



**Parish Said Mass
For
Ash Wednesday**



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

in the Diocese of Portsmouth

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

As we begin the journey towards the cross, today 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.

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.

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.

Praise to you, O Christ King of eternal glory

We do not live on bread alone

But on every word that comes from the mouth of God

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory

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)

Glorify 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.

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 ...*

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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes 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.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
grant us 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.**

*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*

We say thank you

At the end of the prayer

Amen

**All Lord, we thank you that you love your church,
the **Body of Christ.****

**Help us to be the sign of your love
for the whole world.**

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

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.

