



# Ash Wednesday

17 – 02 - 2021

For the church family at home

Ash Wednesday is a special day in the Christian Church in which we remember the ways in which we have not got things quite right with God and say sorry for those things in a time of prayerful repentance. It is wonderful that you want to take part in this time of reflection, and you are very welcome to use the following words and actions to help you to mark this day. Additionally to this, we will have a Ash Wednesday Service online – 7:30pm.

*Before you begin you will need to gather the following items:*

- *Some paper and a pen*
- *Something to burn the paper in outside such as a metal baking tin or a barbecue*
- *Matches or a lighter*
- *Some vegetable oil (preferably olive)*
- *A vessel of water in case you need to extinguish the flames quickly*

**Warning: DO NOT MIX ASHES WITH WATER!** this makes a caustic form of lye.  
you may simply use olive oil to trace a cross on your forehead.

Where the text appears in red it is telling you what to do next

Where the text appears in black one person reads aloud on behalf of everyone

Where the text appears in bold black everyone joins in together

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Everyone gathers together and spends a moment in silence before saying the following

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

**Amen**

A brief period of silence is kept before the prayer for the day, The Collect, is prayed

Holy God, our lives are laid open  
before you: rescue us from the  
chaos of sin and through the death  
of your Son bring us healing and  
make us whole in Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

**Amen**

You may read *John 8:1-11*.

We keep a period of silent reflection on our sins, those things we have not got right in our lives and write them down on the paper.

If not already outside, everyone moves outdoors, each person places their paper in their metal vessel and a responsible adult carefully sets fire to them. You may prefer to simply use a rubbish bin to dispose of or throw away the paper as a representation of casting away our sins.



Everyone says together

**Make our hearts clean, O God; and  
renew a right spirit within us.**

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in  
what we have thought, in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness, through our own  
deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred  
your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of  
all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who  
died for us, forgive us all that is past; and  
lead us out from darkness to walk as  
children of light. Amen.**

You may then like to mark each other with the sign of the cross using the ashes. Mix a little oil with the ashes to make a paste and make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads saying

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

After a moment of silence, everyone says together:

**May the Lord enrich us with his grace, and nourish us with  
his blessing; the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from  
all evil; the Lord accept our prayers, and absolve us from our  
offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
Amen.**