

## Pope Francis Lenten Homily 5 March 2025

This evening, we receive the imposition of the holy ashes. This brings to mind the *memory* of what we are, but also the *hope* of what we will be. The ashes remind us that we are dust, but they also set us on a journey towards the hope to which we are called. For Jesus descended to the dust of the earth and, by his Resurrection, has drawn us with himself into the Father's heart.

Thus the Lenten journey towards Easter unfolds amidst the *remembrance* of our fragility and the *hope* that, at the end of the road, the Risen Lord is waiting for us.

First, we must *remember*. We bow our heads in order to receive the ashes as if to look at ourselves, to look within ourselves. Indeed, the ashes help to remind us that our lives are fragile and insignificant: we are dust, from dust we were created, and to dust we shall return. Moreover, there are so many times when, looking at ourselves or at the reality that surrounds us, we realise that "everyone stands as a mere breath". We learn this above all through the experience of our own fragility: our weariness, the weaknesses we have to come to terms with, the fears that dwell in us, the failures that consume us, the fleetingness of our dreams and the realisation that what we possess is ephemeral. Made of ashes and earth, we experience fragility through illness, poverty, and the hardships that can suddenly befall us and our families. This "toxic dust" clouds the air of our planet impeding peaceful coexistence, while uncertainty and the fear of the future continue to increase.

Furthermore, the condition of fragility reminds us of the tragedy of death. In many ways, we try to banish death from our societies, so dependent on appearances, and even remove it from our language. Death, however, imposes itself as a reality with which we have to reckon, a sign of the precariousness and brevity of our lives. Despite the masks we wear and the cleverly crafted ploys meant to distract us, the ashes remind us of who we are. This is good for us. It reshapes us, reduces the severity of our narcissism, brings us back to reality and makes us more humble and open to one another: none of us is God; we are all on a journey.

Lent, however, is also an invitation to rekindle our *hope*. Although we receive the ashes with our heads bowed in remembrance of who we are, the Lenten season does not end there. On the contrary, we are invited to lift our eyes to the One who rises from the depths of death and brings us from the ashes of sin and death to the glory of eternal life.

The ashes remind us of the hope to which we are called in Jesus, the Son of God, who has taken upon himself the dust of the earth and raised it to the heights of heaven. He descended into the abyss of dust, dying for us and reconciling us to the Father, as we heard from Saint Paul: "For our sake, he made himself to be sin who knew no sin" (2 Cor 5:21).

This, brothers and sisters, is the hope that restores to life the "ashes" of our lives. Without such hope, we are doomed passively to endure the fragility of our human condition. Particularly when faced with the experience of death, a lack of hope can lead us to fall into sadness and desolation, and we end up reasoning like fools. Yet the hope of Easter that we journey towards reassures us of God's forgiveness. Even while submerged in the ashes of sin, hope opens us up to the joyful acknowledgment of life: "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth". Let us remember this: "Man is dust and to dust he shall return, but dust is precious in God's eyes because God created man, destining him to immortality". Brothers and sisters, having received the ashes, we walk towards the hope of Easter. Let us turn back to God. Let us return to him with all our hearts (cf. *Joel* 2:12). Let us place him at the centre of our lives, so that the memory of what we are — fragile and mortal as ashes scattered upon the wind — may finally be filled with the hope of the Risen Lord. Let us direct our lives towards him, becoming a sign of hope for the world. Let us learn from almsgiving to go beyond ourselves, sharing each other's needs and nurturing the hope of a fairer world. Let us learn from prayer to discover our need for God or, as Jacques Maritain put it, that we are "beggars for heaven", and so foster the hope that beyond our frailties there is a Father waiting for us with open arms at the end of our earthly pilgrimage. Finally, let us learn from fasting that we do not live merely to satisfy our needs, but that, hungry for love and truth, only the love of God and of one another can truly satisfy us and give us hope for a better future.

Let us persevere in the certainty that ever since the Lord took upon himself the ashes of humanity, "the history of the earth is the history of heaven. God and man are bound together in a single destiny" and he will forever sweep away the ashes of death and make us shine with newness of life. With this hope in our hearts, let us begin our journey. Let us be reconciled with God.

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González**  
**P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez**  
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## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



### 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, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.**

**Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.**

**05:30 pm Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.**

### SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

**Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.**

**1st Confession: 13 June, 2025.**  
**1st Communions: 22 June, 2025.**

**Confirmations: To be confirmed.**

**Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.**

**Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.**

**Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.**

.Every Second Sunday of Lent the Gospel is the Transfiguration. Jesus is transfigured in the presence of the Apostles Peter, James and John. Why does the Church give us this rather “unlent-like” Gospel? Well, Jesus is talking with the prophet Elijah and Moses. They represent the Prophets and the Law of the Old Testament. They are speaking to Jesus about His passion and death. So, in the midst of an amazing miracle there is the projection of a great suffering which will culminate in Jesus’ crucifixion and death. Jesus begins to see how he will die a miserable death but this whole event of the Transfiguration can be seen as directed to the Apostles. When Jesus is dead on the cross the Apostles can recall seeing Jesus transfigured which means that within Jesus there is a hidden reality and that is the presence of God. For all there must be the Cross in our lives. The sufferings and difficulties of life show us that life is very serious and that it is through the Cross that we get meaning in our lives. If everything is going well and life is just a bouquet of roses then you start to wonder “What the heck am I living for?” Suffering comes to give an answer to the point of your life without which life, strangely enough, becomes meaningless. How contradictory life can seem at times. But the Church is giving us this Gospel exactly to help us and strengthen us when the sufferings of life become too much. We need to receive this grace now for when the time of trial comes, as it must, but remember that the cross is not the end of the Story. We await, almost impatiently to see Jesus Christ risen over our sufferings; to see the good that comes out of every suffering that we have to undergo and it’s necessity for our growth as persons. May the Lord grant us the grace to see this, during this Lenten season.

Fr. Paul  
Fr. Paul



*“Come to me, all who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.”*

*(Matthew 11:28)*

**Are you suffering and don't know why?  
Worried about the future?  
Do you feel alone ?**

**Come and Listen  
God Loves You!**

**Catechesis for Youth and Adults**  
(13 years old and up)

**Mondays and Thursdays**  
**at 7:00pm**  
(Free babysitting available)

**Our Lady of Divine Providence**  
(Maria Goretti Room)  
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**LENTEN SCHEDULE**

**Morning Prayer**

Monday to Friday 6:20am  
St. Maria Goretti, Upper Room

**Stations of the Cross**

Every Friday during Lent after the daily mass, 6:00pm in the Church.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY**

**PLEASE HELP US GET THERE**

**Garage Sale Coming Soon!**

We will be receiving donations of items this Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the church.

Thank you!

**Parish Events 16-23 March**

**Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.**

- 04:00pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
- 05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.
- 05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
- 05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
- 06:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

**Monday St. Patrick**

- 05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room
- 07:00pm Catechesis Upper Room

**Tuesday St Cyril of Jerusalem**

- 05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

**Wednesday St Joseph**

- 05:30pm Daily Mass., SMG Upper Room
- 07:00pm Parish Penance Service

**Thursday**

- 05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room
- 07:00pm Catechesis SMG, Upper Room

**Friday**

- 04:00 pm Adoration, SMG upstairs
- 05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs
- 06:00 pm Stations of the Cross in the Church

**Saturday**

- 05:30 pm Mass in Church
- 07:00 pm Eucharist NCW



**School Notes**

**Holy Family Academy**

**Tel: (+1649) 941-7875**

What an exciting week of scientific discovery, blessed by God! Our students rocked the Fortis TCI national science fair, with the elementary students bringing home a fantastic 2nd place and the high school team snagging a well-deserved 1st place. Their dedication and faith were truly inspiring!



As we journey through Lent, we are invited to focus on prayer. This Thursday's Gospel presents Jesus teaching, a powerful reminder to place our trust in God's will and seek what he knows is best for us.

**[www.hfa.catholic.tc](http://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.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Projectors
- Art Supplies
- Basketballs
- Footballs (soccer)
- Jumping ropes
- Cones

Click on our **[Wish List](#)** or scan the code to see more!

