

## Caribbean Religious Leaders call for Aid Plan as hurricane season approaches

Christian religious leaders from across the Caribbean are calling on international financial institutions and regional governments to soon put systems in place to provide debt relief and other forms of assistance to ameliorate the effects of the coming 2018 hurricane season.

Jubilee Caribbean hosted a meeting of representatives of churches of the independent states of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Barbados at St. Martin's Retreat Centre, St. Andrew, Grenada, 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.

In a statement issued by Jubilee Grenada after the meeting the churchmen said, "The small Island States of the Caribbean have contributed least to the problem of global warming but are the first to suffer ([please turn to page 7](#))

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## Many join in Lenten Pilgrimage at BBP



From Yvonne Stephenson and Leon Suseran

Scores of Catholics from the East and West Berbice parishes gathered together at Black Bush Polder, Corentyne last Sunday for the annual Lenten Pilgrimage.

Parishes represented were: Springlands - St Joachim, Port Mourant - St Francis Xavier, New Amsterdam - Church of the Ascension and a parish from as far away as Siparuta on the Corentyne River.

The event was held under the theme "Walking in Jesus's footsteps together in love".

A group of parishioners from St Teresa's parish, Campbellville, joined by a few members from other parishes in Georgetown, was blessed by their Parish Priest Father John Packiaraj SJ before also embarking on the pilgrimage to Holy Name, Black Bush Polder, to participate in the Berbice annual Lenten observance of prayer and reflection on the

passion and crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Of special note was the fact that His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB and a small group from Brickdam were also participants in this observance.

This year, as usual, the pilgrimage commenced with a prayer at the Borah Bus Shed by Bishop Francis. The procession was headed by the Bishop, while the Church of the Ascension's choir and musicians led the procession.

([Please turn to page 11](#))



This Tuesday, 27th March, the Chrism Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 17:00 hrs. It is the celebration at which priests of the Diocese renew the promises made at their ordination. It is the celebration at which the sacred oils are either blessed (oil of Catechumens and oil for anointing the sick) or consecrated (Chrism oil). These oils will be used by the priests to celebrate the sacraments in the faith communities. This is an **important** Diocesan celebration and I would like to encourage all, who can, to attend.

The sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil into Easter Sunday) will be celebrated in each of our parishes. These liturgies stand as one celebration, the most important celebration in our Catholic Calendar. I give my strongest encouragement for the fullest participation in this celebration. Let us place ourselves, in worship and prayer, as close as possible to the mysteries of our Lord's death and resurrection with the sincere desire to bring these mysteries to our families and to our nation.

### Engagements

#### Sunday 25th March

07:30hrs - Blessing of Palms and Mass at Cathedral

#### Tuesday March 27th

17:00hrs - Chrism Mass

#### Wednesday March 28th

09:00hrs - Diocesan Meeting

17:30hrs - Holy Thursday Rehearsal

#### Thursday March 29th

17:00hrs - Mass at Cathedral

#### Friday March 30th

09:00hrs - Stations of the Cross at Cathedral

15:00hrs - Passion of the Lord

#### Saturday March 31st

15:00hrs - Rehearsal for RCIA Baptism

22:00hrs - Easter Vigil

#### Sunday April 1st

17:00hrs - Mass at Cathedral

✠ Francis Alleyne OSB



## Bible Quiz should not be all about winning!

As parents we should instill in our children that not at all times we will be able to make it to the top three, but regardless of ranking in the top three, by the fact that they took time to take part in an event like the bible quiz the children are already considered winners.

From the first round of the quiz, Sr. Marie Harper's words of encouragement to the participants were "It's not all about winning the quiz; you should not always turn to your bible during the quiz but, use it in your everyday lives".

When it was the end of the quiz and the team collected their certificates, a parent said once again to the team "let's go what are we waiting for we don't have a trophy to collect". Again you could have seen the sadness in these children's eyes.

We need to stop this attitude that if you don't receive a trophy you are not a winner.

Perhaps, the Roman Catholic Youth Director can get a copy of this letter and a suggestion as a parent with

young children that the name be changed from "Bible Quiz Competition" to something else.

I guess then persons will understand the importance of the Quiz.

In concluding I'd like to congratulate all the teams that participated and note that they are all winners.

Yours in Christ,

**A concerned Catholic Parent**

### Editor's Note:

**We sent a copy of this letter to the Bible Quiz Committee and this was their response:**

*"Thank you very much for your letter. It highlights the kind of attitude we have been encouraging from the beginning towards the quiz. The purpose of the quiz is to encourage young people to reflect on the Bible and its application to their lives. It is indeed always regrettable when not everyone sees it this way and competition is emphasized. We shall try to make this clearer at every stage in the future."* ❖

CATHOLIC STANDARD

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## EDITORIAL

### ONLY CHURCH OF EQUALS IS WORTHY OF CHRIST

By Mike James

Of the world's 194 recognized states at the United Nations, 3 have parliaments in which the percentage of female legislators is greater than that of men: Rwanda 61%, Cuba 53%, and Bolivia also 53%. All the rest have less women than men, starting with Nicaragua 43%, Guyana coming in currently at position 38 worldwide with 34% women in Parliament just ahead of the UK No. 39 with 32% women, USA No. 100 with just 19% women (and yet to elect a woman president) and at the bottom of the heap Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, and Yemen with NO women legislators.

The Vatican City State, the world's smallest country and categorized politically as an "absolute monarchy", has of course, no parliament, but all the significant decision makers in the Catholic Church under the Pope, from the Cardinals (electors of a New Pope), Heads of all its dicasteries (equivalent to Ministries), its Papal Nuncios (Envoys to other States around the World) are most senior clerics, and are therefore men.

This situation where all leadership positions in the Catholic Church, down to its smallest administrative unit, the Parish, are held by men has been defended by the hierarchy. They argue that Jesus only appointed men as priests and leaders of the first Christian communities, that Christ himself was a man and that only men therefore can adequately represent him. They also contend that the Church, headed and led by Christ and his successors is not a Democracy in which women have a right to participation in leadership and decision-making.

Critics of unilateral application of historical practice as establishing unchangeable norms on the other hand note that equal rights for women in the wider society is only a very recently accepted goal, and that for example, the first countries in the world to allow women to vote at all were Finland and New Zealand only as recently as 1907, and after long struggles for the emancipation of women in the face of centuries-old opinion and practice that only men were fit for leadership roles.

The issue of the exclusion of women from leadership roles in the Catholic church has recently been propelled into world headlines following the decision by Cardinal Kevin Farrell Head of the Vatican's dicastery (Ministry) for the Laity, Family and Life to block 3 Catholic women, including the former President of Ireland Dr. Mary McAleese, from speaking last March 8 at the Vatican, at a forum sponsored by the Voices of Faith Catholic Women's group which had been hosted by the Vatican on International Women's Day the pre-

Dear Editor,

The just-concluded 14th Annual Bible Quiz Competition was an event well planned by the Diocesan Youth Office, to which I must give credit for the hard working quiz team for their time and effort spent to make this a grand success.

I was present at all rounds of the quiz; my child was not a part of the quiz neither was my parish. I was sitting next to a quiz team at the finals - the participants were all happy to go and represent their parish.

After the rounds were over, the parents and supporters of some of the participants instead of congratulating them for their hard work, their words to them was "shame on y'all you made that parish beat you". No one knows how those children felt.

vious 4 years since the election of Pope Francis.

Instead of accepting the ban on the speakers, Voices of Faith accepted an invitation by the Jesuit Order to move the conference some 200 meters outside the walls of the Vatican State to the bigger conference Hall of the Headquarters of the world's largest religious congregation of which Pope Francis is a member and upgrade the address of Dr. McAleese to Keynote Speaker on the Topic "Why Women Matter."

In her presentation, Dr. McAleese, President of Ireland 1997-2011, lawyer, journalist and currently studying for a Doctorate in Canon Law in Rome, quoted extensively from Church documents demanding a greater role for women.

'At the Second Vatican Council Archbishop Paul Hallinan of Atlanta, warned the bishops to stop perpetuating "the secondary place accorded to women in the Church of the 20th century" and to avoid the Church being a "late-comer in their social, political and economic development". The Council's decree *Apostolicam Actuositatem* said it was important that women "participate more widely ... in the various sectors of the Church's apostolate". The Council's pastoral constitution *Gaudium et Spes* said the elimination of discrimination based on gender was a priority. Paul VI even commissioned a study on Women in Church and Society.

'Surely we thought then, the post-Conciliar Church was on the way to full equality for its 600 million female members. And yes-it is true that since the Council new roles and jobs, have opened up to the laity including women but these have simply marginally increased the visibility of women in subordinate roles, including in the Curia, but they have added nothing to their decision-making power or their voice.

'Yet in divine justice the very fact of the permanent exclusion of women

from priesthood and all its consequential exclusions, should have provoked the Church hierarchy to find innovative and transparent ways of including women's voices as of right and not in trickles of tokenism by tapping, in the divinely instituted College of Bishops and in the man-made entities such as the College of Cardinals, the Synod of Bishops and episcopal conferences, in all the places where the faith is shaped by decision and dogma and doctrine.

Dr. McAleese quoted from the Decrees of the 34th General Congregation of the Jesuits approved in 1995 in the very same hall in Rome.

Decree 14 says: We have been part of a civil and ecclesial tradition that has offended against women. And, like many men, we tend to convince ourselves that there is no problem. However unwittingly, we have often contributed to a form of clericalism which has reinforced male domination with an ostensibly divine sanction. By making this declaration we wish to react personally and collectively and do what we can to change this regrettable situation. And she added:

"The regrettable situation" arises because the Catholic Church has long since been a primary global carrier of the virus of misogyny. (*meaning: dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women*). It has never sought a cure though a cure is freely available. Its name is "equality"

She noted that at the start of his papacy Pope Francis said, "We need to create still broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church," words a Church scholar described as evidence of Francis' "magnanimity". Let us be clear, women's right to equality in the Church arises organically from divine justice. It should not depend on ad hoc papal benevolence.

'Women are walking away from the Catholic Church in droves, for those who are expected to be key

influencers in their children's faith formation have no opportunity to be key influencers in the formation of the Catholic faith. That is no longer acceptable. Just four months ago the Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin felt compelled to remark that "the low standing of women in the Catholic Church is the most significant reason for the feeling of alienation towards it in Ireland today".

Her challenge to the internal culture of the Church today was brutally stark," said Archbishop Martin the following day "Some may find it unpleasant or unwelcome," he said. But "I must accept the challenge with the humility of one who recognizes her alienation."

And the archbishop said he was pleased to be source material for McAleese.

"Probably the most significant negative factor that influences attitudes to the church in today's Ireland is the place of women in the church," Martin repeated.

"I am not saying that just because of the comments in these days by President McAleese. Indeed, I was happy to note that President McAleese quoted that exact phrase of mine in her speech," the archbishop said.

In concluding her presentation, Dr. McAleese issued a strong call to Pope Francis:

'Back in this hall in 1995 the Jesuit Congregation asked God for the grace of conversion from a patriarchal Church to a Church of equals; a Church where women truly matter not on terms designed by men for a patriarchal Church but on terms which make Christ matter. Only such a Church of equals is worthy of Christ. Only such a Church can credibly make Christ matter. The time for that Church is now, Pope Francis. The time for change is now'.

[The video and full text of Dr. McAleese's address can be seen and read at the Voices of Faith website [<https://voicesoffaith.org/>]. ❖

## 'We are the Church of hope' - Vatican youth delegates speak up

(CNA/EWTN News) Young people from around the world have begun a meeting at the Vatican by voicing their hopes and expectations from the Church regarding the challenges they face and the questions life poses.

Specifically, they have said they want to know they are taken seriously, and they want the Church to talk to them about difficult issues, among them same-sex marriage, euthanasia and the role of women in the Church.

The young people are delegates to a special pre-synod meeting of youth, which is taking place March 19-24 and has drawn some 300 representatives from around the world to talk about key themes ahead October's Synod of Bishops on "Young People, Faith and the Discernment of Vocation." ❖



## Upcoming Events

### Thursday March 22nd

#### Prayers Sessions in the Vicinity of Banking Institutions and Public Offices

The Christians Affected By Crime (CABC) group as a part of its 'Frontline Ministries' will be conducting Prayer Sessions in the vicinity of all Commercial and other banking institutions as well as public offices. These sessions will be held on the **third Thursday of every month from March – July, 2018 between 12:00 – 12:45 hours**. Our first prayer session is at the **corner of Robb and Camp Streets on 22 March 22nd, 2018 from 12:00 – 12:45 hours** and we will pray and anoint the buildings of the Banking institutions on this day.

### Tuesday March 27th

#### Chrism Mass

All are invited to the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 27th at 5:00 pm at the Cathedral.

### Saturday May 5th

#### Camp Kayuka Fun Day

All are invited to the annual Camp Kayuka Fun Day on May 5th. Tickets cost \$500 (children of primary school age free), obtainable the Bishop's Office, the Piety Shop or your Parish.

Parish	Palm Sunday March 26	Holy Thursday March 29	Good Friday March 30	Easter Vigil March 31	Easter Sunday April 1
Cathedral of Immaculate Conception	07:30hrs	17:00hrs	Stations of the Cross - 09:00hrs Passion of the Lord - 15:00hrs	22:00hrs	17:00hrs
Our Lady of Fatima, North Road	08:00hrs	17:30hrs	Stations of the Cross - 09:00hrs Passion of the Lord - 15:00hrs	20:00hrs	08.30hrs
Sacred Heart, Main Street	08:00hrs	17.30hrs	Stations of the Cross - 09:00hrs Passion of the Lord - 15:00hrs	20:00hrs	08.00hrs
Holy Rosary, Kitty	09:00hrs	17:30hrs	Stations of the Cross - 09:00hrs Passion of the Lord - 15:00hrs	22:00hrs	08.30hrs
St. Teresa, Campbellville	07:30hrs	18:00hrs	Stations - 09:00hrs Passion of the Lord - 15:00hrs	21:00hrs	09:00hrs
Holy Spirit, North Rujmveidt	8:30hrs	17:30 hrs	Stations - 09:00hrs Passion of the Lord - 15:00hrs	20:00 hrs	---
St. Pius X, West La Penitence	9:00 hrs	19:00hours	Stations outdoors - 09:00hrs Passion of the Lord - 15:00hrs	22:30 hours	---
Our Lady of the Mount M/Bank	07:00hrs	17:30hrs	Stations - 09:00hrs Passion of the Lord - 15:00hrs	20:00hrs	08:00 hrs
SS Peter & Paul	---	---	Stations of the Cross @ 2pm followed by Good Friday Service	---	08:00hrs
St. Joseph, Diamond	Mass -9hrs Assemble @ 7hrs Gas Station, Providence	18:00hrs	Stations - 09:00hrs Passion of the Lord - 15:00hrs	20:00hrs	---
St. Jerome, Supply		---	Stations of the Cross @ 2pm followed by Good Friday Service	---	10:00hrs
St. Catherine, Kuru Kururu			Stations of the Cross @ 2pm followed by Good Friday Service		12noon
La Parfaite Harmonie	Meet at Malgre Tout	---	Stations of the Cross - 09:00hrs followed by Good Friday Service	17:00hrs	16:00hrs
Church of the Annunciation, Malgre Tout	07.30hrs	19:00hrs	Stations of the Cross - 12noon	22.30hrs	-
Church of the Ascension, Hague	Meet at Malgre Tout	17:30hrs	Stations of the Cross - 15:00hrs	19:00hrs	09:00hrs
St. John the Baptist, Plaisance	07:00hrs	17.30hrs	Stations of the Cross @ 9.30hrs Passion of the Lord @ 17.30hrs	21:00hrs	07:30hrs
St. Peter, BV, ECD	09.30hrs	18:00hrs	17:30hrs	21:00hrs	09:30hrs
St. Anthony, Buxton	09.15hrs	17:30hrs	17:30hrs	-	09.15hrs

### Pope's Intentions

#### March Monthly Intention:

*Formation in Spiritual Discernment*

That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels. ❖

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## A Christian Perspective on Social Issues



By GHK Lall

### Building with and for Jesus

**C**arpenters at a very basic level carve and shape; they shave and mold with great patience through labors of love. The good ones do. They build. They build and leave works of art that last, and which sometimes take the breath away through the perfection of the finished product.

This is what Jesus, the son of a carpenter, did physically, spiritually, and in a salvific manner, during his powerful, but humble, passage on this earth. This is among what Jesus invites and challenges Guyanese Christians to do and to be: building and builders. He exhorts Guyanese Catholics to look inward and reflect upon this during Lent. He exhorts and challenges one and all to work in patience and care, in deed and spirit, to build. Like he did. To build bridges. To build love. To build trust. To build the much-missing and much-needed harmony of Christian fellowship. And to build the unity of his ministry.

Any honest unflinching examination, no matter how sketchy, of Christian ways and Christian life, as practiced in this country, would reveal that unity and harmony are not where they ought to be, both inside the flock and in the wider larger environment beyond. It does not require the critical or the sharp to observe and sense, even experience, many times, the conflicted disturbing ambience that hovers, if not cloaks. It is that palpable; it is that discernible. Of course, this is not limited to Jesus' church, but is an inherent aspect of a culture national in foundation, projection, and unavoidable wounding collision.

That is so. Yet, Christians know and believe that they have to live and operate on a different plane, and at a different standard. Having been specially called and set apart, there is the responsibility to represent the essential truths of Jesus at both elemental and exceptional levels. The exceptional must be the routine of the ordinary for devoted obedient Christians; in other words that which goes against the grain and stands in bright contrast to the ugly dreariness of what is the norm. The unexceptional norm in this society is to separate and to keep partitioned; and then to huddle comfortably among humanly decided sheep (us) and condemnation of the goats (them). The manmade norm is to berate and isolate the unaccepted other. This can be either openly or secretly; sometimes it occurs within, first in the heart, and then in the church; every

other time it is without, as against enemies, be they manufactured or imagined. This is neither Lenten nor scriptural nor ecclesial nor spiritual. It is not Jesus. It is not about building. Those who desire to look, who care enough for church and community and country to want to do so, should do so, must do so. The searing punishing gaps are there; and so, too, are the naked self-incriminating spaces. There are no innocents; there is no fig leaf of mitigation.

Instead, there are bridges calling for the building to close those yawning hurtful gaps; or at the least to narrow and minimize them. Jesus designed, crafted, and built from nothing. His legacy of words and works stands in compelling testimony: incomparable, immeasurable, and in the immaculacy of perfection. This is the blueprint lived and left to be traced and embraced; his are the footsteps imprinted irreversibly upon the memory of time, and on the hearts of those listening intently and following willingly. The Christian of today has much on which to build, to mend, to fuse one piece at a time, one body at a time. The Christian cannot afford the luxuries of indifference, self-inflicted ignorance, or resistance; these form part of the continuing sowing so ingrained in this land, thereby contributing to the ongoing poisoning.

All of this is now past individual or group denying, Christians included. The immovable objective for the concerned and engaged Christian in this Lenten Season (and thereafter) has to be: build like Jesus: one board at a time that extends and reaches; one structure at a time that shelters and comforts; and one shrine at a time that draws and gathers. This is the marrow of the bridge building so urgently required here in and out Lent. This is what Jesus embodied. He reminds each true believer that this is not achievable on one's own, and with one's own only. Jesus wishes for, and needs, many more builders from inside his church, his chosen ones. Who is ready for the hard road? Who is prepared to sacrifice and equip self with authentic Christian tools? And then to evidence in works of faith and love? Just like Jesus, the master builder, the carpenter's son. ❖

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## NOTICE

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#### Admission Requirements:

**AGE:** 18 ½ to 35 years of age

#### QUALIFICATION:

- Must have completed at least 5 subjects at CXC General Certificate of Examination in no more than 2 (two) sittings with a grade of 1, 2, or 3 (*Grades 1 & 2 are preferable*)

The following CXC subjects are required

- English Language A
- Mathematics
- Science (*Only Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Human and Social Biology or Integrated Science are accepted.*)

**For entry to the Nursing School candidates are also required to be successful at the School's interviews, aptitude test and medicals.**

Kindly call 223-5450 / 225-4841 for further clarification.

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**Human Resources Manager  
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130-132 Parade Street  
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**CLOSING DATE: MARCH 31, 2018**

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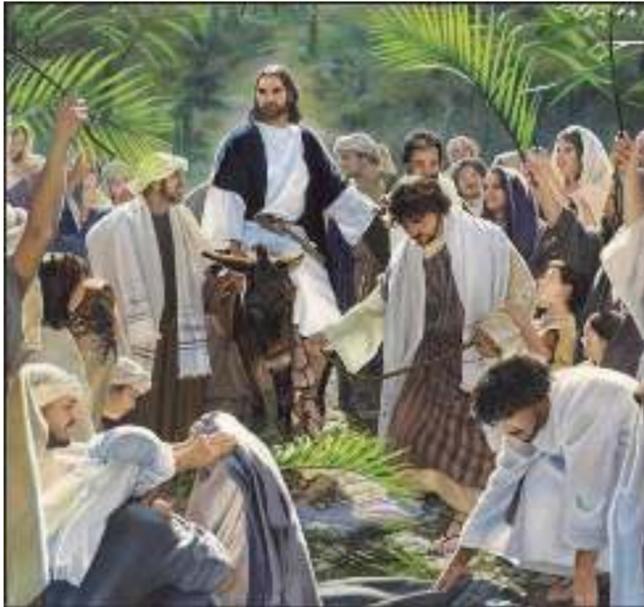
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**Jesus is Lord**

# Sunday Scripture

## March 25th - PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL** Mark 11:1-10  
*Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord.*

When they were approaching Jerusalem, in sight of Bethphage and Bethany, close by the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go off to the village facing you, and as soon as you enter it you will find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you, "What are you doing?" say, "The Master needs it and will send it back here directly." They went off and found a colt tethered near a door in the open street. As they untied it, some men standing there said, 'What are you doing, untying that colt?' They gave the answer Jesus, had told them, and, the men let them go. Then they took the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, others greenery which they had cut in the fields. And those who went in front and those who followed were all shouting, Hosanna "Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heavens!"

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 50:4-7  
*I did not cover my face against insult – I know I shall not be shamed.*

The Lord has given me  
a disciple's tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied  
he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 21  
**Response:** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

1. All who see me deride me.  
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend.' *Response*
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.  
I can count everyone of my bones. *Response*
3. They divide my clothing among them.  
They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me! *Response*
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel's sons.' *Response*

**SECOND READING** Philippians 2: 6-11  
*He humbled himself, but God raised him high*

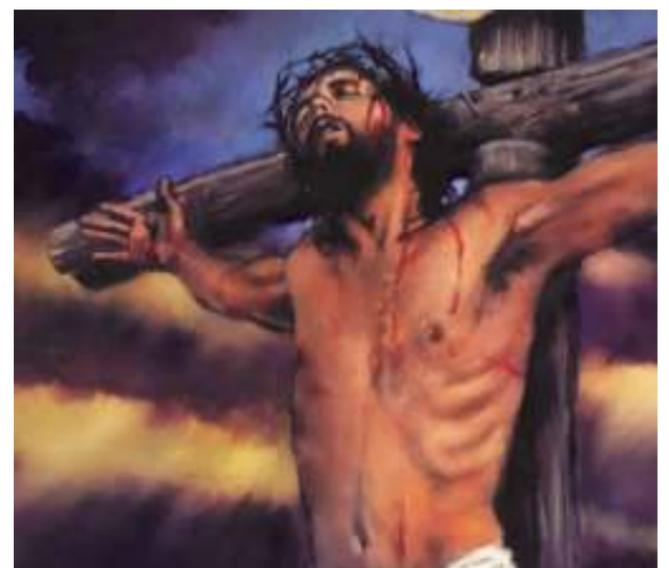
His state was divine,  
yet Christ Jesus did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,

and became as men are,  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Gospel Acclamation** Phil 2: 8-9  
*Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!  
Christ was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death, death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name which is above all names.  
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!*

## GOSPEL

*The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark (14:1-15:47)*



By: The Diocesan Stewardship  
Council of Guyana

In his letter to the Philippians, our Second Reading on this Palm Sunday, St. Paul writes, "...he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Everything we hear today and during Holy Week relates to this statement.

For some 2,000 years scholars and theologians have debated what the phrase "emptied himself" means. As is

sometimes the case, in the midst of these debates and discussions they lose focus of what is really Paul's point and teaching perhaps. One of the things Paul might be trying to get us to think about is emptying ourselves to a certain extent. If you have ever been a retreat or been part of a spiritual exercise, you may be encouraged to "empty yourself" so you are prepared to in reality add something.

Jesus gave much up to be the Son of Man. At this point in our Lenten journey, we need to grasp that He

gave up His life so that we might have life. That is what should be on our minds as we hear the Passion today and as we continue and complete our own preparation for Christ's resurrection on Easter.

Have you ever heard someone say about someone else "He (or she) is so full of himself (or herself)?" Jesus was not "full of Himself." He emptied Himself, and that is something we, too, must strive to do to be His disciple. ❖

[<http://www.catholicsteward.com/blog/>]

# Gospel Reflection



By Fr. Michael Barrow SJ

The Passion and Death of Christ, this Sunday's gospel, is the beginning of our prayer during Holy Week. We follow Christ in his suffering without any thought of the Resurrection, because that's the only way we can approach it. Children can switch their minds from life to death in a way that we can't. Dying, the death of each one of us, will be a most wonderful moment, entering into God - but being human we have a fear of it. The moment that Jesus died was a most wonderful moment, completely united with his Father but up to then, being human, he had a fear of death. He knew he was going to God his Father, but when he broke down in the Garden of Gethsemane it certainly didn't feel like that. As human beings we can see death only as tragedy and loss.

So in our prayer this week, we concentrate on the suffering and death of Jesus. For three days in the history of the world Christ was dead - dead and buried. However deep your faith, the grave is so final, the loss of one you love is simply loss. That is how we follow Jesus from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday, feeling for him as a Dead Man Walking. Of course, without our belief in the Resurrection we couldn't do it, but this week we put aside thoughts of the Resurrection so as to enter into the feeling of Christ, as it happened to him. Meditation on the passion and suffering of Christ is not a meditation on pain as such but on Christ's love. The pain Christ accepted is simply an indication of how much he loves us. During this coming week, which we call Holy, we give more time to an appreciation of Christ's love, and in the process something happens to us. ❖

## East Coast Lay Ministers Renew Commitment



Members of the East Coast Parishes, that is, from Plaisance, Beterverwagting, Buxton, Enmore, Mahaica, and Victoria came together on Sunday March 11th at the Church of St. Anthony of Padua in Buxton for what was described as a very successful and prayerful one-day assembly.

One of the ceremonies which took place during the gathering was the Lay Ministers' renewal of their commitment to serve for another term before Parish Priest Father Anil Tirkey S.J, and a filled church.

The event was planned by the community leaders from the different parishes.

The main topic for the day was how a Catholic should see and experience the Lord in their daily lives.

His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB was the main celebrant of the opening Mass, and in fact he spent the entire day with the gathering which was a great blessing. ❖

## Reflections on Rupununi Catholic Youth Convention



By Elena Buckley

My Roman Catholic community held a Youth Convention recently. The memories are still fresh and things that I have learnt remain with me.

It was hosted by the beautiful village of Kumu which is located close to the Kanuku Mountains.

This convention is an annual event where youths gather to commune, gain knowledge and be inspired.

This convention was a three-day event where my peers and I of Lethem, and 200 other youths participated. We learnt about our spirituality and our indigenous culture.

The memories of this occasion will never be forgotten. On Day one, our fellow Catholic Youths from different villages introduced themselves in their native language, which was either Wapishana or Macushi. It was a wonderful moment to witness. And

that was the beginning that set the tone for the next three days.

On Day two, Mr. Silverius Perry made a presentation to the youths about self-identity - Asking the question, "Who Am I". He spoke about the importance of self-identity, achievements, spirituality and culture. But the main message of his presentation was his advice that how we (youths) identify ourselves determines how we approach life. Mr. Perry had given us motivation, inspiration and helped us to think about the purpose of life.

Brother Joel Thompson spoke about "Laudato Si": The care for our common home. The youths were enlightened about the harmful activities that humans are engaged in that destroy our environment. He shared with us the message of Pope Francis that we need to connect with God, the Environment and People. This means connecting with the environ-

ment and have that feeling that nature plays a role in our life. It is that connection that draws us closer to God and his People. The love for nature and the care for our common home helps to bond that connection.

The following day, after Mass, all the youths were excited and eager to visit the famous Kumu Falls.

Once we arrived, some of us for the first time enjoyed bird watching. It was a moment for all of us to breathe the fresh air of the forest and of the Kanuku Mountains. It was here that we had the opportunity to listen to two of our learned indigenous elders. They are well versed in the customs and traditions and had lots of stories to share about our indigenous life.

These events made us reconnect with our indigenous identity and heritage, and to see God's work in a different way. I would like encourage other youths to remember who they are, and to become true leaders of our generation. To lead our generation to be better stewards of the future. Whenever facing challenges, pray and gain strength, courage and confidence believing in yourself, that you are on your way to success. Be an inspiration to other youths. Care for our common home.

On behalf of my peers, I would like to thank Father Ronnie, members of the Catholic Community and volunteers who made this event a success and we look forward to the next convention. As we look forward to meeting new faces, we are encouraged to strengthen our faith in God. ❖

## Caribbean Religious Leaders (From Front Page)

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."

Jubilee Caribbean and Jubilee Grenada are part of the global Jubilee movement that promotes the biblical concept of Jubilee as described in Leviticus 25, Deuteronomy 15, Nehemiah 10 and Luke 4.

The statement was signed by major religious leaders from the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Seventh Day Adventist, Methodist, and Episcopal Churches. It is given in full below:

### 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 totalling 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 pre-defined 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* (HIPC) 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

Pastor. Jerome Gordon - Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, (SDA Conference)

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

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

Ms. Janis James - Representative of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

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

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

Rev. Sylbert Prescod - Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church - Grenada Circuit

Rev. John Lewis - Director of the Grenada Institute for Theological Education

Bishop Dr. Cuthbert Edwards - Bishop of the Methodist Church, South Caribbean District, (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 C. Leopold Friday - Bishop of the 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:*

Jurgen Kaiser - Jubilee Germany

Eric LeCompte - Jubilee USA

Sarah-Jayne Clifton - Jubilee UK



## Journeying with the Word of God



### MAKING THE WORD OF GOD YOUR OWN

#### Step 1: Look at today's Readings prayerfully.

**1st Reading:** We think of Jesus as we listen to this reading of one who suffers in carrying out his mission, knowing that God will not abandon him.

**2nd Reading:** Jesus Christ shared in our humanity, becoming as we are, and accepted death on the cross. The Father raised him up.

**Gospel:** The Passion of Jesus as described by Mark stresses the crude trial and shocking details of his death.

#### Step 2: Applying the values of the Readings to your daily life.

1. Read the First Reading taken from the writings of the prophet Isaiah. Does your faith life sometimes give you the same sort of feeling?

2. The long Gospel reading tells of the Passion of Jesus and end with his death and burial. Of course the story does not end there. Why do you think so many Christians do not see past the death of Jesus to the triumph of his resurrection?

3. Holy Week celebration includes the Holy Thursday celebration of the Mass of the Last Supper. What is the significance of the "washing of the feet" at this celebration?

4. The Church has always baptised new adult members at the Easter Vigil celebration which ends Holy Week. Why do you think it is done at this time?

#### Step 3: Accepting the message of God's Word in your life of faith.

*Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. It is a special time to recall the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, our Lord. The events we remember and celebrate during this holy period help us to renew our faith and to enrich our lives as Christians. It is an especially important period for those entering the Church as they make their final preparation for their baptism into new life during the Easter Vigil.*

#### Step 4: Something to think & pray about

1. Reflect on the fact that becoming a Christian does not mean that life will be easy. Share on why this is so.

2. Recall times in your life when you have served. Share with the others the experience of visiting the sick, helping to feed the hungry, working to improve the life of someone else and how it made you feel.

3. The Holy Week celebrations include the Holy Thursday celebration of the Mass of the Last Supper. What is the significance of the "washing of the feet" at this celebration?

4. Pray that you will continue doing what is right even in the face of laughter and ridicule of others. ❖

[From: *Journeying with the Word of God*, The Religious Education Department, Diocese of Georgetown, Guyana]

## The Lord has taken him home



Mr. Compton Julian Young, perhaps best known to Catholics for his zeal for God, and for being a local pioneer and leading figure in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement that swept through mainline denominations over 50 years ago, died last Sunday March 18th after a long illness. He was 77.

Mr. Young was also a former Mayor of Georgetown and a popular florist.

Vicar General Msgr. Terrence Montrose, the officiating priest at his funeral service at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Brickdam, on Tuesday March 20th said, "The Lord has taken our brother home after his prayer to be released and to be with God". He described Mr. Young as someone who was always in the old Sacred Heart Church in Main Street, either decorating or leading, organizing, or encouraging.

The Vicar General added that during his visits to Mr. Young after he retired he found that Mr. Young was always very thankful to God for being able to give his best to society.

Mr. Kent Vincent and Mr. Andrew James, leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Guyana, gave the following reflection at Mr. Young's funeral service:-

*Kent Vincent:* Compton Julian Young was one of the first lay persons to join what eventually became known as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Guyana, when, as a young man, at around 30 years of age he had an encounter with God while visiting the Sacred Heart Presbytery. As he listened to a group of priests and nuns who were singing and praying, according to Compton he "was summoned into the Eternal Courts of Heaven".

Fr. Fred Wong, Fr. Vince Hefernan, Fr. Andrew Morrison and Sister Vivian, were among the persons who laid hands on Compton for him to experience the Release of the Holy Spirit. Compton received gifts of Preaching, Teaching, Prophecy, Words

of Knowledge and Tongues which he used to inspire and bring others to a deeper relationship with Jesus. His administrative and creative gifts were also enhanced through his new and deepened relationship with God. Compton had a wonderful singing voice and touched many hearts when he sung in prayer meetings or sang using the gift of tongues.

Eventually as the priests and nuns moved on, he took over the Leadership of Catholic Charismatic Renewal with little knowledge of the new move of the Holy Spirit in the Catholic Church.

Using his personal funds he travelled almost weekly for a period of time to attend prayer meetings in Trinidad where he met with persons such as Babsie Bleasdel a.k.a Aunty Babsie, Abbot Vlar, Father Duffy, Debbie De Rosia and other members of the growing movement of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Compton was the first person in the Catholic Church of Guyana who began organizing and taking Catholics and others on pilgrimages to Lourdes, Jerusalem and Rome.

He also organized processions and local pilgrimages with the statue of Our Lady and the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Georgetown.

*Andrew James:* Compton, in the early days of leading the Renewal used his personal resources to travel to meetings of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in many Caribbean Countries becoming a senior member of the Caribbean Service Team. He was part of the "Circuit of Preachers" in the Caribbean. Compton preached with a fire and eloquence that touched the hearts of many.

He opened his home to the members of the Renewal making it the Head Quarters of CCR. Meetings were held there regularly and it was at his home that quite a bit of leadership formation was done. Many early Leaders such as Mom Van Lange, Mrs. Comacho, Mrs. Nona Lee,

Veronica Legal, Juliet Whyte, Eustus Burrowes, Keith Awa, Fr. Floyd Grace, Oswil Toppin, Elaine DaSilva, Juliet Boters and Linda Bobb were some of those who prayed at Compton's home. Recent leaders such as Andrew James, Marcia Gurrick, Joe Watson and Kent Vincent followed. He hosted visiting guest speakers, members of prayer groups from Linden, Essequibo, Bartica, New Amsterdam and Corentyne at his home on many occasions.

Compton was a man who lived his life with a passion for Christ and his Church and brought many people to experience the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. There were many testimonies from persons who Compton assisted when they were in need and there were even testimonies from others who were prevented from taking their own lives.

Compton loved the Church and had a close relationship with most of the Clergy. His Catholic faith was paramount in his life. Nothing and no one deterred him. He was not one who would compromise his faith.

He was stubborn, strong willed, intimidating and he had a temper which led to conflicts from time to time with others and even the clergy, but his drive to do what he felt inspired by God to do never wavered.

He led many visits and Catholic Charismatic Missions to far flung communities such as Mahadia, Spring

lands, Port Mourant New Amsterdam, Buxton, Linden and Essequibo. He organized Days of Prayer, Prayer Breakfasts and began the annual Novenas to the Holy Spirit in October. He started the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the Sacred Heart Church which continues annually. Together with other Leaders of the Renewal, he even conducted a Life in the Spirit Seminar for Anglicans in New Amsterdam.

*Kent Vincent:* Personally, Compton was a friend, brother, teacher and another Father to me. He was instrumental in my spiritual formation in the CCR and was always there to support my family and I when we experienced what may be termed "trying times." Compton loved my children and would visit us or have us over at his home for Christmas. He was the Godfather of my last two daughters Ariane and Briana. He and I had our share of arguments and disagreements but our friendship remained steadfast. There will never be another person like him in our lives.

*Both:* Compton will be sorely missed by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Guyana and the Caribbean and by the many persons his life impacted.

On behalf of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, we extend our sympathy to the family of Compton Julian Young.

May his soul rest in peace. ❖

## CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

INVITES YOU TO REGISTER FOR



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**AT THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

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**YES! THE RENEWAL IN THE SPIRIT CAN BE CONSIDERED A SPECIAL GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE CHURCH IN OUR TIME" – ST POPE JOHN PAUL II, ITALY - MARCH 14, 2002**

**'I EXPECT YOU TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH THE GRACE OF BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (A PHRASE WE FIND IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES) – POPE FRANCIS, ROME - JUN 1, 2014**

**ALL ARE INVITED TO THIS WONDERFUL LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE OF EMPOWERMENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**



# Children's Page

## Palm Sunday

Dear Boys and Girls,

Today is Palm Sunday. Today the Church celebrates the kingship of Jesus with the observance of Palm (Passion) Sunday, the start of Holy Week.

Today we celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It was a day that marked the beginning of an incredible week. A week that would see Jesus cheered, then arrested, tried, condemned, and crucified. But as that week came to an end, another week began just as the previous week had begun -- with a celebration.

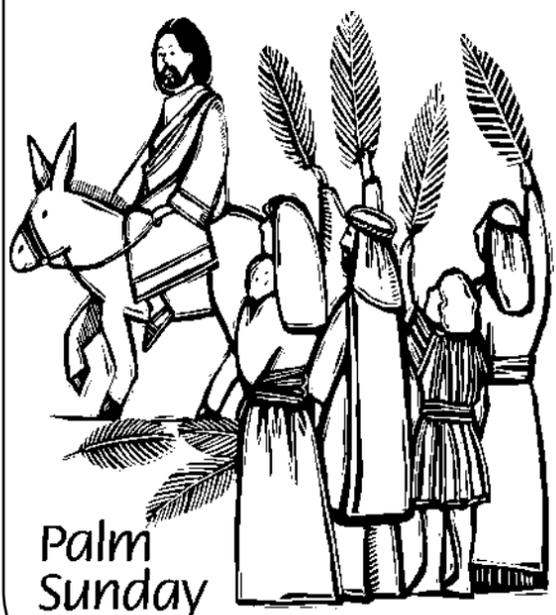
We remember that happy day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people welcomed him by waving palm branches; others spread their coats on the ground. They praised him: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Jesus is indeed a special person. He is a king. However, in the midst of that joyous celebration, Jesus knew he had enemies and that he would be crucified on Good Friday.

Today blessed palm branches are distributed in churches in memory of the love shown to Jesus.

Please hang your palms in a special place in your home to remind you that Christ is your king. Sing Hosanna!

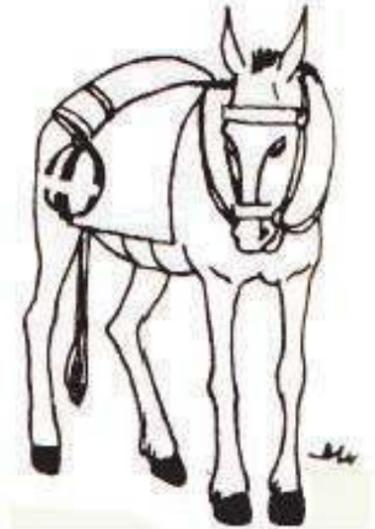
*Dear Jesus, our voices join with the voices of the people in Jerusalem some two thousand years ago. Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.*



Palm Sunday

# Today is PALM SUNDAY

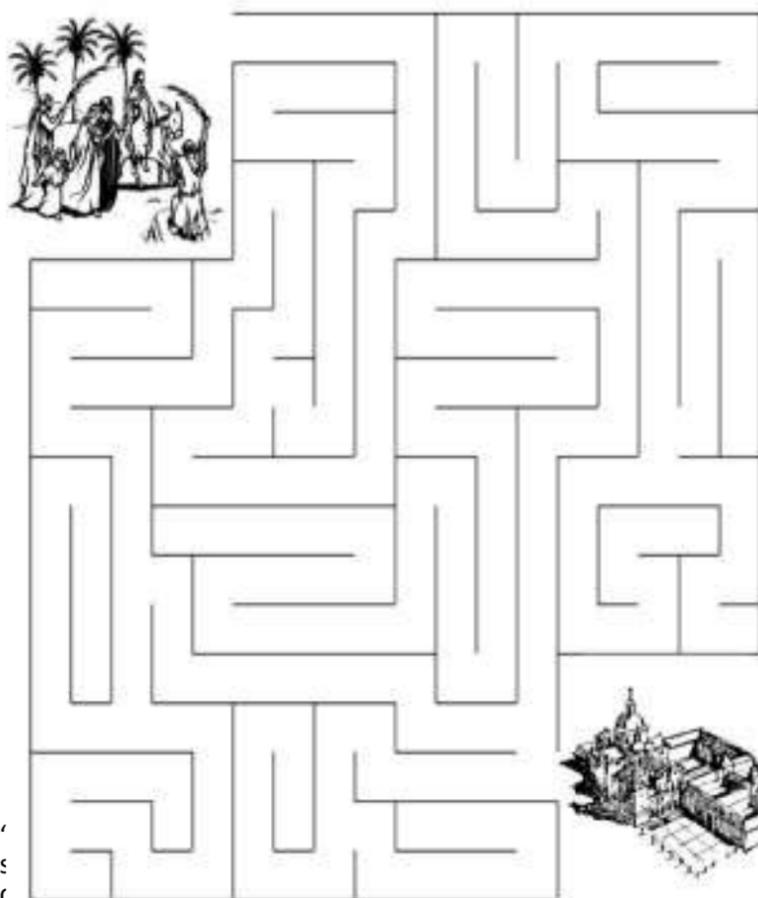
Draw Jesus riding the donkey as he was entering Jerusalem as a King.



Put an O for every \* and an A for every □ to reveal what the people were shouting.

H\_\*S\_□NN\_□T\_\* THE S\_\*N OF D\_□VID!  
 BLESSED IS HE WH\_\* C\_\*MES IN  
 THE N\_□ME OF THE L\_\*RD

Follow Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem.



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

- MOUNT
- OLIVES
- VILLAGE
- DONKEY
- COLT
- CLOAKS
- BRANCHES
- HOSANNA
- SON
- BLESSINGS
- TURMOIL
- PROPHET



Marriage is tough on men, women, and children. Living with another person for years in the same house while facing the challenges of raising children, financing our lives, working and dealing with health problems is never easy. So if we want a rock solid marriage, one that can last for a very long time (we'd like to say 'forever') read these simple words of advice, and write them on your heart!

Our Tips for a Lasting Marriage (not in any significant order):

Always remember what drew you to each other in the first place. Say I love you to one another every day. Give a hug or kiss every day. Do not withhold intercourse unless by mutual consent or special circumstances! Enjoy at least one date night a week, and go above and beyond to make it special. Become each others best friend.

Do things your spouse loves. Don't go tit for tat. Learn to let go. Don't let the sun go down while you're angry – try to resolve the issue as soon as possible. Plan and surprise your spouse with romantic vacations if your budget allows. Don't keep any bank accounts hidden from one another. Don't lie to each other. A hard truth is always better than an easy lie.

Invest in your marriage – do a marriage retreat. Renew your vows – remember your promise to your spouse at the altar – for better or worse, in sickness and in health. Be ready to make many sacrifices – doing things you may not feel like doing. Be ready to make compromises. If your marriage seems to be heading for the rocks, don't wait to get counselling. Hear one another out. Try to resolve problems and issues when you're

### Tips for a Lasting Marriage



By Chris & Noelma Lam

both calm. Instead of trying to be right, always look for the solution that brings peace. Do NOT use sarcasm. It never leads to anything good.

Tell your spouse you can't live without him or her. If you know you did wrong, be ready to make things right. Be ready to apologize and be ready to forgive when the situation arises. Fight for your marriage! Understand that you need the love of your spouse and he or she need yours.

Husbands, help out around the house. Remember that your wife is a helpmate, but that doesn't mean she should do everything. Wives, encourage your husband, give them praise. It strengthens them. Always consult one another when making big decisions. Give compliments to one another.

Never embarrass your spouse in public – deal with your issues in private. If needed, seek marital counselling, it can help. Do not verbally abuse your spouse. Do not physically abuse your spouse. Let your spouse

know you can be trusted. Don't give your spouse any reason to feel insecure. Learn the signs with which your spouse expresses his or her love. We each have our own way of showing affection.

Husbands, surprise her with roses and the like, not just for birthdays, holidays, and anniversary, but just because. Wives, your husbands love surprises too. Put on one of his favourite nighties, just because. Never cheat. This goes without saying. Never try to justify a wrong. Apologize and take responsibility. Hear your spouse out before jumping to conclusions.

Don't keep your spouse in the dark about things. Never badmouth your spouse to anyone. Communicate – he or she cannot read your mind. Keep in mind your spouse is not your enemy but your best friend. Don't look at marriage as an obligation but as a chance to love your significant other unconditionally. You can't change your spouse, but you can change how you love, and how you react to him or her.

Your objective should be to make your spouse a better person as a result of being with you, not by control, but by love. Husbands, make love to her mind during the day and the rest will follow. Wives, spend time encouraging him and supporting him and there is nothing you won't happily get.

Take showers and baths together. Leave love notes around the house. Look into their eyes, touch their face, and give thanks to him or her who puts up with you during the good and bad times. ❖



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## TitBits

### -- This Week's Reflection:

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the most solemn week of the Church's liturgical year. During Holy Week, the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his earthly life, beginning with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

For nearly 40 days we, the Christian faithful, have practiced the disciplines of Lent: prayer, fasting and good works. Now the Church invites us to an even deeper spirit of prayer as we follow Christ on his journey to the cross.

God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

### -- This Week's Bible Question:

Q. What were the Israelites told to do once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day?

### -- This Week's Teaser:

Q: Why did Little Johnny try to eat a light bulb?

### -- Today's Bible Verse:

Let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. - Ephesians 5:33

### -- Today's Marriage Tip:

Sit down with your spouse and look at some of your favourite photos from the past year. What were the hard times you weathered together? Was there an unexpected blessing? Give thanks for your life and love together.

### -- Humour:

While sitting down for dinner one evening, mom told Little Johnny that he was now old enough to start saying the grace before meals. He sat on his chair, bowed his head, folded his arms and said: "Dear Jesus! Thank you for the Lasagna. Mom didn't make a lot, so you can't have any. Amen."

### -- This Week's Truism:

Some people aren't loyal to you, they're loyal to the need of you. Once their needs change so does their loyalty.

### -- Actual Hilarious Signs:

In a shoe repair shop - "We will heel you. We will save your sole. We will even dye for you."

### -- Answer to Bible Question:

March around Jericho. - see Joshua 6:2-4

You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

### -- Answer to Teaser:

Because he was in need of a light snack. ❖

## Mind Puzzler Corner

### Our Last Brain Teaser was:

A girl has as many brothers as sisters, but each brother has only half as many brothers as sisters. How many brothers and sisters are there in the family?

**The answer:** Four sisters and three brothers.

### This Week's Brain Teaser:

It is a law that no man living in the village is allowed to shave himself. The barber of the village shaves all men living in the village. The barber lives in the village. Who shaves the barber?

**Look for the answer next week**

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# Successful 14th Annual Bible Quiz Finals held



By Joshua Van-Sluytman

'Youths have no time for Church activities...young Catholics today do not read their bibles'. Such sentiments could not be further from the truth as was witnessed at last Sunday's Bible Quiz finals. Around 100 participants, along with their trainers, friends and supporters from eleven parishes on the East Coast, East and West Banks and Georgetown, came together to explore and celebrate God's Word. The second Young Adults Quiz (ages 18-24) was also held.

The Quiz was held at Marian Academy and was organized by the Diocesan Youth Office.

Over the course of six weeks, participants would have read Mark's Gospel, the daily scripture readings of Lent and sections of the Youth Catechism (YOUCAT). They would have also learnt some of our scripture based hymns. Rather than the mere repetition, memorization and

regurgitation of biblical facts, the quiz aimed to help youths to understand and apply the bible to their daily lives.

The quiz material and questions were prepared by Jesuit scholastic, Joel Thompson. The questions were divided into various categories such as Images, Mercy, YOUCAT, and Christian living. Teams were also given cross-words and singing challenges which were met with enthusiasm by many. Officials of the competition were Ursuline Sisters Shelly Jehtoo, and Marie Harper along with Meg Eckart as Judges. Mr. Joshua Van-Sluytman, Ms. Rosanne Sahai and Ms. Jenny Beharry were Quiz Animators. Ms. Ave Abrams was the Time Keeper; Ms. Lisa Brotherson the Scorer and Mr. Justin Thompson the Team Coordinator.

After an opening prayer by Father Britto Arockiam SJ, a total of ten parishes took part in the **Junior Category**. From a maximum of 118 points their scores were as follows: St. Joseph the

Husband of Mary (Diamond) – 117, St. John the Baptist (Plaisance) – 114, St. Teresa (Campbellville) – 106, Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception (Brickdam) – 104, St. Jerome (Supply) – 94, Our Lady of Fatima (Robb St.) – 92, St. Peter's (BV) – 90, Holy Rosary (Kitty) – 86, Little Flower (Land of Canaan) – 71 and St. Catherine (Kuru Kururu) – 66.

Four teams participated in the **Senior Category**. From a maximum of 80 points the scores were as follows: St. Joseph the Husband of Mary – 76, St. John the Baptist – 75, St. Pius X – 70 and Our Lady of Fatima – 66.

Six teams participated in the **Young Adult Category**. The total points were 78: St. Joseph the Husband of Mary – 77, La Parfaite Harmonie – 72, St. Teresa – 67, Cathedral – 66, St. Pius – 42, St. Peter's – 40.

The team from St. Joseph, Diamond emerged winners in all three categories of the quiz. In her closing

remarks, Diocesan Youth Director Ms. Roxanne Douglas extended heartfelt thanks to the participants, parents, and supporters for their hard work in making the quiz a grand success. She further stated that in 2019, the Bible Quiz will be in its 15<sup>th</sup> year and her dream is for it to be even bigger in terms of participants and supporters. She concluded by saying to the participants that despite the competitive aspect, they are all considered winners, and they must always remember and practice the word of God in their everyday lives.

Special thanks are extended to the following who donated the trophies: Imex International, St. John the Baptist RC Church, the Jailall and the Van-Sluytman families.

As the quiz ends, we pray that the guiding light of God's word will guide our young people through the uncertainties in their lives.

(photo: Candecy Burnett) ❖

## Lenten Pilgrimage at BBP (From Front Page)

The faithful processed along the Mibicuri Road where the fourteen Stations of the Cross were identified with their songs of praise, prayers and meditation. "Heavenly Father, we set out, following the footsteps of your son, Jesus—as He made His way to the cross..."

Between Stations, the Rosary was recited and hymns sung.

"Help us to see the Father's will in every incident of our daily life. This is what you did. You saw the Father's

will in your persecutors, your enemies and your pain," recited Fr Stephen, parish priest of Port Mourant parish, as the pilgrims moved into the compound of Holy Name RC Parish church. They had just completed the 14 Stations of the Cross.

In a packed church, with some persons seated under a tent on the well-groomed church lawns, Mass was concelebrated by His Lordship and Fr. Stephen, the newly-appointed priest for a cluster of churches on the

upper Corentyne. The homily was delivered by His Lordship.

The Mass began at 11:00 hrs, with the singing of the song, "Take our Hearts Lord."

In his opening statements at the Mass, Bishop Alleyne urged the faithful to, "walk those steps with Jesus, and meditate on human suffering - that's what He did - and his Son showed us human suffering, showed us resurrection of life so that we will see and choose this.

The pilgrimage, he reminded those present, is a journey," that allows them to move from suffering to the fullness of life, to move from not knowing, to have a fuller understanding and communion with Our God,"

After the celebration, the entire congregation was invited to lunch and to the performance of a beautiful dance which was done by a group of young women.

There was then time for fellowship among groups.

At the end of a spiritually uplifting day, it was time for the groups to make their return journeys to Georgetown and other areas, which they did with concluding prayers and a hymn.

Snippets of the pilgrimage would be aired on the 'Ascension presents' Catholic series on DTV8 --Good Friday 6:00pm. A grateful thank you to DTV channel 8 for travelling with the Ascension community and doing coverage of the event. ❖

### In Memoriam



Pauline Seetram

Because someone we love is in heaven, there is a little bit of heaven in our home

In beloved memory of our beloved Angel, Mrs. Pauline Seetram nee Cornelius,  
*24th April 1954 – 24 March 2015.*

To lose someone we loved so much, brings pain beyond belief. There were no words to ease our pain, our sadness or our grief. We've lost someone so close, so wonderful and dear. We think about your special ways, wishing you were near. But although you've left this world, you'll stay within our hearts Guiding like an angel even though we're apart. For love is everlasting and so are our memories Your legacy that's always there, shining bright for us to see.

*Fondly missed by your husband Walter Seetram, two children Walter Jnr and Candida Seetram, brothers, sisters nieces and nephews, In-laws & friends.*

May her soul continue to rest in eternal peace.

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# East Bank Cluster continues to stand firm in one Spirit

## Saint of the Week

From Angie Sukhai

On Saturday March 17th, pilgrims of the East Bank Cluster journeyed together for the second time as part of their Lenten observances. Led by their Shepherd Jesuit priest, Fr. Britto Arockiam and joined by His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB and four other Jesuit priests, Fathers Paul Martin, John Packiaraj, Mark Mukul and Joachim De Mello, the pilgrimage began at Sts. Peter and Paul, Peters Hall with the first Station of the Cross, meditation and intercessory prayers.

They then stopped at the church of St. Joseph the Husband of Mary, Little Diamond, with the continuation of the Stations of the Cross (3rd and 4th) along with meditation and intercessory prayers. This was repeated at all the other communities, each with two Stations of the Cross.

The next stop was the church of St. Jerome at Supply, then Little Flower, Land Of Canaan; St. Teresa of Calcutta, Timehri; St. Catherine, Kuru Kururu; and the final stop at St. Michael, Yarrowkabra.

The seven Communities which constitute the East Bank Cluster that falls under Fr. Britto's pastoral care were visited. He gave a brief history of the communities, especially those that are still in the developmental stage, and the on-going developmental works.

A number of persons serving in these communities received high praise for their ongoing work to build up the respective church communities. We were welcomed and thanked by the youths at all our stops and His Lordship also gave his blessings and words of love and encouragement to the faithful.

The humility, love and charisma of those we met in our sister communities were warmly appreciated. We were served refreshments at St. Catherine while enjoying the beautiful and serene atmosphere and reflecting on the amount of work put in by these very quiet people with so little resources.

The faithful commended the leadership of Father Britto in helping them get to where they are now. It was noted that it wasn't without many challenges, but his determination to gather and comfort his flock is what keeps him going.

Indeed this was a grace-filled experience. It was evident that while on the last pilgrimage, some communities were using tarpaulins as roofs and for other purposes, this time around, solid structures were in place in most places. Some had even painted their church structures and put up welcoming signs for us their brothers and sisters. May God bless the wonderful



people of those emerging church communities at St. Jerome, Supply; Little Flower, Land Of Canaan; St. Teresa of Calcutta, Timehri; St. Catherine, Kuru Kururu; and St. Michael, Yarrowkabra.

Sunday March 18th was another very special day for the community at Diamond, as their Patron Saint's Feast Day Mass was celebrated. The third scrutiny for six elects; Lakeharajie Susan Mootoo, Leon John, Simone Anessa Khan, Ann Maria Singh, Felicia Cascade Singh and Shirlean Jean Alexander was done.

The soon-to-be opened Parish hall was also blessed. Mass was celebrated by Father Paul Martin SJ and concelebrated by Father Britto Arockiam SJ.

In his very insightful homily, Fr. Paul explained that we literally have a "concrete" structure in the Parish house, but what is more important is our "concrete" witnesses in the six elects who wish to be part of our Catholic faith. "We the people", he explained "are the pillars of our Catholic culture, thus it was important to have the scrutiny done for the persons who wish to be the foundation of our church." He also challenged us the congregation about whether we are ready to receive the elects, asking us to examine ourselves when judging others using Jesus' parable of the speck of dust and the log.

Our celebration saw brothers and sisters from the other communities joining. During the recessional hymn, we all processed out of the church and into the newly constructed Parish hall for the blessing. The work on the hall is not completed fully but still we as a community thought we could continue to use the hall and so it was fitting to have it blessed so that we could use it for Sunday catechism classes and for the other needs of the community. Once it is fully

ready then there will be an official grand opening. The community is building the hall and their dedication and sacrifice is commendable. The community is also eternally grateful for the various donors who assisted us making our wish of having a parish hall a reality. All the donors would specially be remembered and thanked on the official opening day.

The choir and guitarists enriched the liturgy as always by providing beautiful hymns before, during and after the blessing. Light refreshments were served while photographs with the church members were taken.

Topping off the day's events was the Diocesan Bible Quiz competition at Marian Academy. For the first time, Supply, Land of Canaan and Kuru Kururu took part in the Junior category. The Diamond junior quiz team for the third time, and first time for seniors and young adults. Our Diamond children and young adults emerged winners in all three categories. This was extremely special as the children studied intensely while at the same time that had to concentrate on examinations at school and for some, on their jobs.

Thanks to all the parents, teachers and supporters, and thanks once more to all the hard work of so many persons for our successful pilgrimage and our Feast day celebrations. Special thanks to our dear hardworking Fr. Britto. Our next cluster event is on Passion Sunday when we will process from the Shell gas station, Providence to Diamond for Mass.

For regular updates and developments ongoing at our church please like our Facebook page: St Joseph the husband of Mary Catholic Church, Diamond, EBD.

May God continue to bless us all and may His Holy Name be praised forever. Amen! ❖



**March 28th: St. Catharine of Bologna (1413-1463) Patron Saint of Art and Artists**

Some Franciscan saints led fairly public lives; Catharine represents the saints who served the Lord in obscurity.

Catharine, born in Bologna, Italy, was related to the nobility in Ferrara and was educated at court there. She received a liberal education at the court and developed some interest and talent in painting. In later years as a Poor Clare, Catharine sometimes did manuscript illumination and also painted miniatures.

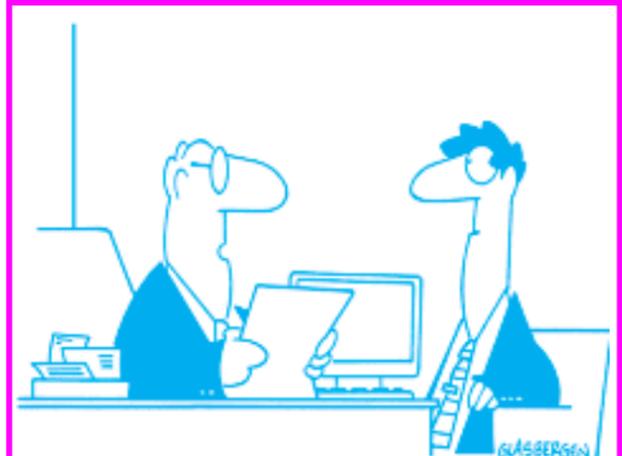
At the age of 17, she joined a group of religious women in Ferrara. Four years later the whole group joined the Poor Clares in that city. Jobs as convent baker and portress preceded her selection as novice mistress.

In 1456, she and 15 other sisters were sent to establish a Poor Clare monastery in Florence. As abbess Catharine worked to preserve the peace of the new community. Her reputation for holiness drew many young women to the Poor Clare life. She was canonized in 1712.

Catharine wrote a book on the seven spiritual weapons to be used against temptation. "Jesus Christ gave up his life that we might live," she said. "Therefore, whoever wishes to carry the cross for his sake must take up the proper weapons for the contest, especially those mentioned here. First, diligence; second, distrust of self; third, confidence in God; fourth, remembrance of the Passion; fifth, mindfulness of one's own death; sixth, remembrance of God's glory; seventh, the injunctions of Sacred Scripture following the example of Jesus Christ in the desert".

Appreciating Catharine's life in a Poor Clare monastery may be hard for us. "It seems like such a waste," we may be tempted to say. Through prayer, penance and charity to her sisters, Catharine drew close to God. Our goal is the same as hers even if our paths are different. ❖ [www.franciscanmedia.org]

## On the Lighter Side



"It says on your resume that you were created in God's image. Very impressive."