

Ash Wednesday – family prayer at home

Notes

- 1 – The ashes are usually prepared by burning palms used for the previous year's Palm Sunday. When we are in lockdown, we are not able to access these Ashes. Therefore, you could make ashes by safely burning a little paper. Alternatively, you could use a little dirt, mixed with a little water. These can still be used to remind us to turn from sin and believe in the Gospel. This prayer guide will use the term 'ashes' but either option is acceptable.
- 2 – The readings are written so they can be easily read by more than one person. It is also appropriate for one person to do the reading.
- 3 – The Church uses **purple** as a colour to remind people to turn from sin, seek forgiveness, do what is right and serve others. Include the colour **purple** in your prayer focus. Include a candle and ashes in your prayer focus.
- 4 - Read through this prayer guide before you begin.

Welcome If you are by yourself, remind yourself that God is present with you.

Reader We gather ... Ki te ingoa o te mātua, me te tamaiti, me te Wairua Tapu – Amene. Today is Ash Wednesday. We are called today to turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel. Welcome everyone, thank you for being here.

Let's sing Hosea's song together <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ2ol-UhTec>.

Questions to discuss.

- In the song we just sang, what is God doing/saying?
- What can we remember from Ash Wednesday in other years?
- What is happening in the picture?



Lord Have mercy

Reader Lord, you give us life, all life comes from you,

All Lord, have mercy.

Reader Christ, by the cross you brought forgiveness and hope,

All Christ, have mercy.

Reader Lord, by your death you brought peace to the sinner,

All Lord, have mercy.

Collect

Reader Let us pray

All (in silence we remember all that we want to pray for – allow 30 seconds)

Reader Everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and you and forgive the sins of all who are sorry.

Renew our hearts and help us to be sorry for our sin.

May we receive from you forgiveness of all sin,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All Amen



Reading Joel 2:12-18 International Children's Bible

Reader 1 The Lord says,

Reader 2 "Now, come back to me with all your heart. Go without food, and cry and be sad."

Reader 1 Tearing your clothes is not enough to show you are sad. Let your heart be broken.

Reader 2 Come back to the Lord your God. He is kind and shows mercy. He doesn't become angry quickly.

Reader 1 He has great love. He would rather forgive than punish.

Reader 2 Who knows? Maybe the Lord will change his mind and leave behind a blessing for you.

Reader 1 Then you may give grain and drink offerings to the Lord your God.

Reader 2 Blow the trumpet in Jerusalem. Call for a special time of going without food.

Reader 1 Call for a special meeting. Bring the people together.

Reader 2 Make the meeting holy for the Lord. Bring together the elders.

Reader 1 Bring together the children, even babies that still feed at their mothers' breasts.

Reader 2 The bridegroom should come from his room. The bride should come from her bedroom.

Reader 1 The priests, the Lord's servants, should cry.

Reader 2 They should cry between the altar and entrance to the Temple.

Reader 1 They should say, "Lord, have mercy on your people. Don't let them be put to shame.

Reader 2 Don't let other nations make fun of them.

Reader 1 Don't let people in other nations ask, "Where is their God?"

Reader 2 Then the Lord became concerned about his land.

Reader 1 He felt sorry for his people.

Reader 2 The Word of the Lord

ALL: thanks be to God

Meditation on God's Word. For a short while, sit in silence. Allow some of the words from this reading to repeat in your mind.

Psalm 51 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RQTaSogNc>

OR Psalm 51 kids song with actions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCnedO3PaBA>

2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2 Good News Bible

Reader 1 Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us.

Reader 2 We plead on Christ's behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends!

Reader 1 Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God.

Reader 2 In our work together with God, then, we beg you who have received God's grace not to let it be wasted.

Reader 1 Hear what God says:

Reader 2 "When the time came for me to show you favour I heard you; when the day arrived for me to save you, I helped you." (Isaiah 49:8)

Reader 1 Listen! This is the hour to receive God's favour; today is the day to be saved!

Reader 2 The Word of the Lord

ALL: thanks be to God

Meditation on God's Word. For a short while, sit in silence. Allow some of the words from this reading to repeat in your mind.



Gospel Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Reader 1 "Make certain you do not perform your religious duties in public so that people will see what you do.

Reader 2 If you do these things publicly, you will not have any reward from your Father in heaven.

Reader 1 "So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the hypocrites do in the houses of worship and on the streets. They do it so that people will praise them.

Reader 2 I assure you, they have already been paid in full.

Reader 1 But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.

Reader 2 "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites!

They love to stand up and pray in the houses of worship and on the street corners, so that everyone will see them.

Reader 1 I assure you, they have already been paid in full.

Reader 2 But when you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen.

And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.

Reader 1 "And when you fast, do not put on a sad face as the hypocrites do.

They neglect their appearance so that everyone will see that they are fasting.

Reader 2 I assure you, they have already been paid in full.

Reader 1 When you go without food, wash your face and comb your hair, so that others cannot know that you are fasting—only your Father, who is unseen, will know.

Reader 2 And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.

Reader 1 The Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Meditation on God's Word. For a short while, sit in silence. Allow some of the words from this reading to repeat in your mind.

Question to discuss: Do I find that sometimes I want everyone to notice the good things I do?

What is Ash Wednesday <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2D-2sfbqa4>

Receiving the Ashes (or Dirt) *Do this slowly – without haste.*

(Note – if you are by yourself, you can sign yourself with ashes or dirt and say, 'I repent and believe in the Gospel.

If you are with others, sit in a circle so that each person can sign the next person. Pope Francis has said it is acceptable to sprinkle a little ash over the head of the person, rather than sign them, to avoid touching.)

Person giving the ashes says 'Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel, OR Remember you are dust and to dust you will return. As you say this, either make a sign of the cross on a person's forehead, or sprinkle a little ash on the head.'

Together *(these words come from Pope Francis, 2017)*

Fast from hurtful words and speak kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



Prayer of the faithful

Reader We have listened to God's Word and we have received the ashes. Now let us pray for the needs of the whole world.

For the Church – that we who are the Church will turn from sin and all that separates us from God.

(Silence) **E te Ariki – Whakarongo mai ra Ki a mātou.**

For the whole world as it struggles with the Corona virus pandemic – that there will be healing from this disease and that all who are suffering will be comforted.

(Silence) **E te Ariki – Whakarongo mai ra Ki a mātou.**

For families who are separated from each other – that they will be supported and encouraged by each other's love and by neighbours in their the places where they live.

(Silence) **E te Ariki – Whakarongo mai ra Ki a mātou.**

For family homes – that family homes will be places of peace, love, support and encouragement in this difficult time.

(Silence) **E te Ariki – Whakarongo mai ra Ki a mātou.**

For planet earth, our common home – that we strive to live in ways that do not damage the earth and that we strive to care for the earth in all we do.

(Silence) **E te Ariki – Whakarongo mai ra Ki a mātou.**

Concluding Prayer: Loving God, help us remember how much you love us. Encourage us as we turn to you and listen more deeply to your Word. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

ALL

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.
For this is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Reader A Blessing: Thank you for participating in this prayer. May you live well the Lenten days of fasting, prayer and good works. May you go in the love and the peace of Christ who loves you without end.

All Amen

We sing - Led By the Spirit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6KRhmCqvq8>

OR Ash Wednesday Song (kids) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RHeY4meoqo>

