5th Sundy In LENT, March 22, 2015 Written by Fr. Fitz Thursday, 19 March 2015 09:22 When I am lifted up, I will draw everything to myself. JN12:33 Good Friday darkness must come before Easter brightness. "unless the seed falls into the grounf and dies...." Creation Spirituality reveals that it is intrinsic to creativity, that it begins in the dark! ...we spend 9 months in the dark womb. ...clouds gather and darken before life giving rains. ...creativity broods in the darkness of our dreams.

...the seed must be covered over with dark soil before it sprouts.

So today Jesus prepares us for the darkness of Good Friday.

suffered."

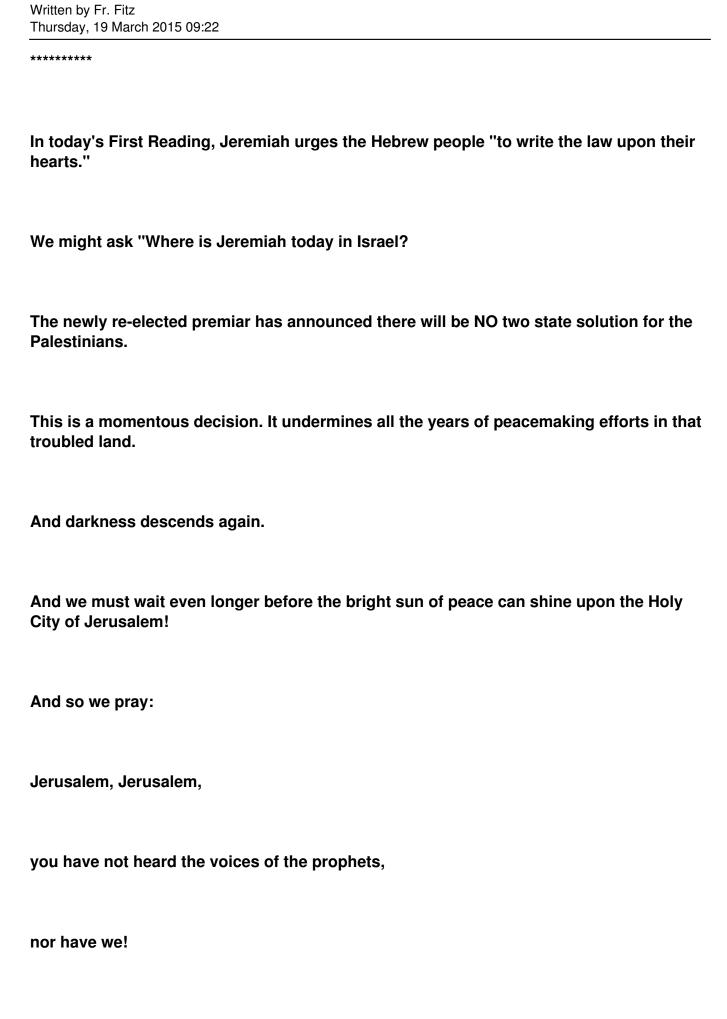
Thi is a hard saying.

In the second reading Paul assures us that Jesus "learned obedience from what he

Written by Fr. Fitz Thursday, 19 March 2015 09:22 Obedience to what? Perhaps to the human condition rather than to a sadistic Father? There is suffering all around us in every age. Viktor Frankl who survived Hitler's concentration camp wrote that for his endurance, he had to seek meaning in the suffering, and so he observed courage, fortitide, patience, endurance, the best of human traits shining in the darkness of Nazi hate. It takes a keen observer to glimpse such a scene and come up with "meaning." The other option is meaningless and despair. So today Jesus gives is an image of hope, something rising up out of the darkness: Unless I am lifted up, I will draw everyone to myself." Does the "lifting up refer to the cross? Or does the "lifting up refer to the Redurrection? For us, it must mean both. Out of darkness into the light.

This is our Paschal Myttery, and it is to be the pattern of the Christian life.

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