

Catechesis on prayer: 37. The Paschal prayer of Jesus for us

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

We have recalled several times in this series of catechesis that prayer is one of the most evident features of the life of Jesus: Jesus prayed, and He prayed a lot. In the course of His mission, Jesus immersed Himself in it, because the dialogue with the father was the incandescent core of all His existence.

The Gospels testify how Jesus's prayer became even more intense and dense at the hour of his passion and death. These culminating events of His life constitute the central core of Christian preaching: those last hours lived by Jesus in Jerusalem are the heart of the Gospel not only because the Evangelists reserve proportionally greater space to this narrative, but also because the event of His death and resurrection - like a flash of lightning - sheds light on the rest of Jesus's life. He was not a philanthropist who took care of human suffering and illness: He was and is much more. In Him there is not only goodness: there is something more, there is salvation, and not an episodic salvation - the type that might save me from an illness or a moment of despair - but total salvation, messianic salvation, that gives hope in the definitive victory of life over death.

In the days of His last Passover, we therefore find Jesus fully immersed in prayer.

He prays dramatically in the garden of Gethsemane, as we heard, assailed by mortal anguish. And yet Jesus, precisely in that moment, addresses God as "Abba", father (cf. Mk 14:36). This word, in Aramaic, which was Jesus' language, expresses intimacy, it expresses trust. Just as He feels the darkness gather around Him, Jesus breaks through it with that little word: Abba, father.

Jesus also prays on the cross, obscurely shrouded in the silence of God. And yet once again the word "Father" emerges from His lips. It is the most ardent prayer, because on the cross Jesus is the absolute intercessor: He prays for others, He prays for everyone, even for those who have condemned Him, even though no-one apart from a poor delinquent takes His side. Everyone was against Him or indifferent, only that criminal recognised the power. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). In the midst of the drama, in the excruciating pain of soul and body, Jesus prays with the words of the psalms; with the poor of the world, especially those forgotten by all, He pronounces the tragic words of Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (v. 2). He felt abandonment, and He prayed. The cross is the fulfilment of the gift of the Father, who offers love, that is, our salvation is fulfilled. And also, once, He calls Him "My God", "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit": that is, everything, everything is prayer, in the three hours of the Cross.

Jesus therefore prays in the decisive hours of His passion and death. And with the resurrection, the Father will the prayer. The prayer of Jesus is intense, the prayer of Jesus is unique, and is also becomes the model for our prayer. Jesus prayed for everyone: He even prayed for me, for each one of you. Every one of you can say: "Jesus, on the cross, prayed for me". He prayed. Jesus can say to every one of us: "I prayed for you at the Last Supper, and on the wood of the Cross". Even in the most painful of our sufferings, we are never alone. The prayer of Jesus is with us. "And now, Father, here, we who are listening to this, does Jesus pray for us?" Yes, He continues to pray so that His word may help us keep going forward. But pray, and remember that He prays for us.

And this seems to me the most beautiful thing to remember. This is the final catechesis of this cycle on prayer: remember the grace that we do not only pray, but that, so to speak, we have been "prayed for", we have already been received in Jesus' dialogue with the Father, in communion with the Holy Spirit. Jesus prays for me: each one of us can take this to heart. We must not forget. Even in the worst moments. We are already welcomed into Jesus' dialogue with the Father in the communion of the Holy Spirit. We were willed by Christ Jesus, and even in the hour of His passion, death and resurrection, everything was offered for us. And so, with prayer and with life, there remains only to have courage and hope, and with this courage and hope, to feel the prayer of Jesus strongly and to keep on going: so that our life may be one of giving glory to God in the knowledge that He prays for me to the Father, that Jesus prays for me.

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: (+1649) 941-5136

www.catholic.tc - oldpchurch@catholic.tc



XII 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: June 6, 2021.

Confirmation: Fall 2021.

There are many storms in life and it seems that God is asleep, just as in today's Gospel. These storms can be the death of someone close to you or troubles in your family or at work and so on. The strange thing is that it is only in such times that you really shout out to Jesus, 'Lord Don't you care? We are lost!' This cry is from the heart, whereas your normal daily prayers are more formal or ritual and often lack passion, but when the crisis comes these prayers are straight from the heart. Jesus responds when your prayer is from the heart. Even if He does not change the situation His presence and His closeness make the difference.

Secondly, Jesus chides the Apostles for their lack of faith. 'Have you still no faith?' I think this is what the Lord says to us most times. Faith is to abandon yourself to the Lord. Leave it up to Him with quiet confidence and you will see Him provide. To abandon oneself to the Lord means in effect to stop using your rationalizations, your logical conclusions about how things should be or how they should go, but to wait patiently for Him to act. Many times I think to myself that I should be doing something to help in certain situations but my feeble efforts make things worse until I learn to wait on the Lord. Ultimately it is His problem. 'Lord this is your problem so please do something about it would you?'

Remember, that this is Our Lady of Divine Providence and Mary is only of reflection of the Lord's goodness. The Lord will provide for you in the many difficulties of life, but they will not always be the way you want them to go and that is what faith is; to see things with different eyes. Faith is to trust that the Lord is there in all of the things that go wrong and will provide a way out. Let us all implore the Lord for the gift of Faith.

Fr. Paul

Youth Pilgrimage to the Immaculate Conception Shrine Washington, D.C.— July 16, 2021.

PLEASE HELP US GET THERE!

15 Participants \$1,200 each.

The Goal: **\$18,000**

Money raised to date: **\$1,628**

Still to raise: **\$16,372**

How you could you help?

- Making any donation cash or check to: **Roman Catholic Mission - Pilgrimage**
- Buying a ticket for the **Gala Dinner on Friday, July 2, 2021 at Holy Family Academy. \$70**
- Buying any of the items sold at the end of the Masses.

With your participation you are helping the youth to have an encounter with Jesus Christ, and any help, God will reward you a hundredfold, not only spiritually but materially as well!

Parish Events Jun 20-Jun 27

Sunday: Holy Mass: 09:00am,10:30am and 12:30pm
 05:00pm 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 English Community, S.M.Goretti
 2nd Spanish Community, Red Room

Wednesday: **Liturgy of the Word, NCW.**
 1st Spanish Community, SM.Goretti.
 1st Creole Community, Red Room.
 3rd English Community, Blue Chap.
 4th English Community, Parish Hall.

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Church.
 06:00pm Creole Choir Practice
 06:30pm English Choir Practice.

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

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
 Tel: +1(649) 941-7875

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jun. 21-23** Summer Camp - Fun Days.
- Jun. 23** Kindergarten Graduation.
 Final Report Card Distribution.
 Last Day of School Year 2020-2021
- Jun. 24** 8th grade Graduation.

Want to learn more about HFA?

Visit our website for information about our History, Mission and Academics! You will also find updates and news about our school year, students and staff. Visit us today at 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!