

TURN AWAY FROM SIN AND BE FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL

# Ash Wednesday Celebrations

Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Wednesday 22nd February



7.00 am **Eucharistic Service** with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

9.30 am **MASS** with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes after the Gospel

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The ashes we use are the burnt palms from last year's celebration of Passion Sunday.

We begin our Lenten journey aware of where we are going.

We want to enter into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus for us more fully.

That is the purpose of our journey. It is why we mark our heads with his cross.

It is why we fast today and abstain from meat.

## **PRAYER OF BLESSING of ASHES**

Lord, bless the sinner who asks for your forgiveness and bless + all those who receive these ashes.  
May they keep this lenten season in preparation for the joy of Easter.

*Or:*

Lord, bless these ashes + by which we show that we are dust. Pardon our sins and keep us faithful to the discipline of Lent, for you do not want sinners to die but to live with the risen Christ, who reigns with you for ever and ever.

REMEMBER YOU ARE DUST AND TO DUST YOU WILL RETURN