



# A week of prayer for & with Lebanon



From 11 to 18 October 2020

## **Who is the CLC Group Cheminer Franco-Libanais**

Since 2010, several members of the Christian Life Community for Christian Life from different countries (France, Lebanon, Egypt, Germany, Malta, Belgium, Brazil, ...) have organised walking retreats in France and Lebanon, which have led to a deep friendship and sense of community.

## **Why this week of prayer with a special intention for Lebanon?**

The motivation is the huge explosion that took place in the port of Beirut in August, which left the city and the country in anger and desolation - one more event that added to the many difficulties Lebanon was already experiencing. The event also upset many CLC members around the world and aroused a desire to do something for CLC Lebanon.

The need for support to reconstruct Lebanon materially is enormous. We have seen support being organised, and this solidarity will have to continue over the long term. Currently, it is possible to donate through the Lebanese Jesuit community, but other initiatives will continue to emerge, also within CLC.

The CLC members who met each other during the walking retreats soon developed the desire to come together in prayer and share their trials in Christ in whom we are brothers and sisters. This desire spread among other CLC members and soon the idea arose amongst three of us to pray together for 8 days. The structure and dynamic is created in such a way that it helps us not only to pray for Lebanon and the Lebanese, but above all to pray with Lebanon and the Lebanese.

Built according to a dynamic that invites us to move from desolation to consolation, this path joins us all (Lebanese, Egyptians, French, Germans, English, Americans, South-Americans, Dutch, Polish, Argentinians, Brazilians, South Africans, Maltese, Spaniards, and other nationalities) in our personal history with God, in the history of our countries with God, and in the way we see God manifesting Himself in these histories.

The week of prayer is for everyone who wants to pray with us.



## Day 1, Sunday

### The promise of God

#### Isaiah 60, 1-5, 13, 20

Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. Though darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds, the peoples, Upon you the Lord will dawn, and over you his glory will be seen. Nations shall walk by your light, kings by the radiance of your dawning. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you— Your sons from afar, your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall throb and overflow. For the riches of the sea shall be poured out before you, the wealth of nations shall come to you. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you—the juniper, the fir, and the cypress all together —To bring beauty to my sanctuary, and glory to the place where I stand.

No longer will your sun set, or your moon wane; For the Lord will be your light forever, and the days of your grieving will be over.

#### Asking for the grace :

I ask for the grace to remember Gods intention for Lebanon, my country and myself.

#### Suggestions for prayer :

- Isaiah expresses the intention of God. I take the time to consider what this intention says about God Himself: Goodness, hope, trust, consolation, ....? I take the time to remember who God is.
- In this passage, Lebanon and its glory are in this passage are referred to, and revealed. What does this tell me about God's view of Lebanon?
- I can replace "Jerusalem" with another name:
  - Lebanon or Beirut
  - My own nickname.

I re-read the text as if it were addressed to Lebanon, Beirut or me.

What does that do to me?

Can I hear the word from God? For my country? For me?

### Conversation with the Lord :

What would I like to say to the Lord after these considerations? How do I feel ? What inner movements do I recognise? How does it set me in motion ?

What comes up? Have I discovered or rediscovered a new aspect ?

### To conclude:

I take the time to write down in a few sentences what was important to me.