

## Pope Francis Easter Vigil Homily 8 April 2023

The night is drawing to a close and the first light of dawn is appearing upon the horizon as the women set out toward Jesus' tomb. They make their way forward, bewildered and dismayed, their hearts overwhelmed with grief at the death that took away their Beloved. Yet upon arriving and seeing the empty tomb, they turn around and retrace their steps. They leave the tomb behind and run to the disciples to proclaim a change of course: Jesus is risen and *awaits them in Galilee*. In their lives, those women experienced Easter as a Pasch, a *passage*. They pass from walking sorrowfully towards the tomb to running back with joy to the disciples to tell them not only that the Lord is risen, but also that they are to set out immediately to reach a destination, Galilee. There they will meet the Risen Lord. The rebirth of the disciples, the resurrection of their hearts, passes through Galilee. Let us enter into this journey of the disciples from the tomb to Galilee.

The Gospel tells us that the women went "to see the tomb" (Mt 28:1). They think that they will find Jesus in the place of death and that everything is over, forever. Sometimes we too may think that the joy of our encounter with Jesus is something belonging to the past, whereas the present consists mostly of sealed tombs: tombs of disappointment, bitterness and distrust, of the dismay of thinking that "nothing more can be done", "things will never change", "better to live for today", since "there is no certainty about tomorrow". If we are prey to sorrow, burdened by sadness, laid low by sin, embittered by failure or troubled by some problem, we also know the bitter taste of weariness and the absence of joy.

At times, we may simply feel weary about our daily routine, tired of taking risks in a cold, hard world where only the clever and the strong seem to get ahead. At other times, we may feel helpless and discouraged before the power of evil, the conflicts that tear relationships apart, the attitudes of calculation and indifference that seem to prevail in society, the cancer of corruption – there is a great deal of it, the spread of injustice, the icy winds of war. Then too, we may have come face to face with death, because it robbed us of the presence of our loved ones or because we brushed up against it in illness or a serious setback. Then it is easy to yield to disillusionment, once the wellspring of hope has dried up. In these or similar situations – each of us knows our own plights, our paths come to a halt before a row of tombs, and we stand there, filled with sorrow and regret, alone and powerless, repeating the question, "Why?" That chain of "why"...

The women at Easter, however, do not stand frozen before the tomb; rather, the Gospel tells us, "they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples" (v. 8). They bring the news that will change life and history forever: Christ is risen! (v. 6). At the same time, they remember to convey the Lord's summons to the disciples to go to Galilee, for there they will see him (cf. v. 7). Let us ask ourselves today, brothers and sisters: what does it mean to go to Galilee? Two things: on the one hand, to leave the enclosure of the Upper Room and go to the land of the Gentiles (cf. Mt 4:15), to come forth from hiding and to open themselves up to mission, to leave fear behind and to *set out for the future*. On the other hand, and this is very beautiful, to *return to the origins*, for it was precisely in Galilee that *everything began*. There the Lord had met and first called the disciples. So, to go to Galilee means to return to the grace of the beginnings, to regain the memory that regenerates hope, the "memory of the future" bestowed on us by the Risen One.

This, then, is what the Pasch of the Lord accomplishes: it motivates us to move forward, to leave behind our sense of defeat, to roll away the stone of the tombs in which we often imprison our hope, and to look with confidence to the future, for Christ is risen and has changed the direction of history. Yet, to do this, the Pasch of the Lord takes us back to the grace of our own past; it brings us back to Galilee, where our love story with Jesus began, where the first call took place. In other words, it asks us to relive that moment, that situation, that experience in which we met the Lord, experienced his love and received a radiantly new way of seeing ourselves, the world around us and the mystery of life itself. Brothers and sisters, to rise again, to start anew, to take up the journey, we always need to return to Galilee, that is, to go back, not to an abstract or ideal Jesus, but to the living, concrete and palpable memory of our first encounter with him. Yes, to go forward we need to go back, to remember; to have hope, we need to revive our memory. This is what we are asked to do: to remember and go forward! If you recover that first love, the wonder and joy of your encounter with God, you will keep advancing. So remember, and keep moving forward.

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González**  
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## EASTER SUNDAY



### 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: 24 May, 2024.**  
**1st Communions: 02 June, 2024.**

**Confirmations: TBC (20 October, 2024).**

**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.**

On Palm Sunday afternoon as I was flying back here from Grand Turk, the plane struck some severe turbulence. The plane jolted up and down quite violently and slide sideways a few times. Everyone on board started to cry out and some began to pray out loud. The woman in front of me was saying, 'Save us Lord in your blood, Jesus'. She kept repeating this until things calmed down. I started to reflect on this. If I asked this woman if she wanted to see Jesus, I am sure she would say, 'Yes'. I could then ask, "Then why are you afraid to die as that's the only way you will meet Him face to face?" I have to admit that I too, was praying and very much afraid, but if you think about it, it does not make much sense to be afraid, particularly given today's Gospel. What is this big stone that Mary of Magdala and the other Mary are wondering about how they will move that was covering Jesus' tomb? Of course it is "Death". Everyone is afraid to die, as the above incident shows, and yet, that is precisely why Jesus came upon this earth. He came to free us from the 'Fear of Death.' he came to move this stone which is too heavy for us to move. This fear of death, is not just physical death. It includes psychological, emotional death. Also the fear of your being disappearing, of losing your life.

The Good News is that Jesus has removed that stone, that you are too weak to move. He has overcome death and it's possible to experience this in your life. That Jesus Christ Risen from the dead can resurrect any and all the 'Dead' situations in your life. Things that look hopeless or impossible, are His speciality. Let us all pray for the grace to experience the Lord overcoming one of our dead situations and so to see that He has really Risen from the dead. May the Lord grant us this gift during this Easter season.

Fr. Paul

## CHRIST HAS RISEN!

Easter season is a time to rejoice. We have just had 40 days of fasting and now we can enjoy 50 days of feasting! From Easter Sunday until Pentecost is 50 days of celebrating. The Church and Jesus Christ are much more merciful than you think. In the early Church it was forbidden to fast in the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost. May the Lord give us the grace to celebrate this time with Joy.

## HOLY DOOR CLOSING

The Holy door will be closing next Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday 7 April.

In order to get a Plenary Indulgence, which is a full remission of Purgatory, for either yourself or for the soul of someone who has died, the following conditions are needed.

- 1) Sacramental confession within a few days before ;
- 2) Passing through the Holy Door
- 3) Praying the creed, the Our Father, a Hail Mary for Pope Francis' intentions,
- 4) Attending Mass in this Church and receiving Holy Communion.

It is also possible to get a partial indulgence if one or other of the above conditions are not met.

## Parish Events March 31-April7

### Easter Sunday

04:00pm  
05:00pm  
05:00pm  
05:30pm  
06:00pm

**Holy Mass: 09:00 am ,11am and 5:30pm**  
Coeur de Marie Children's group. Fraternite, Red Room.  
Creole Youth Choir practice.  
Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.  
Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

### Monday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door  
05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG  
07:00pm Catechesis in Creole Parish Hall

### Tuesday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door  
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG

### Wednesday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door  
05:30 pm Mass in SMG

### Thursday

05:00pm Confessions near Holy Door  
05:30pm Daily Mass SMG  
07:00pm Catechesis in Creole, Parish Hall

### Friday

04:00pm ,Adoration, SMG  
05:30pm Daily Mass , SMG

### Saturday

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



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875



The HFA students celebrated the stations of the cross play to reflect and pray about the Passion of Jesus Christ, while they prepare for the Easter celebrations.

The 11th grade students finished their Community Service Project presenting their project to the judges, who were very impressed by their great job.

[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!

## SPLASH DAY!

Be part of our fun water day by contributing with any of the items in our list!

- Water ballons
- Pop corn machine
- Pop Corn cups

Scan the code to see more!

