is the only, but very hard, way to get to see the Lord and get the Holy Spirit. May the Lord grant us this grace to become humble and allow the Lord to break down our own false self image and also to give us the grace of courage to do this. The result will be great, which is to be able to see God and to find the meaning of your life.

## Cardenal Tobin, Archbishop of Newark will visit the Mission of TCI

This coming Sunday Jan. 16 Cardinal Tobin will be coming to our parish to give the sacrament of confirmation to 23 youth and adolts. On that Sunday the mass of confirmation will be at 11:00 am. We hope that as many of our parishioners can come to see our Archbishop and make him welcome.

Sunday Jan.16 Mass schedule

9am English

11am confirmation mass with Cardinal Tobin

### The Parish Hall needs to be renovated and we need your help.

The Parish hall (old church) is finally being fully repaired and renovated. The roof was damaged since hurricane Irma and now is seriously affected by termites as well.

If you would like to help completet this project, the Lord will reward you a hundredfold for any contribution you make.

Donations can be made by check to **Our Lady of Divine Providence** or bank transfer through Scotiabank. Instructions in the link below:

<https://www.catholic.tc/donate.html>

## Parish Events Jan.9-16

**Sunday:** **Holy Mass: 09:00am,10:30am Trilingual**  
 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. School  
 07:00pm 4th English. B. Sacrament  
 07:00pm 1st Spanish. Blue Chapel  
 07:00pm 2nd Spanish. Red Room

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

07:00pm 1st Creole. Red Room.  
 07:00pm 2nd Creole B. Sacrament.  
 07:00pm 3rd English. Blue Chapel

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

**St. Hilary**  
 06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.  
 06:30pm English Choir Practice, D. Mass Chapel.

**Friday:** 05:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.

06:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.  
 06:00pm Confessions.

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

**No Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW**



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: 649-941-7875

The Three Kings have come to Turks and Caicos! After the mass of the Epiphany, the Three Kings stopped by Our Lady of Divine Providence to meet and distribute gifts that they brought for the students of Holy Family Academy. It is a tremendous blessing to be able to preserve this tradition of the church, especially during these times of the pandemic.

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases, the Ministry of Education has announced that classes will begin virtually on January 10. Holy Family Academy will be strict on following the guidelines in order to keep everyone safe, with the hope of helping ensure students return to in-person learning as soon as is safe and permitted.

[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:

- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- 3 tricycles
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255