

Lent Call to Prayer

“I shall bring you back to the place from which I have exiled you”.
(Jeremiah 29:1-4)



1. Lent is a season for exiles. It is a time of waiting, a time of yearning for light to dispel darkness. The Lenten atmosphere is rooted in the experience of exile described in the Hebrew Scriptures and the people cried out for their God to deliver them from a great darkness. Are we not as Brothers in a time of dark transition as we struggle to come to terms with many issues facing our province?
(Pause)
2. In Lent, the same consoling message is addressed to our inner homelessness. God always offers hope and a welcome to the homeless. This message is relevant today in our world with its many refugees, hostage and homeless poor. Are we not, in some way, homeless, in the broadest sense of that word?
(Pause)
3. We in our Western culture, are like the exiles in Babylon, part of us has given into values of greed, consumerism, and apathy.
Yet another part of us feels out of place in a materialistic power-centered system. A sense of division exists in the heart of everyone, something is us always needs to be integrated. Lent is a time to integrate and to reclaim what we have lost in our hearts.
(Pause)
4. As we pray during Lent, let us focus on our own place of exile and hold the consolations of our God close to the exiled places of our hearts.
(Pause)





Readings and Sharing

Isaiah 49: 13-17

Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song O mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

But Sion said: "The Lord has forsaken us, the Lord has forgotten us!"

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will never forget you! See I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me. Your sons will hasten back and those who laid you bare will depart from you."

Ezekiel 34:13

"I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from all the countries and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land."

Ezekiel 37:14

Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.

They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'

Therefore prophesy and say to them: This is what the Lord says:

"O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.' "

**(Sharing of a phrase or word in the readings or service
which touched your heart and why it touched you)**

Intercessions:

L.: God of exiles, this Lent reveal to us the part of ourselves that lies in exile,
the part that is wandering and needs to come home.

**All: As we experience this Lent, we trust that you will guide us
to our true self where you dwell.**

L.: God of exiles, hear the cries and groans of the homeless, the orphaned, the refugees, and the imprisoned of the earth especially in Haiti.

All: Keep us closely united to them through our compassion and our actions.

L.: God of exiles, help us to see more clearly the aspects of our own culture that keep us captive.

All: Grant us vision, courage, and the strength to stand up for the values of the Gospel.

L.: God of exiles, be the clear voice that calls our church and our congregation home to truth and justice.

All: Give our leaders compassionate hearts and open minds to light the path home to you.

L: Glory to you, God of exiles and homecomings,

All: forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father

Leader: Let us pray:

Father of all, we pray in quiet remembrance of our need for redemption from that which imprisons and enslaves us.

Father God, the light of your truth in Jesus Christ bestows sight to the darkness of sinful eyes.

May this Lent be for us a time of healing and integration of your wonderful gifts of freedom and light.

We ask our prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Brother. Amen.



