

St George  
Bickley

The Order for Mass on  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**

14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 8.00pm

Parish Priest  
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*Welcome to St George's! This booklet contains all the material you will need for today's celebration of Mass. We hope that you will find this service easy to follow, but please do not be afraid to ask if you are unsure what to do at any point. The building is fitted with an induction loop and you will find the best results away from the pillars.*

*Families with small children are very welcome to make use of the carpeted play area at the back of church, where you will find books, crayons and soft toys.*

*There are two further play stations in the side aisles.*

*A toilet is at the back of church, behind the screen. Before Mass, please try to maintain an atmosphere of quiet prayer.*

*Mass setting: Dean and Fry/ Heritage.*

*Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn 507, the Lent Prose:*

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:

for we have sinn'd against thee.

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:

lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:

listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:**

**for we have sinn'd against thee.**

O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father

Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial

cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:**

**for we have sinn'd against thee.**

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated

bow down and hearken to they children

pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:**

**for we have sinn'd against thee.**

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee  
with true contrition, now no more we veil them  
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:  
for we have sinn'd against thee.**

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting  
falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced,  
save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:  
for we have sinn'd against thee.**

*The priest sings:*

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

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The priest introduces the Mass, and after a brief silence we sing the Kyries.*

*People* **Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

*Then the priest prays the collect:*

*Priest* 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, God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Now sit to listen to the first reading:*

**Reader** A reading from the prophet Joel. (*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.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 51 follows the reading. Remain seated to sing*

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Vss 1-13

M. CAMIDGE

- 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy | great\_ | goodness :  
according to the multitude of thy mercies | do a- | way ' mine of- |  
fences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly | from my | wickedness :  
and | cleanse me | from my | sin.
- 3 For I ac- | knowledge ' my | faults :  
and my | sin is | ever ' be- | fore me.

- 4 Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil | in thy | sight :  
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and | clear when | thou art  
| judged.
- 10 Make me a clean | heart, O | God :  
and re- | new a ' right | spirit ' with- | in me.
- 11 Cast me not a- | way ' from thy | presence :  
and take not thy | holy | Spirit | from me.
- 12 O give me the comfort of thy | help a- | gain :  
and stablish me | with thy | free\_ | Spirit.
- 15 Thou shalt open my | lips, O | Lord :  
and my | mouth shall | shew thy | praise.

*Remain seated for the second reading:*

*Reader* A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians. (2 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.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand for the gospel acclamation.*

*Choir* Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*People* **Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

*People* **Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Deacon* The Lord be with you,

*People* **And also with you.**

*Deacon* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
(*Matthew 6; 1-6, 16-18*)

*People* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Deacon* 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 the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Please sit for the Homily from Fr Paul*

*The priest stands at the entrance to the sanctuary. All stand for the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes:*

*Priest* Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly ask God our Father that he be pleased to bless with the abundance of his grace these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.

O God, who desire not the death of sinners, but their conversion, mercifully hear our prayers and in your kindness be pleased to bless + these ashes, which we intend to receive upon our heads, that we, who acknowledge we are but ashes and shall return to dust, may, through a steadfast observance of Lent, gain pardon for sins and newness of life after the likeness of your Risen Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*People*     **Amen.**

*The priest sprinkles the ashes with holy water. Please kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive ashes.*

*During the Imposition of Ashes, the choir sing: "Nolo Mortem Peccatoris" by Thomas Morley (1557-1602).*

*After the Imposition of Ashes, the priest washes his hands.*

*Please remain standing for the Prayers of Intercession.*

*The Priest introduces and concludes the prayers.*

*Priest*     With trust in God's merciful love and faithful care, let us present our needs in these prayers.

*Reader*    Lord, in your mercy, / Lord, hear us.

*People*     **Hear our prayer. / Lord, graciously hear us.**

*At the prayer for the departed,*

*Reader*    Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

*People*     **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*In conclusion to the prayers:*

*Priest*     Giver of forgiveness, hear our prayers for your merciful love as we enter this season of repentance. Let our fasting from sin become our feasting on your Easter glory in Jesus Christ. Merciful Father,

*People*     **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Stand to sing hymn 67, as bread and wine are brought to the altar, the altar is prepared and the collection is taken. If you want to give by card, there is a card reader at the back of church.*

**Forty days and forty nights  
Thou wast fasting in the wild,  
Forty days and forty nights  
Tempted and yet undefiled.**

**Sunbeams scorching all the day,  
Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,  
Prowling beasts about thy way,  
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.**

**Let us thine endurance share,  
And awhile from joys abstain,  
With thee watching unto prayer,  
Strong with thee to suffer pain.**

**And if Satan, vexing sore,  
Flesh or spirit should assail,  
Thou, his vanquisher before,  
Grant we may not faint nor fail.**

**So shall we have peace divine,  
Holier gladness ours shall be,  
Round us too shall angels shine,  
Such as ministered to thee.**

**Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
Ever constant by thy side,  
That with thee we may appear**

**At the eternal Eastertide.** *GH Smyttan (1822-70) & Francis Pott (1832-1909)*



*The Priest says*

*Priest* Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

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

*Priest* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

*The Priest sings the opening of the Eucharistic Prayer:*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Priest prays the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, and then all sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:*

*Choir* Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power, God of might.

*People* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.**

*Choir* Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

*People* **Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

*Choir* Hosanna in the highest.

*People* **Hosanna in the highest.**

*Choir* Blessed is he who comes, he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*People* **Blessed is he who comes, he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

*Choir* Hosanna in the highest.

*People* **Hosanna in the highest.**

*Choir* Hosanna in the highest.

*People* **Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please kneel. The Eucharistic Prayer continues, until the Words of Institution.*

*Then all make the Memorial Acclamation:*

*Deacon* Great is the mystery of faith.

*Choir* Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.

*People* **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.**

*Choir* Lord Jesus, come in glory.

*People* **Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*Choir* Lord Jesus, come!

*People* **Lord Jesus, come!**

*The Priest concludes the Eucharistic Prayer, and all sing:*

*People* **Amen!**

*Please stand for the Lord's Prayer.*

*Priest* At the Saviour's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say,

*People* **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.**

*Priest* Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our day, that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*People* **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

*Priest* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Now sing the Agnus Dei*

*People* **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (repeated)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

*Then kneel.*

*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.**

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

*The people come forward to receive Communion. If you have not been baptized and confirmed, please come forward for a blessing instead of Communion, carrying this order of service.*

*During Communion hymn 61 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.*

**O Christ, who art the Light and Day,  
Thou drivest darksome night away!  
We know thee as the Light of light  
Illuminating mortal sight.**

**All-holy Lord, we pray to thee,  
Keep us to-night from danger free;  
Grant us, dear Lord, in thee to rest,  
So be our sleep in quiet blest.**

**And while the eyes soft slumber take,  
Still be the heart to thee awake;  
Be thy right hand upheld above  
Thy servants resting in thy love.**

**O strong defender, be thou nigh  
To bid the powers of darkness fly;  
Keep us from sin, and guide for good  
Thy servants purchased by thy blood.**

**Remember us, dear Lord, we pray  
While in this mortal flesh we stay:  
'Tis Thou who dost the soul defend--  
Be present with us to the end.**

**Blest Three in One and One in Three,  
Almighty God, we pray to thee  
That thou wouldst now vouchsafe to bless  
Our fast with fruits of righteousness. Amen.**

*Latin 6<sup>th</sup> century tr W Copeland (1804-85)*

*All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:*

*Priest*      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.

*People*      **Amen.**

*Priest*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Priest*      Pour out a spirit of compunction, O God, on those who  
bow before your majesty, and by your mercy may they  
merit the rewards you promise to those who do penance.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*People*      **Amen.**

*Remain standing as clergy and servers depart in silence.*

Scripture readings are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published & copyright 1966, 1967 & 1968, by Darton, Longman & Todd and Doubleday, a division of Random House Inc., and are used by permission of the publishers, or from NRSV.

**Collection: we take a collection during the second hymn, towards the cost of providing services and the upkeep of this church. If you are a UK taxpayer please place your offering in one of the envelopes in the pews (completed with your name and address) and place it in the collection plate when it is circulated during the hymn. Pens are in the pews. A card reader to give by contactless payment is available at the back of church. Special thanks if you give by standing order, as this helps us to budget.**

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