

St Mary & St Margaret with St Clements, Castle Bromwich



Together for Ash Wednesday

INTRODUCTION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

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.**

READING: Joel 2;12-17

ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION (Part 1)
"Recognising our need... Repenting in hope"

ACT OF PENITENCE

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

...a moment of silence

God the Father,
Have mercy on us.

God the Son,
Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
Have mercy on us.

Trinity of love,
Have mercy on us.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart,
and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others,
as we have been forgiven.
Lord, have mercy.

We have been deaf to your call to serve,
as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you, Lord ...

all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy
and impatience of our lives.
Lord, have mercy.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people.
Lord, have mercy.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of
those more fortunate than ourselves.
Lord, have mercy.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and
comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.
Lord, have mercy.

Our negligence in prayer and worship
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.
Lord, have mercy.

Accept our repentance, Lord ...

for the wrongs we have done,
for our blindness to human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements,
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours
and for our prejudice and contempt towards those
who differ from us.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after
us.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart
from us.

Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
that we may show your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his
resurrection.**

Silence is kept.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

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.

GOSPEL READING: John 8;1-12

We pick up our stones...

**ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION (Part 2)
"Receiving grace... Choosing holiness"**

A SYMBOLIC ACT OF RECOMMITMENT

No more condemnation. No more shame.
We lay down our stones

God our Father,
the strength of all who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers;
and because, in our weakness,
we can do nothing good without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in keeping your commandments
we may please you, both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

THE PEACE

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

We offer one another a sign of peace.

BLESSING.

God, who from the death of sin
raised you to new life in Christ,
keep you from falling
and set you in the presence of his glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Father Son and Holy Spirit
be with us all now and for ever. **Amen.**