

Ash Wednesday



Scripture: Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to God, *your* God.
And here's why: God is kind and merciful.
God takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot. This most patient God,
extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe.

The Message Joel 2: 13

Reflection: Before you, Jesus
we admit how and where we have underestimated our influence, letting our words or
silences hurt, abusing trust, betraying confidences.

We admit how and where we have made a show of our religion,
attracting more attention to us, and less to you.

We admit to where in our lives a vague interest has become a
dangerous passion, and we are not sure what to do
or whether we are still in control.

Jesus, if we have looked or longed for an easier gospel, a lighter cross,
a less demanding saviour, then turn our eyes
and avert our longing from what we want to choose
to the One who has chosen us.

Forgive our unfaithfulness, and, for our better living,
give us not the remedy we desire tomorrow,
but the grace you offer today.

We ask this for your love's sake. Amen

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Prayer: O, God, you have made us for yourself,
and against your longing there is no defence.
Mark us with your love, and release in us a passion for your justice
in our disfigured world;
that we may turn from our guilt and face you,
our heart's desire. **Amen**

Action: Spend 5 minutes each day this Lent, sitting quietly before God.