



Catholic Focus

"Promoting Whatever is Good, True, Right and Noble"

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HOPE BOILS OVER

By: Bishop Harvey

March 12th, 13th and 14th brought three events together. The announcement from the West Indies Seismic Research Centre at UWI, Trinidad, that Kick 'em Jenny was showing above usual signs of activity, the Grenadian General Elections and the death of one of the great human beings of our time, the physicist Stephen Hawking, left me wondering whether the three events were or could be connected in any way. Kick 'em Jenny is not about to erupt. No event such as the 270 metre high cloud of 1939 is being forecast. Yet the rumblings will go on and the uninformed will be nervous for some time to come.

The tossing of Kick 'em Jenny is a reminder that nature runs its own course which we do not control. Our task as humans is to work with nature, not against it. We try to understand it, sometimes to control it, but we must always be humble as we know that in our response to nature, we show forth both our strengths and our weakness in the face of natural disasters. We do our best in disaster preparation and management. We are glad that our government has the

foresight to prepare our population, especially our children for any eventuality.

This uncertainty marks every General Election campaign. The campaign itself is uncertain, whether people will be honest and nonviolent in the campaign itself, whether the turnout will reflect commitment to the democratic process or reveal an apathy detrimental to informed and full participation in a true democracy. That uncertainty is now over and the people have once more made their choice clear. Grenada stands united 59/41% as the NNP takes office for a third time. We congratulate the winners and their indomitable leader who has declared his desire to unite and lead the nation. We stand proud of the nation for the relatively peace-



Bishop Clyde Harvey

ful campaign which is now ended. As larger nations now have to remind themselves, campaigning is not governing. *Continued on page 02*

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Hope Boils Over

By: Bishop Harvey

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We look forward with Christian hope to the future which rises before us. Numerical divisions can be transcended if we recognize the deeper workings of the Grenadian heart and spirit. A nation which claims to be under God in Jesus Christ must seek to live by the Master's values of love, self-giving, creative hard work,

justice and peace with a clear preference for the least of the brethren in all decision-making.

It is when we say and mean, "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven", especially here in Grenada, that we can find no more inspirational figure than Professor Stephen Hawking. The age in which we live is unprecedented for its intellectual and scientific achieve-



Professor Stephen Hawking

ments. Although Professor Hawking was an atheist, he was an esteemed member of the Papal Academy of Science. Small island though we may be, we possess the same basic human gifts that everyone else has. In Professor Hawking, we are reminded that there is no physical handicap which ought to deprive us of opportunities to play an indelible role on the national or even world stage. He had so many limitations and yet he had none. We are as productive as our dreams, as successful as our deeds. There are Stephen Hawkings in all our schools if we would only blow their minds with creative possibilities and not hinder them with our limited vision or stifle them in the soot of our own corruption. The journey began decades ago. We are energized today for yet another leap forward.

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Editorial

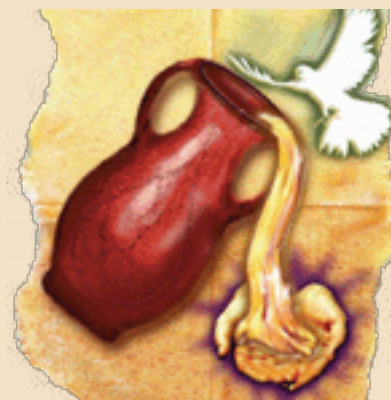
The General Election is over. The victory rally has taken place. We are grateful that the election campaign and the election process passed without any major unpleasant incident. We must be grateful to God and proud of our level of maturity. Although the call of Bishop Harvey in his pre-election statement not to allow the level of political discourse to descend into the gutter of character assassination was generally adhered to, there was much denigration of personalities in speeches and in media presentations. Of this, we cannot be proud.

Grenada is in the unique position of having one party win all the parliamentary seats in two consecutive elections. About one third of those who voted will not have a representative of their choice to speak in their interest in parliament. While meaningful discussions can take place at meetings of an enlarged Committee of Social Partners this can never satisfy the desire of citizens for vigorous and public debate in parliament. The situation does however provide an opportunity to devise a new model of democracy. The members of the proposed, enlarged Committee of Social Partners must be in close touch with their "constituents" and must truly and bravely articulate the interests of those whom they represent. If the Committee ever comes to be seen as a "talk shop" discussing in secret only the issues presented by the government, it will never pass the credibility test.

The discovery of oil in Grenada's water is both good news and bad. This added resource will offer the chance of improvement in health, education, infrastructure and many other areas. On the other hand, if the development of the oil industry does to Grenada what it did to the people of the Niger River Delta it will be tragic. It will be very hard for people who see wealth coming from the sea around them not to feel they are being unjustly treated if all they see from the oil is pollution and a few people becoming fabulously rich.

Our task as Christians is to bring about the reign of God in our land, "a kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace." (Preface of Christ the King). Governing and governed - we must all work together to bring this about.

CHRISM MASS



In the ancient world, anointing with oil was linked with the notion of well-being and prosperity, and so with health and happiness (cf. Is 61:3). Under the old covenant, the anointing of a person with oil had further, religious significance: it sets him apart for God and gave him extra powers, either as priest (Ex 30:30-2) or king (1 Sam 10:1; 16:12-12; 2 Sam 5:3 etc). In the eyes of his fellows, the anointing one belonged to God in a special way. With time, this anointing was seen in a more spiritual light: when the Lord gave his Spirit to a person, he could say: 'the Lord has anointed me' (Is 61:1).

When Jesus read this text at Nazareth (Lk 4:21), he claimed that it was fulfilled in himself. It was an anointing with the Spirit which constituted him the Messiah (Hebrew *mashiah*), literally the 'anointed one' - the Christ. In that same passage from Isaiah (ch. 61), the purpose of the anointing is outlined - it is to make peace between earth and heaven and to turn the established order upside-down. Ultimately this was to be achieved by Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, completed by his resurrection, and then by the gift of the spirit to his followers. In his own person, Jesus was the Christ, the Suffering Servant, the Victor King, and Lord of Death and Life ... The world revolution had begun, not by the sword, but by a change in men's hearts and lives and so in society.

All Christ's followers are to be Christ's. They share in the priesthood (Is 61:6; Apoc 1:6). They are people set apart, holy to the Lord; not for their own sakes, but to serve our God and Father on behalf of all mankind. From among the priestly people, some are chosen to minister to the rest, to serve them in love, nourishing them with God's word through the life-giving and healing sacraments (Preface). This we recall this morning as a special object of our prayer. Historically the oils were blessed because they were needed for the initiation rites during the Easter celebration. Surely it is fitting though, that as we reflect on the priesthood of Jesus, the Christ, the 'Anointed' the oils should be blessed which makes us and ours his and, too, make us whole (Mk 6:13; James 4:14-15).

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HOLY WEEK



The Season of Lent closes with Holy Week. The Liturgy is not afraid of tragedy. It makes us live the hour of Jesus, that hour at once dark and glorious for which he said he had come. We follow his every footstep, from the triumphant

entry into Jerusalem acclaimed by the crowd of his followers, to the loneliness of Golgotha where he is abandoned by almost everyone, even those he himself had chosen and for whom he gives his life. Everything happens quickly and seems to col-

lapse. Yet, even in what seems complete dereliction – ‘Father, why have you deserted me?’ – Jesus, with outstretched arms, attracts and gathers to himself mankind and the universe. All seems lost, all is about to begin.

PALM SUNDAY



tianity was no rebellious or criminal movement, the evangelists highlight the plot which led to the death of Jesus, the innocent Servant crucified for sinners.

The historical framework of the crucifixion set into the Jewish celebrations of the Pasch is of particular significance. There is

a sacrifice, a new rite of covenant which is to replace the immolation of a lamb. And, for Christians, there is the exemplary value of prayer, lowliness, suffering and endurance – all of which went to the perfecting of Jesus human nature.

These varying accounts cannot be reduced to a

mere listing of events. Stamped by the personality of each evangelist, each forms a unified narrative of which the dominant theme is the mastery of God over the assaults of evil, an evil which reached its apex in the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With the Hebrew children, the Church today takes part in the prophetic triumph of Christ, who enters the holy city of Jerusalem in order to pass from this world to the Father.

The narratives of the passion read today are certainly the early kernel of our gospels. Each evangelist has his individual set of values and emphases when telling this simple yet dramatic story. Careful to show that Chris-

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A Heartfelt "Thank You!"

Submitted by Derick Adonis

For most people the ending of a year is always a time to look back and reflect on all that has been and in most cases to say thank you for graces and favours received and even challenges encountered

It is in this context that I write to say a heartfelt "thank you" to the many people who were there for me during a particular difficult time in my life last year. Here I make specific reference to May 11th 2017 the day I suffered a stroke while walking in St. George's.

My three weeks hospitalization and subsequent three months period of rest and recovery afforded me an opportunity to be convinced of the generosity and goodness of God and his people. The graces, the love, the care and the prayerful support I received was truly overwhelming.

The words of Psalm 116 vs 12 & 17 are indeed my watch words "How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me..... A thanksgiving sacrifice I will

make I will call on the Lord's Name." This writing is just a feeble attempt at expressing my gratitude to God and all of you for the Kindness and Love I experienced

While I thank with all my heart every single person who prayed, visited, called, assisted with my medical bills and in anyway contributed in my time of need. Permit me to say a special thank you to an unknown gentleman named Samuel who physically supported me when I collapsed at the hospital, my family, Bishop Emeritus Sydney Charles, Mrs. Ruthina Victor and Mrs. Cecily George of Holy Family Church, River Sallee, who organized individuals to pray specifically for me from St. Patrick's Grenada all the way to Fatima Portugal

Please note that mentioning these names in no way shows lack of appreciation for what everyone has done. It's just that the action of some makes them first among equals. I am immensely grateful to all. To God be the glory great

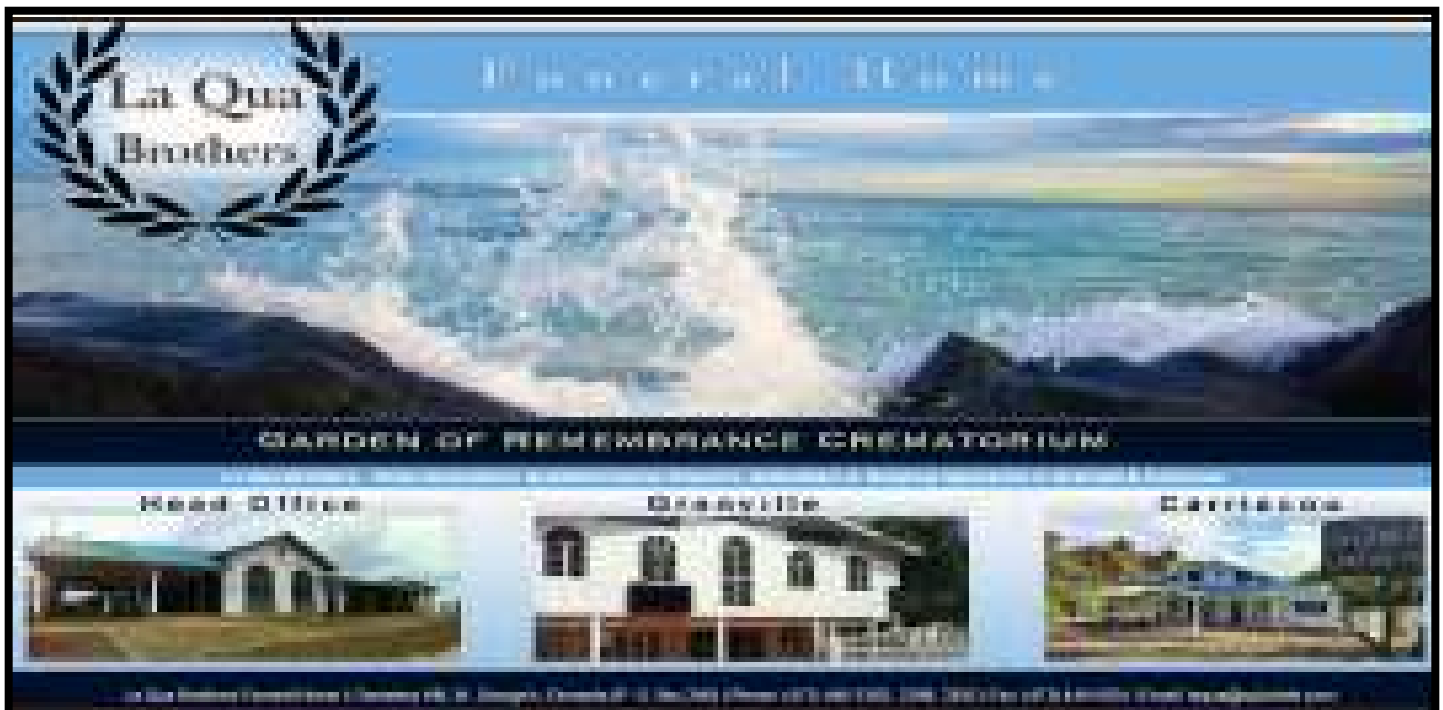


Derick Adonis

things he has done. I bless God for his mercy shown to me and thank him with all my heart.

I have repeatedly thanked God and I ask him to bless you in all ways, always. I will continue to offer prayer and Mass intentions for all of you and your needs. I ask that you keep remembering me in your prayers.

Again thank you all and may God richly bless you.



STATEMENT FROM JUBILEE CARIBBEAN

A Call to the Governments of the Caribbean and the International Financial Institutions ahead of the next hurricane season: establish debt relief as an instrument for emergency support and reconstruction.

The 2017 hurricane season has been one of the most devastating in the history of the Caribbean. In the most affected of the Eastern Caribbean islands, Barbuda and Dominica, we have seen lives lost and destruction totaling more than twice the annual GDP.

All research points to the fact that the growing severity of hurricanes in the Caribbean is related to man-made climate change. This means that we in the Caribbean, like some other nations elsewhere in the global south, are least responsible for but most affected by climate change. The few dozen small Island States across the world, for example, have neither the size nor developmental history to have been major contributors to current climate change. Yet these small Island States are the most easily devastated by rising seas and harsher storms. Our brothers and sisters who inhabit these places are in peril, through no fault of their own. Still, our nations are not only exposed to adverse weather phenomena. Moreover, we are small Island States with small and less diversified economies that have little capacity to withstand external shocks, with which poor but larger nations may be able to cope. This has been one of the reasons that we have never been able to sustainably escape from our debt traps. However, our external debt can be turned into an instrument of efficient support in the event of future catastrophes, if there is a proper mechanism to allow for moratoria and serious debt restructuring.

As Churches in the Caribbean we have witnessed the grief

and despair of our people last September, and we are not prepared to enter the next hurricane season without at least being able to tell them that our authorities shall be able to use scarce resources for immediate relief and mid-term reconstruction rather than debt service.

We therefore call upon all those who bear responsibility for responding to any crisis in the next hurricane season and beyond:

- Our own heads of State and Government must unite and collectively demand the creation of an efficient debt relief option ahead of the next hurricane season through all available means, including the United Nations System and the Bretton Woods Institutions.

- The IMF must use its rule-setting power to endorse a full debt moratorium once a hurricane or any other serious disaster brings destruction beyond a predefined level and make sure that a serious debt restructuring of all external commitments shall be possible under due consideration of our peoples' human rights.

- The ECCB and the CDB must act as supporters of a comprehensive debt restructuring process once it is needed.

We as Churches and broader Civil Society in the Caribbean commit ourselves to support our authorities in their efforts towards global justice in every possible way, including through global advocacy with the help of the international community. Debt relief has been provided before to countries in need, e.g., through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative

(HIPCI) under WB/IMF leadership or the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) after the Ebola crisis in West Africa. Through these initiatives, beneficiaries have been given the opportunity of a fresh start and found a way out of their debt traps. There is no reason why our people in the Caribbean, in contrast, should have to slide deeper and deeper into their debt traps after each hurricane season.

We urgently need a tailored Heavily Indebted Caribbean Countries Initiative, which will combine immediate relief and an efficient form of debt restructuring. We do not want to face the next hurricane season without a proper mechanism for relief in place.

05 March 2018

SIGNATURES TO THE STATEMENT:

Rev. Dr. Osbert James Presbyterian Minister, Member Conference of Churches in Grenada & Chair of Jubilee Grenada

Fr. Sean Doggett Roman Catholic Priest & member of the Conference of Churches in Grenada and Jubilee Grenada

Rev. Joachim Phillip Pentecostal Pastor representing the Alliance of Evangelical Churches in Grenada & and a member of Jubilee Grenada

Rev. Jerome Gordon Seventh Day Adventist Pastor and member of Jubilee Grenada

Mr. Alvin Clouden Roman Catholic Layman and member of the Conference of Churches in Grenada & Jubilee Grenada

Rev. John Lewis, Director of the Institute for Theological Education

The Hon. Oliver Joseph Roman Catholic Layman/Minister of Labour & member of Jubilee

Grenada

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Mrs. Valerie Ramoo Executive Secretary of the Conference of Churches in Grenada

Rev. Vonnice James Ag. Chair of Conference of Churches in Grenada & member of Jubilee Grenada

Rev Sylbert Prescod Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church – Grenada Circuit

Bishop Cuthbert Edwards Superintendent of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean (Barbados)

Bishop Clyde Harvey Roman Catholic Bishop of St. George's in Grenada

Bishop Gerard County Roman Catholic Bishop of Kingstown, St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Bishop Leopold Friday Anglican Bishop of Windward Islands

Archbishop Robert Rivas Roman Catholic Archbishop of Castries, St. Lucia

Bishop Gabriel Malzaire Roman Catholic Bishop of Roseau, Dominica

Archbishop Jason Gordon Roman Catholic Archbishop of Port of Spain, Trinidad

Fr. John D. Persaud General Secretary of the Antilles Episcopal Conference, Trinidad & Tobago

This STATEMENT is also supported and endorsed by the following:

Mr. Timothy Antoine Governor of Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)

Jurgen Kaiser Jubilee Germany

Gail Hurley UNDP

Eric LeCompte Jubilee USA

Tim Jones Jubilee UK

ACROSS THE DIOCESE Jubilee Caribbean Meeting Grenada

The small island states of the Caribbean have contributed least to the problem of global warming but are the first to suffer its effects, especially the increasing frequency and severity of hurricanes. It is unconscionable that a country such as Dominica should have had to pay an instalment of several million dollars in debt repayment to a creditor only days after it was devastated by the passage of hurricane Maria.

With the 2018 hurricane season fast approaching Jubilee Caribbean hosted a meeting of representatives of churches of the independent states of the OECS and Barbados at St. Martin's Retreat Centre, St. Andrew, on Monday, 5th March, to discuss possible preemptive action and to propose to international bodies, governments and lending agencies the need for a just and structured approach to disaster relief.

Jubilee Caribbean and Jubilee Grenada are part of the global Jubilee movement that promotes the biblical concept of Jubilee (cf. Leviticus 25, Deuteronomy 15, Nehemiah 10 and Luke 4) which includes the periodic cancellation of debt and an end to the cycle of poverty caused by indebtedness.



Students of the Presentation Brothers College Secured Championship honours at National Swim Meet





How has Jesus come to the Cross, the Innocent One whose origins are not of this world? He stands before a foreigner, accused by his own people; he has been judged, condemned by the Jews and by a pagan, each citing their own laws, and he has been crucified. But this has involved a double betrayal. The Jews betray their faith in appealing to Caesar, and Pilate betrays his

own conscience in condemning one who is innocent. But Jesus, a king despised and disfigured, the victim of corrupt injustice, symbolising in his state of abandonment the degradation to which man can reduce man yet remains all the while in God's view "The Man for others" whom we are called on to imitate. At the very hour when the Jewish priests are sacrificing their pascal lambs

in the temple, God himself suffers and dies. But from the pierced side of this ambassador in chains, that love with which God loves the world is poured out even to the last drop. The grain of wheat fallen into the earth has already begun to produce the fruit of salvation.

KATHLEEN MAHARAJ



Forty-seven-year-old Kathleen Maharaj is a Household Member of Living Water Community (LWC). Since joining the Household on July 26, 2015, she has been involved in multiple ministries in Trinidad. In 2016 she was part of a 3-member team sent to Bequia to run a week-long Lenten mission. On January 4, 2018, she joined LWC's Mission in Barbados.

Trinidad-born Kathleen is a former Editor of the Catholic News, the 125-year-old weekly newspaper of the Archdiocese of Port of Spain. She entered journalism in 1989 and worked for secular media for many years before joining the Catholic News.

EASTER



In this Easter Vigil, after a day's silence during which the Church, as it were, held her breath in suspense before the empty tabernacles in her places of worship, a thrilling joy breaks out. Christ has gone down into the valley of death and has trampled death underfoot! On the third day he rose again.... "we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to

come" – this is the core of our faith.

None of the evangelists describes the emergence of Jesus from the tomb, because they are suggesting a mystery rather than reporting news. This is the best guarantee that they are in earnest. "Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God, to see Christ rise from the dead" (Exultet). The resurrection belongs to a different category than the re-animation of a dead body. Lazarus died twice, but Christ raised from the dead dies no more.

All the witnesses to the first Easter are unanimous about

the empty tomb. The women who came to embalm Christ's body never found it; this fact alone proves nothing – but the resurrection needs no such proof. It belongs rather to the category of signs and mystery. Would faith remain if it insisted on evidence?

The Easter faith, born of doubt resolved, is a continuing act of freedom which says: It is really he: he is alive! This is the challenge of Easter to the Church, the body of Christ, risen and exalted at the right hand of the Father.

Saskia Biography 2018

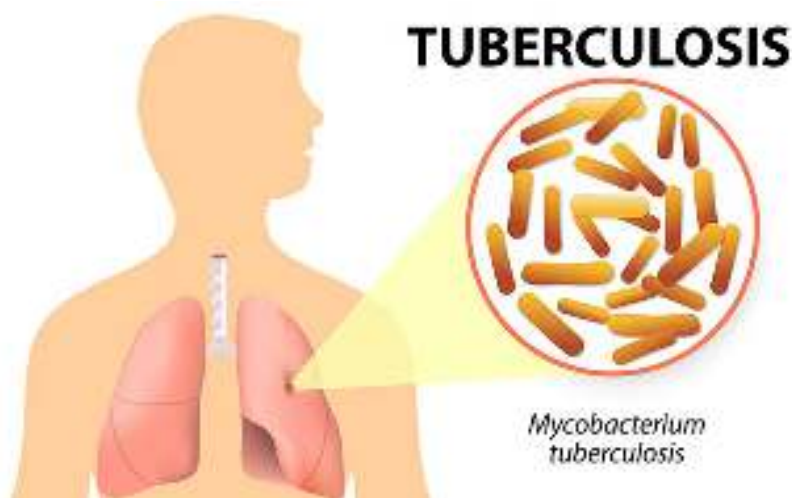


Saskia was born in Suriname into a family of six (parents and 3 siblings). In 2000, at a young age, God led Saskia back to the Catholic Church. From that time she has been involved in various ministries in the Church especially juniors teens and young adult. As youth coordinator and member of the national service team of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

These two ladies will be leading the Lenten Mission at Rosary Parish, St. Paul's, beginning on Monday 19th March.

Tuberculosis (TB)

By Dr. Shawn Charles MD MPH



World TB day is commemorated on March 24 each year to raise public awareness about the considerable damaging worldwide impact of this disease. The theme for 2018 will be "Wanted- Leaders for a TB free world." The emphasis will be on building commitment and partnerships at all levels of society to end the global TB epidemic.

TB is a communicable disease that has existed for hundreds of years. Although it is curable, it remains a huge global health problem. Factors that contribute to the global TB epidemic include HIV infection and poverty.

TB is among the top 10 leading causes of death worldwide; causing even more deaths than HIV/AIDS. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2016, about 10.4 million persons became sick with TB and 1.7 million died of the disease. Of the persons who fell sick, "90% were adults, 65% were male, 10% were people living with HIV (74% in Africa) and 56% were in five countries: India, Indonesia, China, the Philippines and Pakistan" (WHO). On average, 3 – 6 persons fall ill with TB in Grenada every year. In 2017, 3 cases were identified.

TB is caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It is spread from person to person by breathing in tiny droplets in the air containing the bacteria, which were released when a person with TB coughs. The most common part of the human body that it affects is the lungs where it is called pulmonary (lung) TB. The disease however can affect other areas of the body and when it does it is called extrapulmonary TB.

Often when someone breathes in the TB bacteria and becomes infected, the disease stays dormant and there are no symptoms; this is called latent TB infection. About 5 – 10% of persons with latent TB infection who do not get treatment will fall sick with TB disease. Sometimes a person gets sick soon after becoming infected with TB if their immune system is weak or they may fall ill years afterwards when the bacteria reactivates in their lungs.

People at risk for TB disease include those with weakened immune systems due to HIV, malnutrition, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and medication such as steroids and those used after organ transplants. Smoking also puts persons at risk for

TB. Children under 5 years and the elderly are also at increased risk.

Symptoms and signs of TB vary and may include feeling unwell, loss of appetite, fatigue and weight loss. Cough is very common, it is often prolonged and produces yellow or green mucus, called sputum, that sometimes contains blood.

There may also be excessive sweating at nights. When a doctor is interested in finding out if a patient has been infected with TB, a special skin test (called the Mantoux test) and sometimes a chest X-Ray is requested. Persons are suspected of having TB disease based on their symptoms and signs. To diagnose TB, a sample of sputum (mucus coughed up) is tested for the presence of the TB bacteria.

Treatment for TB disease involves taking a combination of four drugs for at least six months. Latent TB infection is treated generally with a single drug for the same duration. It is essential that the TB patient takes all the drugs as prescribed by their doctor to ensure that the disease is cured. Failure to take all the medication can result in a failure of the treatment and the development of resistance to the drugs by the TB bacteria which makes the disease harder to treat.

Drug resistance is becoming a major worldwide problem because if inadequate treatment of TB and it is limiting the options available to treat the disease. For this reason, one of the public health measures used to ensure that persons comply with the treatment is to have someone watch the patient take every dose of medication daily for the entire six-month period. This is called Directly Observed Therapy (DOTS).

To prevent TB, it is important that all persons with the disease are found and treated adequately to prevent them spreading it to others. Usually within two or so weeks after treatment is started, the person will no longer be able to spread the disease. Public education is also necessary so that persons are informed about the symptoms and signs of the disease, know when to seek care, and how to prevent the spread of TB.

*Unless a grain
falls to the ground and dies...*



Jesus knew He was going to die soon. It made Him sad, but He knew that He had to do it. He told the apostles, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Because Jesus died, we can be freed from our sins and live!

Have you ever tried planting seeds? The little seeds are hard and dry and seem to be dead. We put them into some damp soil, and cover them up. After a few days you can see little sprouts coming out of the soil, and soon there are little plants growing! Maybe your Mom or Dad can help you plant some seeds this spring.



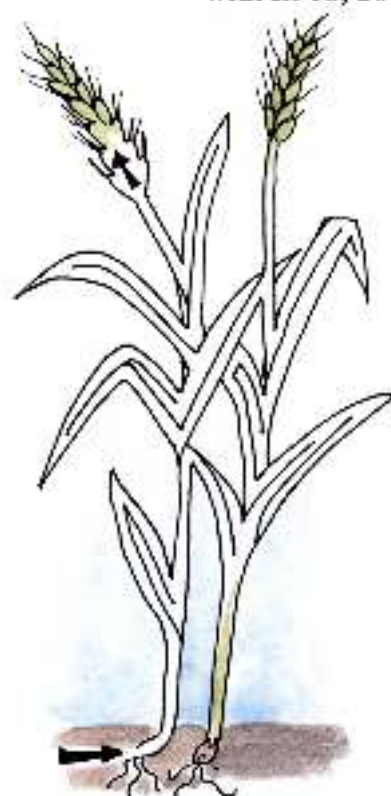
Our Lord was telling His friends that He had to be like a seed. He would die and be buried, and then after a few days, come back to life! And like a plant that grows and produces more seed, the Church would grow from Jesus and bring other holy people, saints, into the world. Saints are people that are ready to give up their good things and even their lives for love of God, just like Jesus.

Are you ready to be a saint?

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**Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 18, 2018**



In today's Gospel reading Jesus says, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Can you find your way from this grain of wheat to the new seeds at the top?

Saint Joseph March 19



JOSEPH WAS A JOYFUL MAN SELECTED TO THE VIRGIN MARY WHEN SHE BECAME THE MOTHER OF JESUS. AN ANGEL TOLD HIM THAT HIS SON WAS FROM GOD.



SAINT JOSEPH WAS HONORED TO CARE FOR THE SON OF GOD AND HIS MOTHER MARY.



IT WAS ENTIRELY IN HIS DUTIES TO GOD AND HIS FAMILY.



THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO IS PROTECT THE SON OF GOD. WHILE THERE WAS DANGER HE PROTECTED JESUS.



JOSEPH CARED FOR JESUS AS IF HE WAS HIS OWN SON.



JESUS GREW UP IN A LOVING FAMILY AND LEARNED TO WORK WELL FROM JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE.



SAINT JOSEPH SPENT HIS LIFE IN A HIDDEN WAY, PROVIDING FOR MARY AND JESUS BY HIS WORK. HE DIED WITH JESUS AND MARY AT HIS SIDE.

SAINT JOSEPH HAD ONE OF THE BEST JOBS THAT ANYONE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE. TO LOOK AFTER GOD THE SON! STILL, HE LIVED A QUIET AND HUMBLE LIFE. JUST DOING HIS WORK AND BEING A GOOD AND JUST MAN. SAINT JOSEPH IS READY TO CARE FOR US AS WELL. WE JUST NEED TO ASK HIM FOR HELP!

Psalm 51 Word-Find

S A G R E A T N E S S
S C O M P A S S I O N
T G O D L V H M Y F P
E U D T A K E A T F R
A I N C L E A N S E E
D L E A M E R C Y N S
F T S S O U T W I C E
A O S T C R E A T E N
S N R E N E W S I N C
T H O R O U G H L Y E

See if you can find the words from today's Psalm that are in CAPITALS in the puzzle!

The leftover letters tell what the author of the Psalm was asking God for!

Have MERCY on me, O GOD,
in your GOODNESS;
in the GREATNESS of your COMPASSION
wipe OUT my OFFENCE.
THOROUGHLY WASH me from MY GUILT
and of my SIN CLEANSE me.

A clean HEART CREATE for me, O God,
and a STEADFAST spirit RENEW within me.
CAST me not out from your PRESENCE,
and your Holy Spirit TAKE not from me.

He's Got Authority

BY PETER CLARKE, O.P.

Uncertainty and insecurity - Jesus was born into such a world. In St. Mark's Gospel (Mk. 1:14-20) we hear that Jesus visited the Synagogue on the Sabbath. After prayers had been said, the Law that God entrusted to Moses was read from the Sacred Scrolls. The speaker for the day explained these Laws in minute detail.

Here people learned that to be righteous, one had to live up to a very demanding standard. Ordinary people were fearful of getting it wrong. They were very insecure. When Jesus spoke He did so with authority, with Godly good sense, compassion and mercy. He was a breath of fresh air! So different from the scribes.

It occurs to me that today there are so many opinionated people. How many of them are speaking with authority. How are we to know with any certainty what is true, what is false; what is good, what is evil? With such bewilderment, surely there is an urgent need for the truth of God the Creator, to be voiced with authority. This, Jesus Himself did in the Synagogue, as we have just heard and throughout His public ministry.

Before He ascended into Heaven, He commissioned the Apostles as foundations of His Church to continue to speak with His authority - for the good of mankind. We as Church are to proclaim with His authority, the beauty of God's truth to ensure that human morality should be Godly morality; human choices

are Godly choices.

And now this gospel passage moves on to tell us, "In their Synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.'"

We must be aware that in those days there was no psychiatric medicine to deal with this kind of situation. It was then thought that those who were deranged and tormented were possessed by unclean spirits, demons. There was little that could be done to help them.

We have already heard how Jesus had impressed the people with the authority of His teaching. Now we hear of Him sharply addressing the unclean spirit. "Be quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him." The astonished people exclaimed, "Here is a teaching that is new and with authority behind it. He gives orders to unclean spirits and they obey Him."

Here was authority and powerful action! Jesus dealt with an awful, unmanageable situation. He had liberated this wretched helpless man. We of today have our own problems - many of them man-made. We are unable to prevent them and do not know how to deal with them.

Climate changes are beyond our control; we do not know how to cope with increasing

random terrorism, nor with a multitude of addictions. How can we bring a halt to the disintegration of what was once known as the stable family? With all our boasting about human progress there is a great sense of insecurity and fear for the future.

Surely this Gospel passage sounds a rallying cry to those of us who still believe in Jesus as having the authority and power to make a radical difference, to turn the tide. For our part, all of us can do some serious praying. By the way we live all of us can bear

witness to the enduring worth of Christianity. In the midst of the fierce political debates that rage throughout the world today all of us can and must bear witness to Gospel values.

To conclude I ask what response is to be given to these questions? "Can Jesus really make a difference? Or did His power to save, to heal, to push back the tides of evil, perish on Calvary?"

**GOD BLESS YOU!
AMEN!**



Please Pray for **Frs. Peter and Isidore Clarke O.P.** Fr. Peter is unwell and Fr. Isidore has been very seriously ill for quite some time.

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SSVP Grenada on The Move



As the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Grenada moves into its 96th year of operation, the members are focussing on development so that there will be less poverty among people in the communities where we operate. Hence, the theme for our Annual General Meeting is “SSVP members empowering the less fortunate to escape poverty”.

The AGM will be held at Norton's Hall on Saturday the 18th of March, 2018 at 1:30PM sharp. Brother Stephen spent the past week in Grenada to see the projects sponsored during the past few years to evaluate their effectiveness in improving the lives of our clients. Bishop Clive Harvey will also be attending our AGM for the first time.

In the month of June, there will be an International Youth meeting in Spain and there is sponsorship for a young Vincentian from Grenada to

attend. That young person will also have the opportunity to visit England one week prior to the meeting in Spain, to observe the many projects and works of young Vincentians in England.

The International Council of SVP makes every effort to sup-

port the young people who are involved in the service of the SSVP. Young people are encouraged to join a conference and bring in new life to the organisation. Remember “Now that you are young don't waste your life away”. Help others to be on the move!

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