

Pope Francis' Easter Homily 11 April, 2020

After the Sabbath" (Mt 28:1), the women went to the tomb. This is how the Gospel of this holy Vigil began: with the Sabbath. It is the day of the Easter Triduum that we tend to neglect as we eagerly await the passage from Friday's cross to Easter Sunday's Alleluia. This year however, we are experiencing, more than ever, the great silence of Holy Saturday. We can imagine ourselves in the position of the women on that day. They, like us, had before their eyes the drama of suffering, of an unexpected tragedy that happened all too suddenly. They had seen death and it weighed on their hearts. Pain was mixed with fear: would they suffer the same fate as the Master? Then too there was fear about the future and all that would need to be rebuilt. A painful memory, a hope cut short. For them, as for us, it was the darkest hour.

Yet in this situation the women did not allow themselves to be paralyzed. They did not give in to the gloom of sorrow and regret, they did not morosely close in on themselves, or flee from reality. They were doing something simple yet extraordinary: preparing at home the spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They did not stop loving; in the darkness of their hearts, they lit a flame of mercy. Our Lady spent that Saturday, the day that would be dedicated to her, in prayer and hope. She responded to sorrow with trust in the Lord. Unbeknownst to these women, they were making preparations, in the darkness of that Sabbath, for "the dawn of the first day of the week", the day that would change history. Jesus, like a seed buried in the ground, was about to make new life blossom in the world; and these women, by prayer and love, were helping to make that hope flower. How many people, in these sad days, have done and are still doing what those women did, sowing seeds of hope! With small gestures of care, affection and prayer.

At dawn the women went to the tomb. There the angel says to them: "Do not be afraid. He is not here; for he has risen" (vv. 5-6). They hear the words of life even as they stand before a tomb... And then they meet Jesus, the giver of all hope, who confirms the message and says: "Do not be afraid" (v. 10). *Do not be afraid, do not yield to fear.* This is the *message of hope*. It is addressed to us, today. These are the words that God repeats to us this very night.

Tonight we acquire a fundamental right that can never be taken away from us: *the right to hope*. It is a new and living hope that comes from God. It is not mere optimism; it is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement, uttered with an empty smile. No! It is a gift from heaven, which we could not have earned on our own. Over these weeks, we have kept repeating, "All will be well", clinging to the beauty of our humanity and allowing words of encouragement to rise up from our hearts. But as the days go by and fears grow, even the boldest hope can dissipate. Jesus' hope is different. He plants in our hearts the conviction that God is able to make everything work unto good, because even from the grave he brings life.

The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; he rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He, who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, can also remove the stones in our hearts. So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope. We can and must hope, because God is faithful. He did not abandon us; he visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today he wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives. Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater. Darkness and death do not have the last word. Be strong, for with God nothing is lost!

Courage. This is a word often spoken by Jesus in the Gospels. Only once do others say it, to encourage a person in need: "Courage; rise, [Jesus] is calling you!" (Mk 10:49). It is he, the Risen One, who raises us up from our neediness. If, on your journey, you feel weak and frail, or fall, do not be afraid, God holds out a helping hand and says to you: "Courage!". You might say, as did Don Abbondio (in Manzoni's novel), "Courage is not something you can give yourself" (*I Promessi Sposi*, XXV). True, you cannot give it to yourself, but you can receive it as a gift. All you have to do is open your heart in prayer and roll away, however slightly, that stone placed at the entrance to your heart so that Jesus' light can enter. You only need to ask him: "Jesus, come to me amid my fears and tell me too: Courage!" With you, Lord, we will be tested but not shaken. And, whatever sadness may dwell in us, we will be strengthened in hope, since with you the cross leads to the resurrection, because you are with us in the darkness of our nights; you are certainly amid our uncertainties, the word that speaks in our silence, and nothing can ever rob us of the love you have for us.

This is the Easter message, a message of hope.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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EASTER SUNDAY



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30pm English, Church.

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

Weekdays: 05:30pm English, Blue Chapel.

Fridays: 04:00pm Adoration of Blessed
Sacrament and Rosary.
05:30pm 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: 19 June, 2022.

Confirmation: TBA

Alleluia! Christ is Risen, Alleluia! In today's Gospel from Luke, you can see that there is no direct appearance of Jesus risen from the dead. All that the women who went to the tomb are given is the message of the angels. They proclaim that Jesus is alive. Then the women proclaim to the apostles the same news but they do not believe it! They are all "doubting Thomases" So, in the next part of the Gospel Jesus finally reveals himself in the flesh to his disciples and then they believe. It is so difficult to believe in the resurrection! To believe in it means that even with the war in the Ukraine Jesus Christ can resurrect this situation. It also means that there are no hopeless cases. I mean this in both senses and that is, that there is no person who is a hopeless case nor are there hopeless situations. This is what belief in the Resurrection involves. It is important to ask the Lord for the grace to see His resurrection in at least one of those 'dead' situations in your life. Where it looks hopeless or there is no way out. Perhaps there are already 'resurrections' in your life but you fail to see them as such. This, too is possible. But, if you read the back page of this bulletin you will see that Pope Francis speaks of the resurrection as a fundamental right to hope and let us not lose it. Today it is forbidden to be sad, no matter what is happening in the world or your life. Do not lose this fundamental right to have hope. May the Lord grant us all this grace.

Fr. Paul

Christ is Risen!

EASTER SUNDAY

April 17, 2022

09:00 am English in the Church.

11:00 am Multilingual in Church.

05:30 pm English in the Church.

EASTER MISSION ON THE STREETS

Every Sunday Of Easter

05:00 PM

HOLY HOUR

All are invited to come and adore the Lord in the blessed sacrament at the **new time of 4:00 pm –5:15pm** on every Friday in the daily mass chapel. There will be adoration, rosary, spiritual reading and confessions. This can also be a good preparation for the daily mass at 5:30pm. The change comes so that those who could not stay after 6pm due to other reasons can now come earlier.

Parish Events April 17-24

Easter-Sunday: Holy Mass: 09:00am,11:00am
05:30pm

Monday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

Tuesday 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel,

Wednesday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm 4th English, Blue Chapel

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.

Friday: 04:00pm Adoration of the blessed sacrament
05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

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



School Notes

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

Holy Family Academy prepared their 8th to 10th grade classes for the PSAT this past week before going into break to help students be well prepared for their exams.



HFA's students spent their week before Easter preparing for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The students were very excited to participate in the activities prepared by the teachers., students practiced psalms and learned how to make the unleavened bread with an explanation of its history.

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:

- Abacus
- Jumping Ropes, Ping Pong table
- Hand Sanitizer, alcohol and paper hand towels
- Cleaning Tools (mops, brooms, gloves.)
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255