

Today, fifth Sunday of Lent, the Gospel presents to us the resurrection of Lazarus (cf. *Jn* 11:1-45). It is the last of Jesus' miracles narrated before Easter: the resurrection of his friend Lazarus. Lazarus is a dear friend of Jesus, who knows he is about to die; he sets out on his journey, but arrives at his house four days after the burial, when by now all hope is lost. His presence, however, rekindles a little confidence in the hearts of the sisters Martha and Mary (cf. vv. 22, 27). They cling to this light, to this small hope, despite their suffering. Jesus invites them to have faith, and asks for the tomb to be opened. He then prays to the Father and shouts to Lazarus: "Come out!" (v. 43). And the latter comes back to life and comes out. This is the miracle, just like that, simple.

The message is clear: *Jesus gives life* even when it seems that all hope has gone. It happens, at times, to feel hopeless – this has happened to us all – or to meet people who have given up hope: embittered by bad experiences, the wounded heart cannot hope. Because of a painful loss, an illness, a bitter disappointment, a wrong or a betrayal suffered, a grave error committed... they have given up hope. At times we hear those who say that "There is nothing more to be done!", and close the door to every hope. They are moments when life seems to be a sealed tomb: everything is dark, and around us we see only sorrow and despair. Today's miracle tells us that it is not like that, this is not the end, that in these moments we are not alone; on the contrary, it is precisely in these moments that He comes *closer than ever to restore life to us*. Jesus weeps: the Gospel tells us that Jesus wept in front of Lazarus' tomb, and today Jesus weeps with us, as he was able to weep for Lazarus: the Gospel repeats twice that he is moved (cf. vv. 33, 38), emphasizes that he burst into tears (cf. v. 35). And at the same time Jesus invite us not to stop believing and hoping, not to let ourselves be crushed by negative feelings, which take away our tears. He approaches our tombs and says to us, as then: "Take away the stone" (v. 39). In these moments, it is as though we have a stone inside, and the only one capable of removing it is Jesus, with his word: "Take away the stone".

Jesus says this to us too. *Take away the stone*: the pain, the mistakes, even the failures, do not hide them inside you, in a dark, lonely, closed room. *Take away the stone*: draw out everything that is inside. "Ah, but I am ashamed". Throw it to me with confidence, says the Lord, I will not be outraged; throw it to me without fear, because I am with you, I care about you and I want you to start living again. And, as he did with Lazarus, he repeats to each one of us: *Come out!* Rise again, get back on the path, regain your confidence! How many times, in life, we find ourselves like this, in this situation of no longer having the strength to get up again. And Jesus: "Go, go on! I am with you". I will take you by the hand, says Jesus, like when you were a child learning to take your first steps. Dear brother, dear sister, take off the bandages that bind you (cf. v. 45); please, do not give in to the pessimism that depresses you, do not give in to the fear that isolates, do not give in to the discouragement caused by the memory of bad experiences, do not give in to the fear that paralyses. Jesus tells us, "I want you free and alive, I will not abandon you and I am with you! Everything is dark, but I am with you! Do not let yourself be imprisoned by pain, do not let hope die. Brother, sister, come back to life!". "And how can I do this?". "Take my hand", and he takes us by the hand. Let you be pulled out: and he is capable of doing it. In these bad moments that happen to us all.

Dear brothers and sisters, this passage, in chapter 11 of the Gospel of John and which it does a great deal of good to read, is a hymn to life, and it is proclaimed when Easter is near. Perhaps we too in this moment carry in our heart some burden or some suffering, that seems to crush us; something bad, some old sin we cannot bring out, some youthful mistake, you never know. These bad things need to come out. And Jesus says, "Come out!". So, it is the moment to take away the stone and to go out towards Jesus, who is close. Can we open our hearts to him and entrust our worries to him? Shall we do it? Are we able to open the tomb of problems, are we capable, and look over the threshold, towards his light, or are we afraid of this? And in turn, as small mirrors of God's love, do we manage to illuminate the environments in which we live with words and gestures of life? Do we bear witness to the hope and joy of Jesus? We, sinners, all of us? And also, I would like to say a word to confessors: dear brothers, do not forget that you too are sinners, and you are in the confessional not to torture, but to forgive, and to forgive *everything*, just as the Lord forgives *everything*. May Mary, Mother of Hope, renew in us the joy of not feeling alone and the call to bring light into the darkness that surrounds us

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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PALM 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, 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.

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: 11 June, 2023.
Confirmation 22nd October 2023

Jesus Christ gives His life up for you and me, totally, and without flinching from the suffering. He goes to the cross in order to save you. He is not acting on His own whims or will. He remains silent in order that the Father's will can be achieved, which is, His sacrificial death on our behalf. This is what love is. There is no self interest in Jesus actions nor is there any glory in it from a human perspective. If this is love then it convicts all of us. Who can love like this? If someone accuses you of something, such as your husband or wife or family member, how do you react? Most times you defend yourself and you give reasons for acting the way you did, even if they aren't the real reasons or the complete picture. Have you ever remained silent so that people might think worse of you? I doubt it. But that is what Jesus did. He was silent in the face of all his accusers, 'Like a lamb led to the slaughter,' the prophet Isaiah writes, (Ch. 53). This is just to say that no matter how good a person you may be, you do not love like this. This means you cannot love, because to love like Jesus did is the only true love, which is to give your life for the other person even when they are ungrateful and full of malice. Thank the Lord that He has done this on our behalf and promises us the grace to follow Him, even if it seems totally beyond your strength. May the Lord grant us all the grace to love like He does.

Fr. Paul

PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK 2023

PALM SUNDAY

Apr. 1: 05:30 p.m. English
Apr. 2*: 09:00 a.m. English - Church.
 11:00 a.m. Multilingual

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

HOLY THURSDAY

Apr. 6: 06:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper and washing of the feet.
 Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish

GOOD FRIDAY

Apr. 7: 03:00 p.m. The Passion of the Lord - Multilingual
 04:00 p.m. Living Stations of the Cross

SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

Apr. 8: 10:30 p.m. (There will NOT be any Mass this Saturday at 05:30pm).

EASTER SUNDAY— Church.

Apr. 9: 09:00 a.m. English
 11:00 a.m. Multilingual
 05:30 p.m. English



The youth of our parish is looking forward to meet the Pope and have an encounter with Christ, this coming summer.

We invite you to visit our stands. Your contributions will go to the fund that will help them travel all together.

We have snacks, bake goods, refreshments, island souvenirs and some more!

Parish Events April 2-9

Palm Sunday

04:00 pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
 05:00 pm Fraternitey, 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

05:30 pm D. and Mass Chapel
 07:30pm AA meetings Parish Hall.

Tuesday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Wednesday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Holy Thursday

06:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

03:00pm The Passion of the Lord
 04:00pm Live Stations of the cross, Church
 07:30pm AA Parish Hall meetings

Saturday

10:30 pm Solemn Easter Vigil
 (no 5:30pm Mass)



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941, 7875



HFA began their 5th Week of Lent preparing for the Resurrection of Christ by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They recognize the need to seek reconciliation, because they see their weaknesses this Lent. At HFA, we are at the end of our 2nd term Our staff work hard to push the students to strive for success with the grace from God.

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:

- Automatic hand dryers
- Microwave x 3
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Electric pencil sharpeners
- Sound / Speaker System
- Ping Pong table.
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255