

A very warm Welcome to St Michael's Church

Ash Wednesday

Opening Sentence

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.

Opening Hymn: Forty days and Forty nights

Greeting and Entrance

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

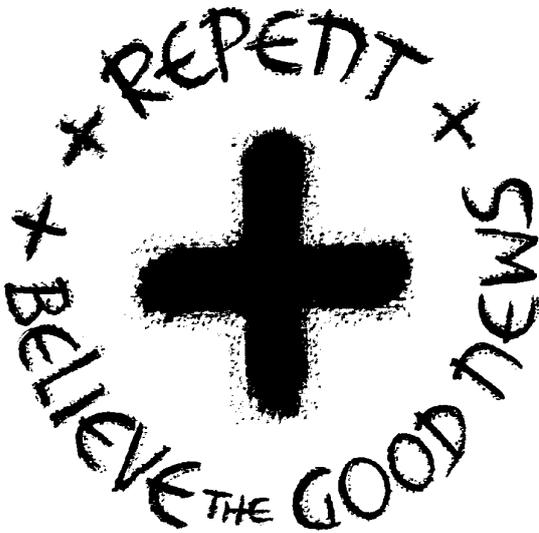
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Lenten Invitation

Brothers and sisters in Christ: 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.

At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognize that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer,



fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Prayer

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,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading (Sit)

A reading from the prophet 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.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

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

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

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. **R.**

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. **R.**

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. **R.**

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. **R.**

2nd Reading

A reading from the 2nd letter of St Paul to the 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

A pure heart create for me, O God,
and give me again the joy of your help.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (6:1-6, 16-18)
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.’

This is the Gospel of Our Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon (Sit)

Blessing and Giving of Ashes

Dear friends in Christ,
let us ask the Father to bless these ashes
which we will use as the mark of our repentance.

Lord,
bless the sinner who asks for your forgiveness
and bless all those who receive these ashes.
May we keep this Lenten season in preparation
for the joy of Easter.

Ashing Chant

O, Lord hear my prayer, O, Lord hear my prayer
When I call, answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me.

Creed (Stand)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

Intercessions (Sit)

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

The Peace

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. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit

Offertory Hymn: There Is a green hill far away

Offertory Prayers

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, through your
goodness... (2x)

People: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Priest: Let us pray my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

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

The Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer over the Gifts

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. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you,
and with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts,
we lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.....*The Eucharist prayer continues*

The preface

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.
Through our observance of Lent
you correct our faults and raise our minds to you,
you help us to grow in holiness,
and offer us the reward of everlasting life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the angels and all the choirs of heaven
worship in awe before your presence.

May our voices be one with theirs

as they sing the hymn of your glory.

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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
Who in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying.
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying.

Drink 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.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of all,
rejoicing at his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate the memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
Send the holy spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,

so that we, in the company of Holy Mary mother of God, St Michael and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Communion

Our Father

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Saviour gave us:

**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.....*The priest continues***

**For the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever**

Breaking of the Bread:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many we are one body, because we all
share in the one bread.**

Preparation for Communion:

All: **With this bread...**

Priest: 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.

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

All: **With this wine...**

Communion Antiphon

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

Communion Hymn: Take my life and let it be

Prayer after Communion

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. **Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and
blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our
souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the
power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Concluding rite: Blessing & Dismissal

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, + and
the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: The Mass is ended, Go in peace

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Final Hymn: Praise to the holiest in the height