

## SCHOOL LITURGY FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

### ASH WEDNESDAY

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

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

#### INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday we wear Ashes on our foreheads. This reminds us that we belong to God, when we were baptised we became members of God's family, that we are Christians. What else do we do during Lent, maybe we give up sweets, or crisps, maybe we give up hitting our brothers or sisters, maybe we start doing what our mothers and fathers tell us, or what the teacher tells us. Maybe we get up early in the morning and go to mass with our families during lent.

As We are all members of God's family we should love each other. We are in a sense connected to God.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Lord you have gathered us together to day on this Ash Wednesday to remind our selves that we belong to your family. Help us to see in each other the good that you have don in our lives, you have given us mammies and daddies, brothers and sisters and friends and we thank you for this. Help us to be good in loving them and others. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### READING

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew**

"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. "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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "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. 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. 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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

#### PRAYER OF BLESSING

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

Lord, bless these Ashes + by which we show that we are dust. Pardon our sins and keep us faithful to the discipline of Lent, for you do not want sinners to die but to live with the risen Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

#### OUR FATHER

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. Amen.

#### SIGN OF PEACE

Let us offer each other the Sing of Peace.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

*"Remember your are dust and onto dust you shall return."*

*OR*

*"Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel"*