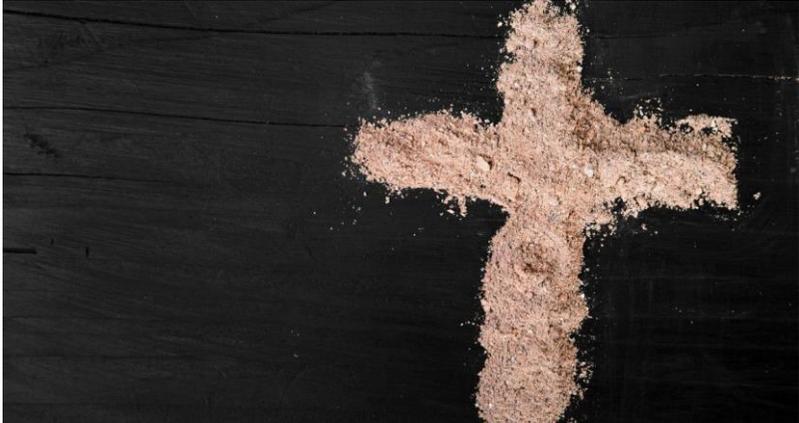


The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland

**The Parish of Avon**



**A Service for  
Ash Wednesday**

# GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

## Greeting

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
**whose mercy endures forever.**

## Sentence

Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2. 13)

## Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

## **The Trisagion**

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

## **The Prayer of the Day**

Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before you:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

**A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (58. 1-12).**

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs

of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

### *Silent Reflection*

## **The Gospel**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (6.1-6, 16-21),

### **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> “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. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Reflection**

### **The Blessing and Imposition of Ashes**

*As part of our worship, we will make a sign of the cross in ashes upon our foreheads (or on the back of the hand). The ashes remind us that we are part of God's creation and, like all living things, we will die some day.*

*The sign of the cross reminds us of God's promise – made at baptism – to forgive us and to love us as God's children forever.*

*The ashes we use are from last year's Palm Sunday branches. They are mixed with a little oil, an ancient symbol of healing, to remind us that God heals us.*

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.

*You are invited to place the ashes on your forehead,  
or the back of the hand as the minister says:*

Remember we are dust, and to dust we shall return.  
Let us repent and believe the Gospel.

**After the imposition of ashes:**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, 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*

### **Prayer 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.**

## Absolution

With our hearts turned to God in repentance,  
with the knowledge of our sins  
laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ,  
in the name of the living God,  
our sins are forgiven.  
Receive God's mercy,  
take hold of your forgiveness,  
and, in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
walk in the light of Christ. **Amen.**

## The Greeting of Peace

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the  
cross.

**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.**

And now we give you thanks  
because you give us the spirit of discipline,  
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace,  
as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery  
with mind and heart renewed.  
And so, with choirs of angels  
and with all the heavenly host,  
we proclaim your glory  
and join their unending song of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given you thanks

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
‘Take and eat. This is my body which is given for  
you.

Do this in remembrance of me.’

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
‘Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of  
me.’

We eat this bread and drink this cup  
**to proclaim the death of the Lord.**

We do this until he returns.

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious  
resurrection,**

**may we who share these gifts  
be renewed by your Holy Spirit  
and united in the body of your Son.**

**Bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom,  
there to feast at your table and  
join in your eternal praise:  
Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive praise and honour  
and glory and power  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are  
confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are  
yours now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

As this broken bread was once many grains,  
which have been gathered together and made one  
bread:

**so may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

## **Communion**

### **The Sending out of God's People**

Let us pray,  
Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son to be for us  
both a sacrifice for sin  
and also an example of godly life:  
give us grace  
that we may always most thankfully receive  
these his inestimable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour  
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Father,  
we offer ourselves to you  
as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

### **The Blessing**

Though we were overwhelmed by sorrow,  
we can rejoice in Christ.

Though we were dead,  
we are alive in Christ.

Though we had nothing,  
we possess everything in Christ.

In Christ, the day of deliverance has dawned,  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the  
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain  
with you always. **Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go into this Season of Lent  
knowing that God forgives you  
and calls you to become a new person.

**We go in God's peace.**

Go to hear stories of covenants,  
knowing that in Jesus Christ, God makes a new  
and everlasting covenant with all people.

**We go in God's peace.**

Go as people with changed hearts,  
living your lives in  
response to God's never-ending love

**We go in God's peace. Amen.**



Let today be the  
day you give up  
who you've been  
for you who can  
become.

—  
**Blessed Ash Wednesday**

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