

Ash Wednesday

Since early days 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.

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter, we invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross, the symbol of our salvation.

We Pray - 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.

Please press your thumb into the dry ash and then make the sign of the cross on your forehead (a mirror might be helpful) If you prefer trace this cross with your thumb.

If ashing another person

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



If ashing yourself

I remember that I am dust,
and to dust I shall return.
I turn away from sin and will
be faithful to Christ.

We invite you to keep a few moments of silence
to reflect on the following bible passage.

Joel 2 12-17 "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. 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; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Absolution

May the Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour

We Pray Amen.

A traditional language prayer for each day in Lent

We Pray Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

If you have internet access or a hymn book you might like to listen to or read

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling or Immortal, invisible

Blessing

May Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

We Pray Amen.

For more Lent activities and to join us online please see our website

www.lowerwensleydale.church

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