

Daily Mass Homily
21 March 2020
Saturday of the Third Week of Lent

Reading 1: Hosea 6:1-6
Psalm 81: **It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.**
Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Today we again here from the prophet Hosea. Yesterday we heard the words calling us to return to the Lord and we hear them again. Often, we hear these same phrases again and again. These words that are calling us to come and follow the Lord God. We are called to follow the one that sent his own Son into the world so that we can see and experience him in a real and concrete way.

When we hear the words or callings in the scripture, which is God's word to us, repeated again and again, it calls us to pay attention. Return to the Lord, was an invitation, a call to stop what we are doing and go another direction. Conversion. Metanoia. That is what our whole life is about. This is what Lent is about. Repenting of our sinful ways, doing penance and making a return. We must pay attention to this call. I think God is making that clear in our lives and in the world today.

This Lent, we are truly out in the desert. We don't have Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist to help us along the way. We must fast from receiving him. Have we really wandered that far away? Maybe we have. Maybe we have

become that selfish that we no longer seek Jesus out in our lives. Yet the call is there all the same. Return to me. Return to me and you shall live. Return and you shall have eternal life. Return to the Lord and as Hosea tells us he will bind up our wounds, heal us and raise us to life.

I invite you to return to the Lord today.