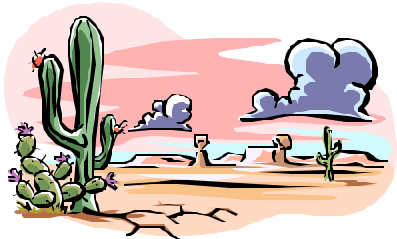


Teach me to quiet my racing mind in
prayer,
Teach me to simplify my life,
Teach me to listen for Your voice in joy
and in sorrow,
Teach me that my plans are nothing
unless they are Your plans.

Lead me up into the mountains
Let me see things as they really are
Let me see things in perspective
Let me see what is truly important
Let me see through the eyes of love.
Amen.

-Les Miller



Closing Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
Creator of the universe
And Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
In obedience to his command and his
example,
We begin this time of penance and of
prayer.

Let these ashes be a sign that we are
turning away from sin
And that we are ready to live
A new life with Jesus and with you.
Destroy the power of sin in our lives,
And bring us ever closer to you.

Blessed and praised are you,
God of Mercy
Through Jesus Christ your Son
In the love of your Holy Spirit,
One God forever and ever.
Amen.

-Source Unknown

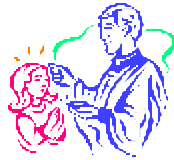
Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo
York Catholic District School Board

Ash Wednesday

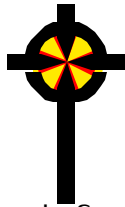


Opening Prayer

Dear God, in love for us you sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Have mercy on your people today and help us to begin this time of Lent. Forgive our sins and help us to turn back to your love.



Loving God, we ask this grace through Jesus Christ your Son in the love of your Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



All: Amen

Scripture Reading

Listen to the words from the Gospel of St. Mark.

Beware of practicing 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...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. When you are praying, do not heap

up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



Rite of Giving Ashes

Prayer over the ashes: The leader says a prayer over the ashes, using these or similar words:

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator of the universe and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

All: In obedience to his command and his example, we begin this time of penance and of prayer.

Leader: Let these ashes be a sign that we are turning away from sin and that we are ready to live a new life with Jesus for you.

All: Blessed and praised are You, God, through Jesus Christ in the love of your Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

Distribution of ashes:

The leader places some ashes on his or her own forehead, and then on the forehead of each person who comes forward to receive them. The leader may give the ashes in silence, or using these words:

Turn away from your sins, and believe the Good News of Jesus Christ.
[see Mk. 1:15]

Reflection

Loving God, Teacher of Justice,
Spirit of Wisdom
Disturb me from my slumber,
Waken me,
Lead me out into the desert
where you said to the Israelites,
"I will be your God, and you will be my people."
Where you said to Hosea, "I will lure you out into the desert and make you mine once again."
Lead me to the desert so that You can teach me again.

-Source Unknown

