

# Family Prayers for Ash Wednesday



**Repent and believe in the Gospel**

# Ash Wednesday

If possible, try to prepare for this short service by doing the following:

- Cover a small table with a white cloth and place a crucifix and candle on it.
- Carefully burn last year's palms, if you have them, and place them in a small dish with some water to make a paste.
- Some Parishes may have small packs of ashes for you to collect and use.

# Ash Wednesday

**Leader:** Let us pray together in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

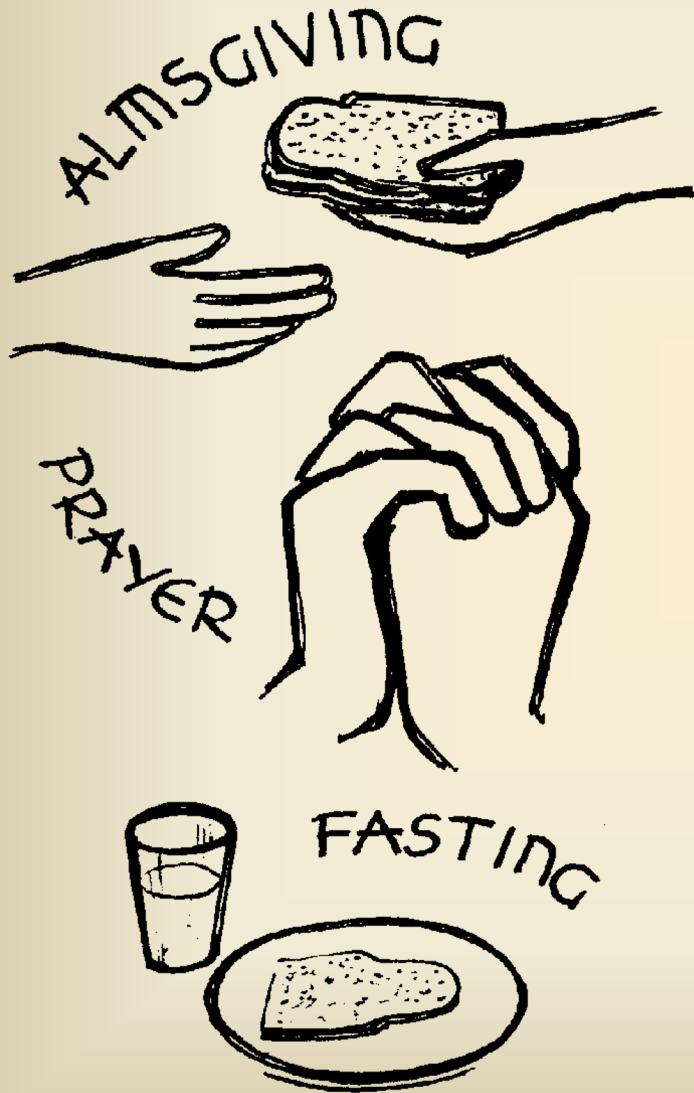
**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us pray

Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of Self-restraint. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen

# Ash Wednesday



Reader:

Turn to the Lord your God again, for he is tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in faithful love and ready to forgive.

(Joel 2: 13)

(Moment of silence)

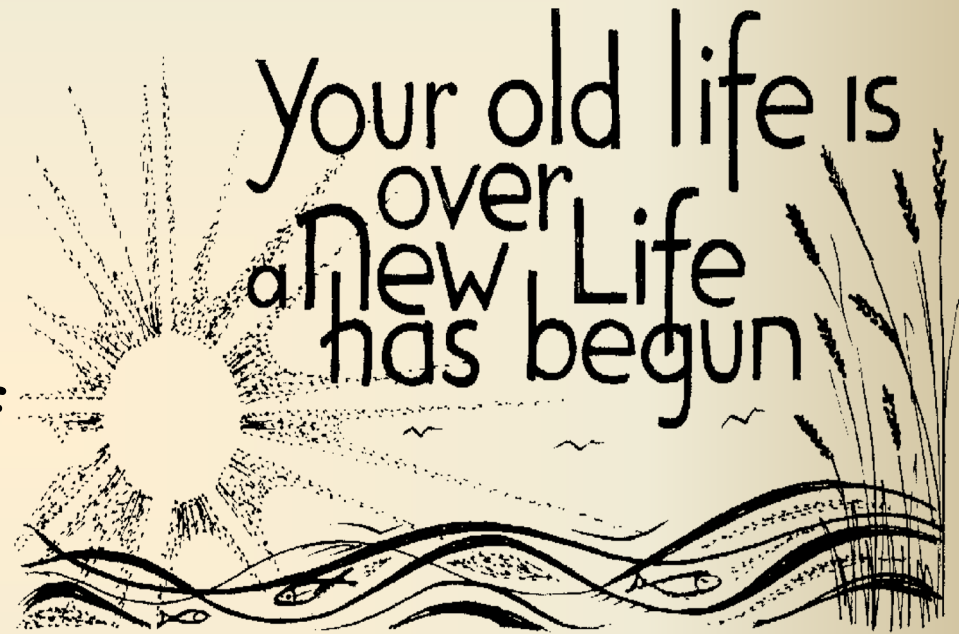
# Ash Wednesday

Reader:

Have mercy on me  
God, in your  
kindness. A pure  
heart create for me,  
O God, put a spirit of  
strength within me.  
Have mercy on me  
Lord, for I have  
sinned!

(Psalm 50)

(Moment of silence)



# Ash Wednesday

**All:** Praise to you , O Christ, king of eternal glory.

Harden not your hearts today but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Praise to you , O Christ, king of eternal glory.

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord

# Ash Wednesday

Reader:

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing this you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win men's admiration. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.'

# Ash Wednesday

**Reader:**

**And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them; I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you pray, go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.**



# Ash Wednesday

**Reader:**

**When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they pull long faces to let men know they are fasting. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that no one will know you are fasting except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.'**

**Reader:     The Gospel of the Lord.**

**All:           Praise to your, Lord Jesus Christ**

# Ash Wednesday

Leader:

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent.

We “enter into the desert” with Jesus.

This time of repentance helps us prepare more fully to share in the glory of Jesus’ Resurrection at Easter.



# Ash Wednesday



**Leader:**

**The ashes we receive remind us of two things: sorrow; regret for the things we have done wrong and hope; that through the death and resurrection of Jesus we gain salvation.**

# Ash Wednesday

**Leader:** Let us humbly ask God our Father that he be pleased to bless with the abundance of his grace these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.

**All:** Silent Prayer

**Leader:** Silently make the sign of the cross over the ashes.

# Ash Wednesday

**Leader: O God, who are moved by acts of humility and respond with your forgiveness to works of penance, lend your merciful ear to our prayers and in your kindness pour out the grace of your blessing on your servants who are marked with these ashes, that, as we follow the Lenten observances, we may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of your Son. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# **Ash Wednesday**

**The leader should now make a cross with the ashes on everyone's forehead saying:**

**“Repent and believe in the Gospel”**

**When this is done, someone should make the sign of the cross with the ashes on the forehead of the leader using the same words.**

# Ash Wednesday

**Reader** The response to each prayer is “Lord graciously hear us.

**All:** Lord graciously hear us.

**Reader: Let us pray for Pope Francis and the leaders of the Church, May God give them the wisdom to guide all of us to become holy in following Jesus. Lord hear us.**

**Let us pray for our school staff, may they guide our pupils by their thoughts, words and actions. Lord hear us.**

**Let us pray for our parents. May God inspire them to guide their children according to the teachings of the Gospel. Lord hear us.**

**Let us pray for ourselves. May God give us His strength to be kind in our thoughts, words and actions. Lord hear us.**

**We pray for the sick, the lonely and the poor. May they know God's love and may God strengthen those who care for them. Lord hear us.**

**We pray for the deceased. May God welcome them with mercy into the eternal life of the Resurrection. Lord hear us.**



# Ash Wednesday

**Leader:** Let us join all the prayers we have spoken and the prayers in our hearts with the prayer of Jesus, using the words He gave us:

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

# Ash Wednesday

**Leader:** Lord, bless the sinner who asks for your forgiveness and bless all those who receive these ashes. May we keep this season of Lent in preparation for the joy of Easter. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

# Ash Wednesday



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING