THE WAY

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FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Around 586 BC, the people of Israel faced a devastating reality. Their vibrant capital and cherished temple were destroyed, and they were sent into exile in Babylon. It felt like the end, yet amidst their despair, a powerful message arrived from God.

Imagine being told to **pray for the city** where you were held captive! That's exactly what God commanded in Jeremiah 29:

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare... For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:7, 10-11.

This wasn't just about survival; it was about thriving, even in a hostile environment. It taught them that God's plan extended beyond their comfort, encompassing even their "unbelieving enemies." Many found this hard to accept - surely we should only care for our own? But our God is the Lord of all, and His perspective is always bigger.

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Fast forward to June 11 2025, when a group from our College, along with over 1700 others, attended a prayer conference at the International Convention Centre (ICC). It was inspiring to see so many people come together to pray for our country and its vital institutions - from the government and media to schools and even families like ours.

Just as the Israelites were called to pray for their city, we too, as **Christians, are called to pray for our world today**. We're reminded that we're **exiles** in this world, much like the Israelites in Babylon, **waiting for the ultimate promises of God** to be fulfilled. In the meantime, we're tasked with a powerful mission: to **love and care for the city, even when it may not always love us back**.

So, as parents guiding your kids through today's challenges, I encourage you to pray for our vital institutions— our **government**, our **families**, our **schools**, and our communities. We know human efforts aren't enough; we truly need **God to act**.

Reverend Denis Oliver
College Chaplain

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