

**Parish Mass  
For  
Ash Wednesday**



**at  
the Church of  
St Mary's,  
Portsea**

**in the Diocese of Portsmouth**



## Embracing Justice – A community built on love

*Ash Wednesday is one of the most solemn days in the Church year.*

*As we begin the journey towards the cross, this evening we reflect on the ashes we normally use as signs of our emptiness without God's presence with us and pray for the grace to keep a holy Lent that we may be ready to celebrate the mystery of Easter.*

### Hymn

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from earthborn passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
with care and woe opprest;  
let me thy loving servant be,  
and taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
amid the battle's strife;  
in all my pain and misery  
be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
when flows the tempest high:  
when on doth rush the enemy,  
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see,  
and share thy joy at last.

*Synesius of Cyrene 375-430      Tune Southwell  
Trans. A W Chatfield 1808-96*

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

**Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**and also with you.**

*The Priest explains the meaning of Lent and invites us to observe it faithfully.*

### We pray to God

*The Priest says the Collect and all respond*

**Amen.**

## **We listen to God's word**

*A reading from the Second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (5.20b-6.10)*

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Choir sings Psalm 51:1-10*

## **We hear the Gospel**

*Stand for the Gospel Acclamation and remain standing for the Gospel, by tradition we turn to face the Gospel Book – a symbol of Christ dwelling amongst us through His living word.*

*Choir* Sing Praises all you people, sing praises to the Lord.

Sing Praises all you people, sing praises to the Lord.

**All Sing Praises all you people, sing praises to the Lord.**

**Sing Praises all you people, sing praises to the Lord.**

We do not live on bread alone

But on every word that comes from the mouth of God

**Sing Praises all you people, sing praises to the Lord.**

**Sing Praises all you people, sing praises to the Lord.**

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

Matthew (6.1-6, 16-21)

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **We reflect on God's Word**

*Please sit for the sermon*

*The ashes are blessed and as we reflect on them let us reflect on our lives and how empty they would be without God's love and life in them; let us be aware of those things we need to lay aside that separate us from the love and life; and let us commit ourselves to live this Lent aware of that love and life with us*

## **We are sorry**

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

*The responses are introduced by the Minister*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*then*

**Accept our repentance, Lord**

*After the final response*

**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 Imposition of Ashes**

*The Ashes are blessed and you are invited to come forward and receive the ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our penitence. A Minister will also come to those in the seats at the West End – if you do not wish to receive the ashes please sit*

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

*During the Imposition the Choir sing an anthem.*

*Once all have received the Ashes the Priest says a prayer and all respond*

**Amen**

## **We share Christ's love and peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

### **And also with you**

*Be aware of all who share in this celebration and reflect on how we share Christ's peace in our lives and how we can show and share that peace with others.*

*The gifts of bread and wine are prepared and offered to God – reflect on what you are offering to God today – what lies in your hearts ...*

## **Hymn**

Jesu, Lord of life and glory,  
bend from heaven thy gracious ear;  
while our waiting souls adore thee,  
friend of helpless sinners, hear:  
by thy mercy,  
O deliver us, good Lord.

From the depth of nature's  
blindness,  
from the hardening power of sin,  
from all malice and unkindness,  
from the pride that lurks within:  
by thy mercy,  
O deliver us, good Lord.

When temptation sorely presses,  
in the day of Satan's power,  
in our times of deep distresses,  
in each dark and trying hour:  
by thy mercy,  
O deliver us, good Lord.

In the weary hours of sickness,  
in the times of grief and pain,  
when we feel our mortal weakness,  
when the creature's help is vain:  
by thy mercy,  
O deliver us, good Lord.

In the solemn hour of dying,  
in the face of judgment day,  
may our souls, on thee relying,  
find thee still our rock and stay:  
by thy mercy,  
O deliver us, good Lord.

Jesu, may thy promised blessing  
comfort to our souls afford;  
may we now, thy love possessing,  
and at length our full reward,  
ever praise thee,  
good and ever-glorious Lord.

*John Cummins 1795-1867*

*Tune St Raphael*

## **We thank God**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The Priest offers thanks to God and all respond*

**All sing Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Priest continues the prayer, asking that the Spirit may come upon the gifts and recalling the action of Jesus at the Last Supper*

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.**

**You are the Saviour of the world.**

*The Priest continues the prayer, at the end all respond*

**Amen.**

## **We pray as Jesus taught us**

**Our Father, who art in heaven**

**Hallowed be 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **We break the bread**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*All sing* **O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to His supper  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

## **We are blessed**

*As communion is distributed, wherever you are pray that you may be aware  
of Christ's presence with you and that you will be blessed and comforted by it*

*If you are at Church and seated in the front rows, please come forward to  
the Dais to receive standing – please respect other people's space.  
Communion will be issued in two forms by intinction (the dipping of the wafer  
in the Chalice by the Minister) at the Dais  
If you wish to receive where you are seated at the distanced seats, please  
remain standing until you have received.*

*During Communion the Choir will sing an anthem*

## **We say thank you**

*At the end of the prayer*

**Amen**

**All Loving God,  
may we grow to love you as you have loved us  
and have the courage to share this love  
with all our neighbours  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

## **We are blessed**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

*The Priest gives God's blessing*

Forty days and forty nights  
thou wast fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled:

sunbeams scorching all the day;  
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;  
prowling beasts about thy way;  
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,  
and awhile from joys abstain,  
with thee watching unto prayer,  
Strong with thee to suffer pain

And if Satan, vexing sore,  
flesh or spirit should assail,  
thou, his vanquisher before,  
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine;  
holier gladness ours shall be;  
round us too shall angels shine,  
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.

*G H Smyttan 1822-70*

*Tune: Aus der Tiefe*

This is love, not that we loved God,  
**but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
**that we might live through him.**

If God loves us so much  
**we ought to love one another.**

If we love one another

**God lives in us**

Live in the peace of Christ,

**Thanks be to God.**