

WAKE FROM YOUR SLEEP

My goal in this workshop is to focus on just a few themes for the seasons of Lent and Easter. It's so easy to flit from idea to idea. In working on resources for Lent with Trócaire I found that there were so many images coming through the material that I needed to stand back and let one or two themes come to the fore for myself. Music is always an influence on my thoughts and for some time now one song has haunted me. It's a piece by David Haas called *Take Me Home*. I thought that if I could work on this one theme for myself during the season of Lent that I might be able to draw other people into that dynamic too. The song is a call to God to take us home to where we really belong. If we can see Lent as a time to come home to ourselves and to who we really are then we have a focus for the season that I think will be very useful. I have laid out this section in the form of a Service of Reconciliation which is slightly different to the one in the resource book *Let's Live Lent 2007*.

TAKE ME HOME

Opening Song

Take Me Home (David Haas)

All sing: Take me home to your dwelling place
 in your sweet embrace,
 ready to hold me in your arms.
 Take me home, to your loving eyes,
 with you alone I'll rise, singing forever,
 in your arms, take me home.

Introduction

The story of the Prodigal Son on the Fourth Sunday of Lent (C) reminds us of the seasonal call to return home to the Lord in the sacrament of reconciliation. Home is where we belong. When we are not at home with ourselves we are often not at home with our God. Lent can often be the beginning of that journey to a place of welcome and forgiveness. We begin by listening to the call to go back home that we hear on Ash Wednesday from the Prophet Joel.

Call to Return

*Come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning.
Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn,
Turn to the Lord your God again,
For he is all tenderness and compassion,
Slow to anger, rich in graciousness,
And ready to relent. (Joel 2:12)*

Instrumental

A Dhia Is A Athair (Sebastien Petiet)

A Dhia is a Athair is ag triall ort a thagaimid ...
God and Father we come to you pleading ...

All Stand

Litany of Repentance

Reader 1. We gather here today in a spirit of repentance,

We gather with confidence in you.
All say: WE RETURN TO YOU, OUR GOD.

Reader 2. We reflect upon our actions in this world
We reflect upon our relationships with others

All say: WE RETURN TO YOU, OUR GOD.

Reader 1. We walk the road of reconciliation with each other
We walk the road of the prodigal with heavy hearts.

All say: WE RETURN TO YOU, OUR GOD.

Reader 2. We trust in your mercy and forgiveness
We trust in your gracious love and acceptance.

All say: WE RETURN TO YOU, OUR GOD.

All Sit

Lenten Journey

In the past a focus on the penance aspect of the season and a stress on fulfilling the letter of the law in that regard may have stopped us from seeing the broader picture and embracing the true spirit of Lent. The next reflection is from the 14th century mystic Meister Eckhart who six hundred years ago came up with this advice.

*Many people think that to show their sorrow for sin
they must do extraordinary things, such as fasting, walking barefoot, and the like.
The best penitence, however, is to turn away completely
from all that is not God and not divine,
whether it be in yourself or some other person, place or thing.
True repentance is approaching God in love
and squarely facing up to what you have done.*

*Choose your own way of doing this,
and discover that the more you do it,
the more real your repentance will become.*

*True conversion is like the Lord's passion.
The more you imitate it the more your sins fall away.*

Lent and Justice

For many years now the Trócaire Box has been synonymous with Lent in Ireland as we link with the development agency of the Roman Catholic Church in their outreach to those in need throughout the world. Many of these people have no one to speak for them. They sometimes feel that no one even knows how bad life is for them. On the Third Sunday of Lent we hear the following reading that reminds us that indeed all is seen by our God and that he wants something to happen to change the situation.

*And the Lord said, "I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.
(Exodus 3)*

We are the people that the Lord uses to make a difference – to speak up for truth and justice. *Who Will Speak?* by Marty Haugen can be used as an examination of conscience on issues of justice and truth. For the things we may have failed to do.

Refrain

- All sing:** Who will speak if we don't?
Who will speak if we don't?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, Who will speak if we don't?
- Reader 1. Who will speak for the poor and the broken?
Who will speak for the poor and oppressed?
- Reader 2. Who will speak for the ones who are voiceless?
Speak the truth in the places of power? **Refrain**
- Reader 1. Who will speak for the children of violence?
Who will speak for the women abused?
- Reader 2. Who will speak for the shunned and the outcast?
Who will speak for all people with AIDS? **Refrain**

All Of You Are One

The Trócaire theme for Lent 2007 is '*All of you are one*' and points out the reality of life for women in Malawi who bear the brunt of all the work. As in other countries where Trócaire highlights justice and peace issues they call on us today to speak out for the women of Malawi and to support projects that will empower these women to sustain themselves and their families with skills and crafts. The photo on this year's Trócaire box is of a little baby girl called Amina who is wearing a pink wristband.

Amina's Story

Amina is just ten weeks old but already her mother Teresa, like mothers everywhere, has dreams for her. Amina's mother would like to be able to provide for her own family and, through a Trócaire funded project, Amina's grandmother is part of a group who received pigs to start a breeding programme. They hope this will bring income as well as much needed nutrition to the village and making them less dependent on their crops. This way Amina should have a better future and her mother's dreams might come true.

This Lent, as we take time to pray for God's transformation in our own lives, let's pray and work together for the transformation of the lives of children like baby Amina and their family. Let us, men and women, work together to create a better world so that all people can live in justice and with dignity. Using the traditional gender colours pink for girls and blue for boys we can capture the spirit of cooperation and integration that is necessary to correct imbalances in society.

The Rembrandt painting of the Return of the Prodigal shows the father with two distinct hands representing the male and female dimensions of the story – indicating the welcome of the mother and father to the one who strayed. This classic story of regret, conversion, sincere repentance and welcome is our story too.

The Story of the Prodigal

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

While still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, 'Father, I

have sinned against heaven and against you. In no longer deserve to be called your son'. But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Song: My Son Has Gone Away (Bob Dufford)

Act of Reconciliation

*Last night as I was sleeping
I had a dream
That I had a beehive
here inside my heart.
And the golden bees
Were making white combs
And sweet honey
From old failures*

From a poem by Antonio Machado (version by Robert Bly)

All sing: Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison/Christe, Christe Eleison (Taizé)

Sending out

Celebrant ends with a blessing

We ask God's blessing on us all as we leave this place.

May God give us

The ability to forgive, as we have been forgiven

The ability to share, that we may have enough

And the ability to love, that we may know joy

In the name of God, Father, Son and Spirit, who loves us, forgives us and provide for us.

ALL: Amen

Closing Song: Take Me Home David Haas

All sing: Take me home to your dwelling place
in your sweet embrace,
ready to hold me in your arms.
Take me home, to your loving eyes,
with you alone I'll rise, singing forever,
in your arms, take me home.

HOLY WEEK

Prelude **Benedictus (Karl Jenkins)**

Reading **Luke 19:36-39**

So they took the colt to Jesus, and throwing their garments over its back they helped Jesus on to it. As he moved off, people spread their cloaks in the road, and now, as he was approaching the downward slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole group of disciples joyfully began to praise God at the top of their voices for all the miracles they had seen. They cried out:

*“Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
And glory in the highest heavens”.*

Song **Palm Procession (Chris Walker)**

All sing: Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna to the King.

Reflection **St. Andrew of Crete (8th c.)**

It is ourselves that we must spread under Christ’s feet, not coats or lifeless branches or shoots of trees, matter which wastes away and delights the eye only for a few brief hours. But we have clothed ourselves with Christ’s grace, with the whole Christ – “for as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ” – so let us spread ourselves like coats under his feet.

Song **Keep Watch With Me (Margaret Rizza)**

All sing: Keep watch with me, pray with me and do not be afraid,
Keep watch with me, pray with me and do not be afraid.

Reflection **St. Columba**

*Sometimes in a lonely cell in the presence of my God I stand and listen.
In the silence of my heart I can hear God’s will when I listen.
For I am but a servant who is guided by my king when I listen.*

Instrumental **Spiegel im Spiegel (Arvo Part)**

Reflection **Testimony of Hope (Cardinal Francis X. Van Thuan)**

‘Each time I celebrated Mass, I had the opportunity to extend my hands and nail myself to the cross with Jesus, to drink with him the bitter chalice. Each day in reciting the words of consecration, I confirmed with all my heart and soul a new pact, an eternal pact between Jesus and me through his blood mixed with mine. Those were the most beautiful Masses of my life.’

Cross Prayer Card

“God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can
And the wisdom to know the difference.”



EASTER

Song **Resucito (Kiko Arguello)**
All sing: Resucito, Resucito, Resucito , Resucito
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Entrance Antiphon: *I have risen: I am with you once more; you placed your hand on me to keep me safe. How great is the depth of your wisdom, alleluia.*

Song **Paschal Procession (Christopher Walker)**
All sing: No more weeping, joy has come into the world, He is risen.

Opening Prayer and Lighting of Candle

Blessed are you, our God, ruler of the universe, for giving us your word and your life. May our hearts be strengthened, O God, by the light of your countenance shining upon us and bring us peace through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us stand and affirm together what we believe.

Reader 1 That we worship one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
In whose image we are made, to whose service we are called,
By whose presence we are renewed

All: **This we believe**

Reader 2 That it is central to the mission of Christ
To participate, by word and action, in the struggles of the poor for justice,
To share justly the earth's land and resources, to rejoice in the diversity of human culture,
To preserve human life in all its beauty and frailty, to witness to the love of God for all people,
And to invite all to share that converting experience.

All: **This we believe**

Reader 1 That through the power of the Holy Spirit, the persecuted shall be lifted up
And the wicked will fall, the hesitant prayers and hidden actions of God's people
Shall change the course of human history, the ancient words of scripture shall startle us with fresh insight.

All: **This we believe**

Reader 1 That God has called the church into being to be the servant of the kingdom,
To be a sign of God's new order, to celebrate in the streets and fields of every land the liturgy of heaven.

All: **This we believe**

Reader 2 This we believe, and to this we are committed for the love of God, in the way of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Song **Christ Be Our Light (Bernadette Farrell)**
All sing: Sing of the hope deeper than dying
Sing of the power stronger than death
Sing of the love endless as heaven
Dawning throughout the earth.

Refrain Christ be our light, shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ be our light, shine in your church gathered today

Into this world morning is breaking
All of God's people, lift up your voice
Cry out with joy, tell out the story
All of the earth rejoice. **Refrain**

Reading **Luke 24:35**

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them, "It is nearly evening", they said, "and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from sight. Then they said to each other, "Did our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and scriptures to us?"

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, "Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon". Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Time of Reflection

Song **Ave Verum (Edward Elgar)**

Intercessions **Celtic Rune (Liam Lawton)**

All sing: Lord hear our prayer, Lord hear our prayer
Lord in your mercy, Lord hear our prayer.

1. For those enslaved by addictions that they may embrace the help that will set them free.
2. For those who work for justice in the world that they may never give up hope.
3. For the 12 million people throughout the world in slavery that they may be set free.
4. For those who continue to work for a just and caring world that they may succeed.
5. For the people of the developing world that the seeds of hope and new life may be nourished
6. For ourselves that we may be messengers of the joy and peace of Easter.

Blessing

May the love of the cross, the power of the resurrection, and the presence of the Living Lord, be with us always. And the blessing of the Eternal God, Creator and Sustainer, Risen Lord and Saviour, giver of holiness and love, be upon us now and forever, Amen.

Closing Song **Halle, Halle, Halle (Marty Haugen)**

All sing: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
Halleluiaah, Hallelujah.