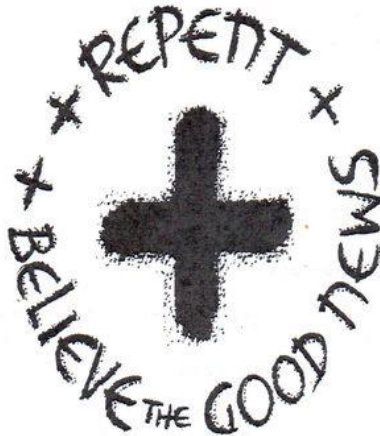


**The Anglican Diocese of Ballarat**



***Cathedral Church of Christ the King***



**Ash Wednesday at Home**

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 7.00pm**

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Dear Friends,

Due to the current locked down #3, we are unable to gather as a community to begin our Lenten journey. As a result, you are encouraged to use this simple booklet. Where possible, where practical and where permissible, you may want to gather as a family on **17<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm**. You may also gather your old palm crosses to make ashes beforehand. Alternatively, you may use dried leaves from your garden. Some even make ashes from paper listing all their sins that they are repenting from or would like to let go off.

Fr Martin

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

### **SENTENCE FOR THE DAY**

Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. *Joel 2.13*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord have mercy*)**

Lord Have Mercy  
Christ Have Mercy  
Lord Have Mercy

### **COLLECT**

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and one another: call forth our penitence and acts of love, and strengthen us to face our mortality, so that we may look with confidence for your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

FIRST READING: *Joel 2.1-2, 12-17*

A reading from the book of Joel, chapter 2 beginning at verse 1.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near— a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, 'Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"'

#### PSALM: *Psalms 51*

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.
2. My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your Holy Spirit.
4. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-21*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 6 beginning at verse 1. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Spend some time in silence, contemplating the words from the Gospel.*

## ACT OF PENITENCE

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season was observed by those who were preparing for baptism at Easter and by those who, having been excommunicated, were to be restored to the communion of the church. By keeping these days with care and attention Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.

So, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer and fasting, by self-denial and acts of generosity and by reading and meditating on the word of God, let us keep a holy Lent.

*Silence is kept*

### THE RECEIVING OF ASHES

Blessed are you, God of all creation.

You are eternal,

we are mortal,

formed from the dust of the earth.

As we receive these ashes, make them a sign for us  
of repentance and returning to you.

Breathe into us again the breath of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

*The ashes are placed on your forehead and each person's forehead  
saying these words,*

**Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.**

## LITANY

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth,  
have mercy on us.

Incarnate Word, redeemer of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Abiding Spirit, giver of light and life,  
have mercy on us.

For turning away from your presence,  
for disobeying your word and commandments,  
forgive us, Lord.

For trusting in our own strength instead of yours,  
for betraying your trust and the trust of others,  
forgive us, Lord.

For resisting your grace and refusing your blessings,  
for holding back from proclaiming our faith in you,  
Forgive us, Lord.

For damaging this earth and exploiting its creatures,  
for neglecting and wasting the gifts you have given us,  
forgive us, Lord.

For failing to forgive as we have been forgiven.  
for judging others and bearing grudges,  
forgive us, Lord.

For skimping on our commitments and relationships,  
for failing in hospitality,  
forgive us, Lord.

For tolerating oppression, injustice, and wrong,  
for keeping silent when we should have spoken up,  
forgive us, Lord.

For turning away when others have offered us love,  
for closing our hearts when others have needed compassion,  
forgive us, Lord.

For all we have done unkindly, unjustly and dishonestly,  
for our careless speech and hurtful words,  
forgive us, Lord.

Most merciful God,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness  
of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **ENDING PRAYER**

Christ our Saviour draw us to yourself, that we may find in you  
crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the  
assurance of sin forgiven. Amen.