

Prayers of the Faithful

Ash Wednesday

Celebrant:

With confidence in our heavenly Father, we make our prayers known to him today.

1. That the Church and her shepherds will be a rich source of mercy and kindness for those burdened with the weight of sin and regret. **Lord, hear us.**

2. During this Lenten season, help us cultivate the will to change our lives, and the lives of others, by our charity, good example, and prayer. **Lord, hear us.**

3. For the determination to persevere in our Lenten commitment of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. May we experience a fresh outpouring of God's steadfast spirit within us. **Lord, hear us.**

4. This Lent, give us the grace to venture deeper into our own hearts. Give us greater insight into the demands of the Gospel, that we may be stronger ministers of your love and compassion. **Lord, hear us.**

5. For the poor and suffering in our world. May they find help, hope and comfort in the good works and sharing of God's people this Lent. **Lord, hear us.**

6. For all who are estranged from one another; harden not their hearts and may they seek your grace to be reconciled with those whom they struggle to accept. **Lord, hear us.**

7. For those preparing to celebrate the Rite of Christian Initiation at Easter. For their catechists, godparents, and sponsors; may they journey together in a spirit of communion until they celebrate newness of life in the Risen Jesus. **Lord, hear us.**

8. For those who no longer practice as members of the Church; remove the obstacles that prevent them from receiving your abundant mercy and love which flows sacramentally through the heart of the Church. **Lord, hear us.**

9. For all who are sick or suffering in any way, that they may know the presence and comfort of the Lord. **Lord, hear us.**

10. For the dead. In the Lord's mercy may they experience '*the favourable time, the day of salvation*'. **Lord, hear us.**

Celebrant:

As we begin the Lenten season, we turn to you in repentance and embrace your holiness with all our heart. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.