



**14 February 2024
ASH WEDNESDAY**



INTRODUCTION:

Today, Ash Wednesday, begins a period of inner reflection and examination. The ashes today remind us that we are human and we make mistakes. The cross reminds us that since we are God's children, we can ask God for His forgiveness and his help in becoming the children He wants us to be.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: Turning to the God of mercy, we offer our prayers and those of the whole world.

Response: Lord hear our prayer

For the Universal Church and all religious leaders as we begin our journey toward Easter. May every leader find humility in the cross of ashes on our foreheads this day. May we surrender to God and turn toward justice for all people under heaven. We pray to the Lord.

For kindness in our political lives. May our divisions be healed and words of hope be on the lips of people who serve our country. We pray to the Lord.

For all communities and organizations who benefit from our almsgiving. May our communities be renewed with our financial efforts and volunteering. May the Lenten season reveal the goodness of all people. We pray to the Lord.

For a new courage to pray. May our Lenten journey help us find Christ within our stories of life. May we trust God's healing presence. May we surrender joyfully to Christ's enduring love. We pray to the Lord.

For all who fast in these Lenten days. May our fasting from food, violence, and falsity, fill us with new life. May we learn a new reliance on Christ's passion and resurrection. We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: God, You are compassionate and patient. Complete your work of renewal in us during this Lent, that we may spend our lives in your loving, prayerful service. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.