

**MODEL MASS/LITURGY TO COMMEMORATE 10 YEARS SINCE THE ACT
OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN TIMOR LESTE**

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 2009



Sister Guilhermina Marcal with some of the 1,400 still sheltering in the grounds of the Canossian Convent at Balide in Dili. © Marcus Perkins/ Progressio

May this rapidly changing world, where values shift constantly, enable humankind to fight for respect, for human dignity just as the Lord himself gave His life out of respect and love for His entire human creation.

Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, September 2002

Introduction

Ten years ago today, The East Timorese people braved threats and intimidation from an occupying power to participate in a UN sponsored ballot on the future of their country. Four out of five of them voted against continued rule by the Indonesians and for independence. They paid for their courage through loss of life and the destruction of their cities as the Indonesian army took its revenge, and more than 1,400 people perished at that time. But the international community supported them through a transition to independence. Christians and people of good will stood in solidarity with their struggle and continue to support the development of this very poor country today.

Prayer

Let us pray for East Timor, thanking God for the independence its people now enjoy, but not forgetting the many challenges and difficulties that persist. Lord we thank you for the independence of East Timor. We thank you for those who gave their lives to this end. We ask you to bless East Timor and its people, and help them to build your kingdom in their land.

Tetun: Harohan ho neon ho laran ba sira nebe fo issin ho ran ba ita nia rain. Ita sei ukun rasik an duni! Ita sei lahua sira.
P'guese: Honremos a memoria dos que tomaram pela libertacao de Timor Leste. Os seus sacrificios nao serao em vao.
Eng: We honour those who shed their blood for the liberation of East Timor. Their sacrifice is not in vain.

Penitential Rite

Response: Forgive us, God of mercy, forgive us God of hope.

Reader: For our cowardice, and for the times when we have let others carry the collective burden...

Response

Reader: For blaming others when we have ourselves contributed to sorrow, suffering and discord...

Response

Reader: For all the times when we have failed to forgive, and failed to reconcile with those with whom we have quarrelled ...

Response

Reader: Lord, we know that you will give us the strength and the courage to become better human beings. Help us to desire this for ourselves.

Possible Readings from the Bible

Isaiah 5: 1-7, Psalm 79, Philippians 4: 6-9, Matthew 21: 33-43

Reflections on the scales of justice (Amos 8:4-7)

Our choice could
tip the balance
in favour of the poor
and lighten the load
of those weighed down
We could level inequality
And distribute warehouse mountains
Share out the wealth
that was never ours to hoard
Turn the tables
On those who play
the markets
We could stockpile generosity
And speculate in hope
Sell up our shares in selfishness
And settle for the dividends
of solidarity
For added value
build portfolios of justice
Or an ISA in the growth
of the kingdom of God
Buy shares in trust and act in faith
Risk our securities to find a richer life
May the percentage of our interest
In people rise,
And may we be the prophets
of hope.

Sophie Stanes/CAFOD

Reflections on East Timor and Independence

If possible/relevant, anyone present in a position to do this, could be invited to share their memories and thoughts, and any symbols, readings, poems, photographs which depict East Timor's struggle either for independence, or for development since independence.

Poem

Be Silent, Mountains
Valleys and springs,
rivers and streams
Stony way,
grassy reaches,
Be silent.

Be silent, birds of the air,
Waves of the sea,
Winds that blow,
Sands that flow,
on lands that no-one owns.
And praise the souls of the dead people
Those who have died in this war.

Be silent, canes and bamboo,
bushes and eucalyptus,
palms and grasses,
endless verdure,
of tiny Timor,
Be Silent.

Be silent,
Your silence, our silence
for one minute
It is a time for silence
for the silenced time
for the lives lost,
the lives given
for the homeland
for the nation
for the people,
for our liberation.
Be Silent.

One minute of silence.

Universal Prayer

These prayers of the faithful are adapted from those prayed at the Mass celebrated at the East Timorese independence day celebrations on 20th May 2002 in Dili, East Timor.

Brothers and Sisters,

On this significant day commemorating the last ten years of East Timorese history,

Let us lift up to God the almighty our common prayer,

So that the prayer of the holy trinity celebrated here

Will be for the salvation of East Timor and indeed, of the whole world.

Full of faith, we pray:

R: Show us Lord, the path of life.

1. For the Holy Church, universal sign of salvation in the world,
That the people of this present century realise that they are sons and daughters of God
And called to live fraternally in peace, love and progress...
Let us pray...

Response

2. For all those responsible for order, peace, justice and the material and spiritual well-being of peoples,
And in particular the government of this new nation,
So that, illuminated with divine light,
It will be able to achieve ways of safeguarding human rights and dignity...
Let us pray....

Response

3. For all the sons and daughters of this new country,
That, strengthened by centuries of Christian faith,
And experienced in dealing with struggle and difficulty,
Its people will succeed in overcoming all our divisions,
And work together to build, once and for all,
The basis for the strong edifice of our nation,
Let us pray...

Response

4. For all the heroes who bravely fell in the struggle
For the liberation of Timor Leste,
That the God our Father, in his justice and infinite love
Will give them eternal glory,
Let us pray.....

Response

5. For all the sons and daughters of this land
Who for whatever reason, feel unable to celebrate this day,
That they, moved by a profound sense of fraternal love,
Yearn for the true unity of brothers and sisters in Christ,
Let us pray....

Response

6. For all of us here present, that with the grace of God our Father, this holy
celebration will every time henceforth strengthen the bonds of our
fraternity, solidarity and friendship,
And by the hands applied in the construction of Timor Leste and the hands
of those who support them,
We will give witness to the modern world of God's truth, revealed in all
events and human knowledge, who desires to see all belonging to his
family, united, loving each other as brothers and sisters...
Let us pray...

Response

God, our Father,
On this historical day of the independence of East Timor,
We have come together at this table
To celebrate sacrifice, and holy actions,
Hear our prayers,
Give food to those who have none,
And make all of us hunger after that which is eternal –
Our God.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory hymn: Lord, while the world with war and hatred burns (tune – tell out my soul) (Celebrating One World p 84)

Communion hymn: Who will speak (Celebrating One World p152)

Poem

Mount Ramelau

Eh! Mount Ramelau, Mount Ramelau, Eh!
What is higher than your peak?
What is greater than your majesty?

Awake! The foot of the mountain is white
Awake! A new sun has risen.
A new sun is over your village
A new sun is over your land.
Eh Mount Ramelau, Mount Ramelau Eh!
What is higher than your peak?
What is greater than your majesty?

Awake! Take the reins of your own horse
Awake! Take command of our own land!

Eh Mount Ramelau, Mount Ramelau Eh!
What is higher than your peak?
What is greater than your majesty? (Traditional)

Final Prayer

Build and plant

Holy God, as you plucked up the people of Israel
And set them down to build and to plant,
So stretch out your life-giving hand to the dispossessed,
That with our help they may build and plant,
Reap and sow, dance and sing.
Fill them with courage to love,
Strength to rebuild and grace to grow,
That once more they may rise up and cry freedom,
May shake off the chains of oppression to wear dignity,
And may leave behind the shackles of despair
To embrace hope. (CAFOD)

Final Song

O RAI TIMOR
(Popular East Timorese folk song)

O Rai Timor furak
Timor Lorosae
Tasi O nian
Hau la haluha
Hau hadomio!

(twice)

Bain hira hau badok buka matenek
Mai be hau le haluha mos hau se fila
Mai ita hotu hare ba rai Timor

Hare loromatan sae dadauk ona
Lori li fuan tun sae dadauk ona
Mai ita hotu haksolok ba rai Timor

O Rai Timor furak
Hau nia doben
O keta tanis!
Keta laran susar!
Hau hadomio!

(twice)

Translation

O beautiful land of Timor
O East Timor
The sea is yours
I will not forget
I love you

I may go far away
Seeking for education
But I will never forget
I will come back
To see you my motherland

O beautiful land of Timor
You are a jewel
Wake Up
Don't cry
Don't be sad.

Seeing the sun rising
Bringing us the uncertain news
come together
Let us cheer up
the land of Timor

Alternative suggested Recessional Hymn: City of God (Celebrating One World 170)