

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mt 27:46). This is the cry that today's liturgy has us repeat in the responsorial psalm (cf. Ps 22:2), the only cry that Jesus makes from the cross in the Gospel we have heard. Those words bring us to the very heart of Christ's passion, the culmination of the sufferings he endured for our salvation. "Why have you forsaken me?"

The sufferings of Jesus were many, and whenever we listen to the account of the Passion, they pierce our hearts. There were *sufferings of the body*: let us think of the slaps and beatings, the flogging and the crowning with thorns, and in the end, the cruelty of the crucifixion. There were also *sufferings of the soul*: the betrayal of Judas, the denials of Peter, the condemnation of the religious and civil authorities, the mockery of the guards, the jeering at the foot of the cross, the rejection of the crowd, utter failure and the flight of the disciples. Yet, amid all these sorrows, Jesus remained certain of one thing: the closeness of the Father. Now, however, the unthinkable has taken place. Before dying, he cries out: "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" The forsakenness of Jesus.

This is the most searing of all sufferings, *the suffering of the spirit*. At his most tragic hour, Jesus experiences abandonment by God. Prior to that moment, he had never called the Father by his generic name, "God". To convey the impact of this, the Gospel also reports his words in Aramaic. These are the only words of Jesus from the cross that have come down to us in the original language. The real event is the extreme abasement, being forsaken by the Father, forsaken by God. We find it hard even to grasp what great suffering he embraced out of love for us. He sees the gates of heaven close, he finds himself at the bitter edge, the shipwreck of life, the collapse of certainty. And he cries out: "Why?" A "why" that embraces every other "why" ever spoken. "Why, God?"

"*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" In the Bible, the word "forsake" is powerful. We hear it at moments of extreme pain: love that fails, or is rejected or betrayed; children who are rejected and aborted; situations of repudiation, the lot of widows and orphans; broken marriages, forms of social exclusion, injustice and oppression; the solitude of sickness. In a word, in the drastic severing of the bonds that unite us to others. There, this word is spoken: "abandonment". Christ brought all of this to the cross; upon his shoulders, he bore the sins of the world. And at the supreme moment, Jesus, the only-begotten, beloved Son of the Father, experienced a situation utterly alien to his very being: abandonment, the distance of God.

Why did it have to come to this? *He did it for us*. There is no other answer. For us. Brothers and sisters, today this is not merely a show. Every one of us, hearing of Jesus' abandonment, can say: *for me*. This abandonment is the price he paid for me. He became one with each of us in order to be completely and definitively one with us *to the very end*. He experienced abandonment in order not to leave us prey to despair, in order to stay at our side forever. He did this for me, for you, because whenever you or I or anyone else seems pinned to the wall, lost in a blind alley, plunged into the abyss of abandonment, sucked into a whirlwind of so many "whys" without an answer, there can still be a hope: Jesus himself, for you, for me. It is not the end, because Jesus was there and even now, he is at your side. He endured the distance of abandonment in order to take up into his love every possible distance that we can feel. So that each of us might say: in my failings, and each of us has failed many times, in my desolation, whenever I feel betrayed or betrayed others, whenever I feel cast aside or have cast aside others, whenever I feel forsaken or have abandoned others, let us think of Jesus, who was abandoned, betrayed and cast aside. There, we find him. When I feel lost and confused, **when I feel that I can't go on, he is beside me.** Amid all my unanswered questions "why...?", he is there. That is how the Lord saves us, from within our questioning "why?" From within that questioning, he opens the horizon of hope that does not disappoint. On the cross, even as he felt utter abandonment – this is the ultimate end – Jesus refused to yield to despair; instead, he prayed and trusted. He cried out his "why?" in the words of the Psalm (22:2), and commended himself into the hands of the Father, despite how distant he felt him to be (cf. Lk 23:46) or rather, whom he did not feel, for instead he felt himself abandoned. In the hour of his abandonment, Jesus continued to trust. At the hour of abandonment, he continued to love his disciples who had fled, leaving him alone. In his abandonment he forgave those who crucified him (v. 34). Here we see the abyss of our many evils immersed in a greater love, with the result that our isolation becomes fellowship.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González

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EASTER 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.

Confirmations: 22 October, 2023

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Christ is risen, Happy Easter! Alleluia, Alleluia!

We are filled with the spiritual joy of the solemn celebrations of Palm Sunday that opened the Holy Week and Easter which truly brought JOY to our hearts. It was so beautiful to see the participation in all the Masses and the main procession of the whole community, our parochial school students from Holy Family, the staff, the families, and the tourists. It gave me so much joy as the liturgy devotes to this immense mystery not only a day - it would be too little for such joy-, but at least 50 days, that is, the entire Easter Season, which ends with Pentecost.

At the Easter Vigil, after the congregation has processed into a darkened church, the only single light of the Paschal Candle, the preeminent symbol of Christ, is brightening the darkness. We sing the *Exultet* which is the Church's proclamation of her Easter faith. *The Exultet*, the burst of joy, the announcement awaited by all creation is proclaimed: **Rejoice, heavenly powers! Exult, all creation! Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king! Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!**..Therefore it is insufficient to say that we live to go to heaven. The exulted reminds us that we live to know God, to love God, and to serve God in this life. We live to give the world an experience of the risen Lord. We live to bring a little piece of heaven to earth. In the difficulties of life, with the pressures and anxieties that surround us, clouding our hope, dampening our spirits, weighing heavily on our hearts, the Russia and Ukraine war, people living with anger most of the time, how and where can we find the energy, the encouragement? We need every day, just to get up, to find the strength to live in excited enthusiasm our life. Where? As the Easter song says, **In the Morning Star which never sets...** that is our Risen Lord!

Easter Sunday, moreover, is an absolutely special day that extends for the whole of this week until the following Sunday which forms the Octave of Easter. Therefore, it is forbidden to be sad during these days. In the atmosphere of Paschal joy, today's

liturgy takes us back to the sepulcher where, according to the Gospel's account, impelled by their love for him, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to "visit" Jesus' tomb. The Evangelist tells us that he comes to meet them and says: *"Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me"*. The joy they felt at seeing their Lord was truly indescribable, and, filled with enthusiasm, they ran to tell the disciples. The Risen One also repeats to us today, as to these women who remained by Jesus during the Passion, not to be afraid to become messengers of the proclamation of his Resurrection. Those who encounter the Risen Jesus and entrust themselves docilely to him have nothing to fear. This is the message that all of us Christians are called to spread to the very ends of the earth. This is why I was telling the children last week: "Do not be ashamed to be Christian-to follow Jesus as the ONLY TRUTH and LOVE". The Christian faith as we know it and as I mention in most of my homilies is not born only from the acceptance of a doctrine but from an encounter with a Person, with **Christ, dead and Risen**. In our daily lives, there are so many opportunities to proclaim this faith of ours to others with simplicity and conviction, so that, from our encounter, their faith can grow. It is more urgent than ever that men and women of our age encounter and know Jesus, and, also with the help of our example, allow themselves to be won over by Him who loves us.

God is love and He loves us. Happy Easter!

Fr. Orlando



Parish Events April 9-16

Easter Sunday
Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 11:00am
05:30pm
Coeur de Marie Children's group.
Fraternitey, Red Room.
04:00 pm
05:00 pm
05:00 pm
05:30 pm
05:00 pm
Creole Youth Choir practice.
Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
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

Thursday
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Friday
04:00pm Adoration, Blue Chapel
05:30pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm AA Parish Hall meetings

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
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HFA was visited by the Blessed Sacrament this week, where all our students were invited to spend time with the Lord and dialogue with Him through the scrutiny of his scriptures. Our students continued the week preparing for the Resurrection by learning to sing and play psalms, reading about The Creation, and making the unleavened bread the Israelites made before they were led to freedom.

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