

Pope Francis Audience 22 November 2023

After having seen, last time, that the Christian proclamation is joy, today let us focus on a second aspect: it is *for everyone*, Christian proclamation is a joy for everyone. When we truly meet the Lord Jesus, the wonder of this encounter pervades our life and demands to be taken beyond us. He desires this, that His Gospel is for everyone. Indeed, in it there is a “humanizing power”, a fulfilment of life that is destined for every man and woman, because Christ was born, died, and rose again for everyone. For everyone: no-one excluded.

In *Evangelii Gaudium* we read that everyone has “a right to receive the Gospel. Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone. Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, they should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet. It is not by proselytizing that the Church grows, but ‘by attraction’” (no. 14). Brothers, sisters, let us feel that we are at the service of the *universal destination of the Gospel*, it is for everyone; and let us distinguish ourselves for our capacity to come out of ourselves. A proclamation, in order to be true, must leave behind one’s own selfishness – and let us also have the capacity to cross all borders. Christians meet on the parvis more than in the sacristy, and go “to the streets and lanes of the city” (Lk14:21). They must be open and expansive, Christians must be “extrovert”, and this character of theirs comes from Jesus, who make his presence in the world a continuous journey, aimed at reaching out to everyone, even learning from some of his encounters.

In this sense, the Gospel reports Jesus’ surprising encounter with a foreign woman, a Canaanite who begs him to cure her sick daughter (cf. Mt 15:21-28). Jesus refuses, saying that he was sent only “to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” and that “it is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs” (vv. 24, 26). But the woman, with the insistence typical of the simple, replies that “even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table” (v. 27). Jesus is struck by this and says, “woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire” (v. 28). The encounter with this woman has something unique about it. Not only does someone make Jesus change his mind, and a woman, foreign and a pagan, but the Lord himself finds confirmation that his preaching should not be limited to the people to whom he belongs, but open to all.

The Bible shows us that when God calls a person and makes a pact with some of them, the criterion is always this: *elect someone to reach others*, this is the criterion of God, of God’s calling. All the Lord’s friends have experienced the beauty, but also the responsibility and the burden of being “chosen” by him. And everyone has felt discouragement in the face of their own weaknesses or the loss of their certainties. But perhaps the greatest temptation is that of considering the calling received as a privilege: please, no, the calling is not a privilege, ever. We cannot say that we are privileged compared to others – no. The calling is for a service. And God chooses one in order to love everyone, to reach everyone.

It is also to prevent the temptation of identifying Christianity with a culture, with an ethnicity, with a system. In this way, though, it loses its truly *Catholic* nature, or rather for everyone, universal: it is not a little group of first-class, chosen people. Let us not forget: God chooses some to love *all*. This horizon of universality. The Gospel is not only for me, it is for everyone; let us not forget this.

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 - oldpchurch@catholic.tc



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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, B. Chapel.

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

05:30 pm Blue Chapel.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

Confirmations: 22 October, 2023.

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.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which means "Coming". This "Coming" does not refer directly to Christ at Christmas but instead to His coming at the end of the world. So, the readings of today are about this. The Church gives us these readings in order that you might be prepared for His coming. The Gospel says, "Be on your guard, Stay awake,". How can you do this? Well, the first thing to do in this Advent is to pray. If you pray little or a lot then pray more. "But I don't know what to pray for?" you may say, or "I already pray enough." The answer is that if Jesus spent many nights in prayer then you need to pray a heck of a lot more! Some suggestions are to read some of the scripture, such as the Psalms, such as no.s 22 to 25 or 131 and 139. You could start to read a Gospel such as Luke's by starting at Chapter one, verse one and continue through advent reading a few chapters a day. You can always pray a Rosary. If you are driving and caught in traffic you can pray it even then Other things to do in order to be ready is to ask forgiveness of the people you are not in communion with or at the very least pray for their salvation so as to secure your own! How could anyone think they are ready for the Lord's coming when you hate someone or don't talk to someone. This is definitely something to pray for and everyone needs to do this. Let us not fool ourselves, thinking, "I am okay." There will also be more opportunities for confessions this Advent. Please avail yourself of this opportunity

Given all this let us never doubt the love of the Lord for us. He died on a cross purely out of love for us sinners only to save us, because we all need to be saved. May the Lord guide how to prepare ourselves for His coming so as to be ready for Him.

Fr. Paul



HOLY HOUR

FRIDAYS
4:00 pm—5:00pm.

Rosary in three languages and reflection and meditation on the Holy Eucharist.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT



Morning Prayer
Monday to Friday:
6:20 am Blue Chapel

Penitential: Tuesday,
December 12 at 7:00 pm Church.

Novena of Nativity: Dec 16—Dec 24.
7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS



Sunday, Dec. 24:
Christmas Eve 05:30 pm. English

Midnight 12:00 am multilingual

Monday, Christmas day Dec. 25:
09:00 am English
11:00 am Multilingual

Sunday, Dec 31st: 05:30 pm. English
Monday, Jan 1st: 09:00 am English and 11:00 am Multilingual

Parish Events Dec. 3-10

Sunday Holy Mass: 09:00 am.10:30am. and 12:30pm.
04:00 pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
05:00 pm Fraternite, Red Room.
05:00 pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
05:30 pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
05:00 pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday St. John of Damascus
05:30 pm D. and Mass Chapel

Tuesday
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm First English Parish Hall
07:00pm Second English SMG
07:00pm Spanish Red Room

Wednesday St. Nicholas
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Thursday St. Ambrose
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm NCW Vigil of Immaculate Conception.

Friday Immaculate Conception
04:00pm Adoration, Blue Chapel
05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

Saturday St. Juan Diego
05:30pm Mass Church
07:00pm NCW Eucharist



School Notes

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



Last Thursday, HFA welcomed students and parents to a Thanksgiving dinner hosted by 11th and 12th graders. Families danced, ate, and enjoyed under the stars. This week, HFA hosted Professor McCarthy from Saint Thomas University; she worked with the STU class, and met with the English department teachers. Dr. Seuffert also worked with our math department during several workshops, and offered a wonderful class on the purpose of studying mathematics to our high school classes.

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:

- 10 Scientific Calculators
- AED
- Asthma Inhalers
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Projectors