

The Epiphany

The second helpful phrase is to set out on a journey ...

The second helpful phrase is *to set out on a journey*. Before they could worship the Child in Bethlehem, the Magi had to undertake a lengthy journey. Matthew tells us that in those days “wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying: ‘Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him’” (Mt 2:1-2). A journey always involves a transformation, a change. After a journey, we are no longer the same. There is always something new about those who have made a journey: they have learned new things, encountered new people and situations, and found inner strength amid the hardships and risks they met along the way. No one worships the Lord without first experiencing the interior growth that comes from embarking on a journey. We become worshippers of the Lord through a gradual process. Experience teaches us, for example, that at fifty we worship differently than we did at thirty. Those who let themselves be shaped by grace usually improve with time: on the outside, we grow older – so Saint Paul tells us – while our inner nature is being renewed each day (cf. 2 Cor 4:16), as we grow in our understanding of how best to worship the Lord. From this point of view, our failures, crises and mistakes can become learning experiences: often they can help us to be more aware that the Lord alone is worthy of our worship, for only he can satisfy our innermost desire for life and eternity. With the passage of time, life’s trials and difficulties – experienced in faith – help to purify our hearts, making them humbler and thus more and more open to God. Even our sins, the awareness of being sinners, of experiencing such bad things. “But I did this... I did...”: if you approach it with faith and repentance, with contrition, it will help you to grow. Paul says that everything can help us to grow spiritually, to encounter Jesus, even our sins. And Saint Thomas adds: “*etiam mortalia*”, even the bad sins, the worst. But if you respond with repentance it will help you on this journey towards encountering the Lord and to worship him better.

Like the Magi, we too must allow ourselves to learn from the journey of life, marked by the inevitable inconveniences of travel. We cannot let our weariness, our falls and our failings discourage us. Instead, by humbly acknowledging them, we should make them opportunities to progress towards the Lord Jesus. Life is not about showing off our abilities, but a journey towards the One who loves us. We are not to show off our virtues in every step of our life; rather, with humility we should journey towards the Lord. By keeping our gaze fixed on the Lord, we will find the strength needed to persevere with renewed joy.

And so we come to the third phrase: to see ...

And so we come to the third phrase: *to see*. *To lift up our eyes; to set out on a journey; to see*. The Evangelist tells us that, “going into the house they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him” (Mt 2:10-11). Worshipping was an act of homage reserved for sovereigns and high dignitaries. The Magi worshiped the One they knew was the king of the Jews (cf. Mt2:2). But what did they actually see? They saw a poor child and his mother. Yet these wise men from far-off lands were able to look beyond those lowly surroundings and recognize in that Child a royal presence. They were able to “see” beyond appearances. Falling to their knees before the Babe of Bethlehem, they expressed a worship that was above all interior: the opening of the treasures they had brought as gifts symbolized the offering of their own hearts.

To worship the Lord we need to “see” beyond the veil of things visible, which often prove deceptive. Herod and the leading citizens of Jerusalem represent a worldliness enslaved to appearances and immediate attractions. They see, yet they cannot see. It is not that they do not believe, no; it is that they do not know how to see because they are slaves to appearances and seek what is attractive. They value only the sensational, the things that capture the attention of the masses. In the Magi, however, we see a very different approach, one we can define as *theological realism* – a very “high” word, yet helpful – a way of perceiving the objective reality of things and leads to the realization that God shuns all ostentation. The Lord is in humility, he is like that humble child, who shuns that ostentation which is precisely the product of worldliness. A way of “seeing” that transcends the visible and makes it possible for us to worship the Lord who is often hidden in everyday situations, in the poor and those on the fringes. A way of seeing things that is not impressed by sound and fury, but seeks in every situation the things that truly matter, and that seeks the Lord. With Saint Paul, then, let us “look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Cor 4:18). May the Lord Jesus make us true worshippers, capable of showing by our lives his loving plan for all humanity. Let us ask for the grace for each of us and for the whole Church, to learn to worship, to continue to worship, to exercise this prayer of adoration often, because only God is to be adored.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
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II SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30pm English, Church.

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

Weekdays: 05:30pm English, Church.
(*Except Wednesdays*)

Fridays:
05:30pm Church.
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: Date to be confirmed.

Confirmation: Date to be confirmed.

Today the church begins 'Ordinary Time', but it is anything but ordinary. The Gospel is from John just for this Sunday. There are two main themes I want to touch on. The first is the calling of Andrew. He goes with another disciple of John the Baptist to follow Jesus and stays with him for some short time and is already convinced that Jesus is the Messiah. What is it about Jesus that can have such an effect? He must have felt the love radiating from the Lord, but also His authority and His sincerity. Whatever it was Andrew was deeply impressed so much so that the first thing he does is to bring his brother Peter to Jesus. This could be called the first evangelization. To evangelise is precisely that; to bring a person to Jesus and not to ourselves. The other aspect is that Peter believes his brother and comes to Jesus and then is almost made the first Pope on the spot. It's all very spontaneous but driven by the Spirit. May our lives be driven by the Spirit.

The second point is the title that John the Baptist gives to Jesus. It is, 'The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'. What's so special about a lamb. Lambs are genuinely meek. They will let you nurse them in your arms and rest there without struggling. You can do anything with them, even cut their throats and they will not resist! This is what Jesus did. He did not resist when he was before Pilate nor did he try and stop his crucifixion. The 'bad thief' next to him cannot understand why Jesus does not do a miracle and save himself and both thieves next to him. He has a point, but Jesus is the true lamb sacrificed for our sins. Let us pray that we can become like lambs and not resist those who do evil to us as this is the way to save this world. It comes by taking on the sin of others. None of us can do this without the grace of the Lord. At least you can pray for the desire to be more Lamb-like and less proud. Then if you experience true joy in this you can evangelise your neighbour.

Fr. Paul

Courage!
God's mercy is greater than our weaknesses.
He loves you, as you are



¡Ven y escucha!
Catequesis para adultos
Fecha inicio: Enero 18, 2020.

Lunes y jueves.
7:00 - 8:00 PM Parish Hall
Our Lady of Divine Providence

Remember:

- Masks are required **ALL TIME** while being inside and in public covering the nose and mouth. (Attendees, choir and lectors as well.)
- Keep 2mts / 6ft of physical distance.
- Attendees must register at the entrance.
- Sanitize your hands.

If you feel sick or can't attend Mass, you can follow our online Sunday Mass at our **YouTube** channel below:

Our Lady of Divine Providence
Roman Catholic Church
<https://qrqgo.page.link/U6mGg>

Parish Events Jan 17– Jan 24

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

Monday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.

Tuesday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.
Liturgy of the Word, NCW.
 1st Spanish Community, S.M.Goretti
 2nd Spanish Community, B.S. Chap
 1st English Communities, P. Hall
 2nd English Community, Blue Chapel

Wednesday: **Liturgy of the Word, NCW.**
 1st Creole Community, Red Room.
 3rd English Communities, B. Chapel.

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Church.
 06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.
 06:30pm English Choir Practice, D. Mass Chapel.

Friday: 05:30pm Daily Mass, Church.
 06:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.
 06:00pm Confessions.

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.
Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW
 06:30pm English and Spanish. Church.
 06:30pm Creole. Red Room.



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
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We are happy to welcome everyone back at the start of **Term 2**. Although we are continuing with online instruction, we are grateful to God for giving us the opportunity to receive spiritual help through the church and academic knowledge in the school.

For information, please visit
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:

- Moving Outdoor planters and gardening material
- Heavy Duty Sun Shade Sail Canopy
- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!