



# Welcome to The Parish Church of St Stephen

17h February 2021

## Ash Wednesday

7.00pm      Sung Mass with Hymns  
Hymns:      67: 383 (2nd tune): 82: 70

### Blessing of Ashes

Let us pray.  
God our Father,  
you create us from the dust of the  
earth:  
grant that these ashes may be for us  
a sign of our penitence  
and a symbol of our mortality;  
for it is by your grace alone  
that we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

### Imposition of Ashes

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

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

### 675 Ash Wednesday

**Introit** Thou hast mercy on all things, O Lord, and hatest nothing that  
thou hast created: and winkest at men's iniquities, because they should  
amend, and sparest all men, for they are thine, O Lord, thou lover of souls.

**Psalm** Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul  
trusteth in thee. Glory be to the Father...

**Gradual** Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul  
trusteth in thee. *V.* He shall send from heaven: and save me from the reproof  
of him that would eat me up.

**Tract** O Lord, deal not with us after our sins: nor reward us according to  
our wickedness. *V.* O Lord, remember not our old sins, but have mercy upon  
us, and that soon: for we are come to great misery.

*V.* Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy Name, O Lord: O de-  
liver us and be merciful unto our sins, for thy Name's sake.

**Offertory** I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up, and not  
made my foes to triumph over me: O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and  
thou hast healed me.

**Communion** He who doth meditate on the law of the Lord day and night:  
will bring forth his fruit in due season.

## The Old Testament reading Isaiah Ch58 v1-12

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgements,  
they delight to draw near to God.
- <sup>3</sup> '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.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> 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?
- <sup>6</sup> 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?
- <sup>7</sup> 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?
- <sup>8</sup> 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.
- <sup>9</sup> 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,
- <sup>10</sup> 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.
- <sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup>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.

## **New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians Ch5 v20b - Ch6 v10**

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

<sup>2</sup>For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

## **Gospel Matt 6.1-6,16-21**

<sup>6</sup>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.

<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.

<sup>5</sup>‘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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>‘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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## **Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
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.

## **Post Communion**

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 inestimable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour  
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

