



# ASH WEDNESDAY IN CHURCH

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**THIS SHEET IS SINGLE USE ONLY.  
PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IT IN CHURCH AFTER MASS**

Please remember social distancing, remaining at least two metres away from each other person at all times. **Masks or face coverings are mandatory (for all who are not exempt).** There will be no singing at Mass and certain other elements are omitted, in order to minimise the amount of time spent inside. **Holy Communion and the Blessed Ashes will be distributed AT THE END OF MASS on your way out of church—please ensure you do not leave anything in your place.**

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

*Wis 11: 24, 25, 27*

**A:** You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God.

### Sign of the Cross and Greeting

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A:** Amen.

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**A:** And with your spirit.

### The Collect

**P:** Let us pray.

Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**A:** Amen. *All sit for the readings*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

*Joel 2:12-18*

'Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks – come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning.' Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn, turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and ready to relent. Who knows if he will not turn again, will not relent, will not leave a blessing as he passes, oblation and libation for the Lord your God? Sound the trumpet in Zion! Order a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly, call the people together, summon the community, assemble the elders, gather the children, even the infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom and the bride her alcove. Between vestibule and altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, lament. Let them say, 'Spare your people, Lord! Do not make your heritage a thing of shame, a byword for the nations. Why should it be said among the nations, "Where is their God?"' Then the Lord, jealous on behalf of his land, took pity on his people.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**A:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17*

**R.** Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

- 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.

### Second Reading *2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2*

We are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God. As his fellow workers, we beg you once again not to neglect the grace of God that you have received. For he says: At the favourable time, I have listened to you; on the day of salvation I came to your help. Well, now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**A:** Thanks be to God.

*All stand for the Gospel:*

### The Gospel

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**A:** And with your spirit.

**P:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**A:** Glory to you, O Lord.

**Matthew 6:1-6,16-18**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing this you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win men's admiration. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is

doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you. 'And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them; I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you pray, go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you. 'When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they pull long faces to let men know they are fasting. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that no one will know you are fasting except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.'

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**A:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### The Homily

*All sit*

*The priest may offer a short reflection or leave a few moments silence.*

### The Blessing of Ashes

**P:** Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), let us humbly ask God our Father that he be pleased to bless with the abundance of his grace these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.

*After a brief prayer in silence he continues, with hands extended:*

O God, who desire not the death of sinners, but their conversion, mercifully hear our prayers and in your kindness be pleased to bless ✠ these ashes, which we intend to receive upon our heads, that we, who acknowledge we are but ashes and shall return to dust, may, through a steadfast observance of Lent, gain pardon for sins and newness of life after the likeness of your Risen Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**A:** Amen.

**P:** These blessed ashes will be received in silence on your way out of Church today, after Holy Communion. Since you will receive in silence, respond now to the words that would normally be used as the ashes are placed on your heads. And so:

P: Will you repent, and believe in the Gospel?

**A: We will repent!**  
or

P: Will you remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return?

**A: We will remember!**

*The Prayer of the Faithful (Intercessions) are omitted, so you may wish to use the time while the priest prepares the gifts at the altar to think of your prayers for the Church and the world, and for your own particular intentions for this Mass.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*There will be no procession of gifts at Mass today. All stand when the priest says:*

P: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**A: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### Prayer over the Gifts

P: As we solemnly offer the annual sacrifice for the beginning of Lent, we entreat you, O Lord, that, through works of penance and charity, we may turn away from harmful pleasures and, cleansed from our sins, may become worthy to celebrate devoutly the Passion of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**A: Amen.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

**A: And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right and just.**

*The priest says the Preface, praising God and leading to the song of the host of heaven, in which we join:*

**A: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. 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.**

*All kneel*

*The priest says the Eucharistic Prayer, remembering the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. Bread and Wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus for us.*

P: The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues, as we pray for the Church and the World, and ask that this holy sacrifice may help us be an offering to God. The prayer concludes:*

P: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the

Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

**A: Amen.** *All stand*

## THE COMMUNION RITE

### The Lord's Prayer

P: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**A: 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

P: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**A: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**A: Amen.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**A: And with your spirit.**

P: *(In these or similar words)* Though we do not exchange a sign of peace, we pause for a moment to fill our minds and hearts with thoughts of peace for our families, our neighbours, our enemies and our friends.

### Breaking of the Bread

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

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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

*All kneel*

### Invitation to Communion

P: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**A: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

P: *(In these or similar words)* Since we receive Holy Communion in silence, we do not our "Amen" individually, so instead we will now say it together: our "Amen" is our "Yes" to the real presence of Jesus, our act of faith in the gift of His Body and Blood. And so ...

*The priest holds up the Host to the Congregation and says "The Body of Christ" to which the people respond "Amen." In the same way, he elevates the chalice and says, "The Blood of Christ" and again the people respond "Amen."*

### Exhortation *(In these or similar words)*

P: Though we receive this gift on your way out of Church for reasons of safety, it also reminds us that we bear Jesus into the world today: think now of where you will be taking the Lord Jesus today and in the days to come, of what you ask him to share with you, and where He may perhaps ask you to take him. Quietly we prepare to welcome him under our roof.

### Communion Antiphon

*Cf. Ps 1: 2-3*

**A: He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.**

*The priest then receives Holy Communion. He then holds a reverent silence before the Prayer after Communion*

*Let us pray.* *All stand*

*May the Sacrament we have received sustain us. O Lord, that our Lenten fast may be pleasing to you and be for us a healing remedy. Through Christ our Lord.*

**A: Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

### Blessing and Dismissal

P: The Lord be with you.

**A: And with your spirit.**

P: Pour out a spirit of compunction, O God, on those who bow before your majesty, and by your mercy may they merit the rewards you promise to those who do penance. Through Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

P: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen.**

P: The Mass is ended. Go forth and take Christ to the world!

**A: Thanks be to God.**

### Holy Communion

*The priest will sanitise his hands and put on a face covering and move to the point for distribution: PLEASE WAIT UNTIL A STEWARD INVITES YOU TO LEAVE YOUR SEAT then go forward to receive Holy Communion, remembering to stay two metres away from the person in front of you. Communion should only be received in the hand. When you approach the priest or minister, you should do so with arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between the priest and yourself. Your hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible.*

### Distribution of Ashes

*Following your reception of Holy Communion, a minister will be near the exit door with the blessed ashes: these will be sprinkled silently on the top of your head: please keep your distance from the minister as this happens. After this, do not return to your place but immediately leave the Church.*