

## Encounter Lent: Blessing the Community

This blessing will help your community begin its Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. You can incorporate it into Mass after the homily, or during prayer services or other communal gatherings. Make sure you have enough CRS Rice Bowls to pass out after they've been blessed, and recruit volunteers to hand one to each family.

### INTRODUCTION

As we look ahead to our Lenten journey, may our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms an offering of peace, and our prayers the reflection of humble and grateful hearts. We ask the Holy Spirit to accompany us on this journey of encounter as we spend these 40 days reflecting on what it means to live in solidarity as one global human family. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen

### READING

Let us listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah (58:5-8).

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

Pray for those in need around the world and in your own community. (See page 5 or [crsricebowl.org/parish](http://crsricebowl.org/parish).)

### BLESSING OF THE CRS RICE BOWLS

God of all people,

You are the source of every blessing. May we be mindful of your presence now and as we use these CRS Rice Bowls in prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent. May they be instruments of encounter, bringing us closer to you, our God, and to our neighbors both near and far. Through these 40 days, may we deepen our own faith in you and our love for one another as we await with joyful anticipation the great celebration of Easter.

Amen



Photo by Lucy Guillen for CRS