

# HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD



Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2021  
**Ash Wednesday - The First Day of Lent**

Please be as still and silent as possible as we prepare together to celebrate the Eucharist. When the bell rings, please stand.

*+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

**And also with you.**

*Brothers and sisters in Christ: since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting. At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognise that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to the Lord.*

*I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.*

*Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you.*

**Create in us clean hearts, O God:  
and renew a right spirit within us.**

*Cast us not away from your presence:*

**and take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

*Give us the joy of your saving help:*

**sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.**

*Blessed be the Lord, day by day:*

**the God of our salvation.**

*Let us pray for the grace to keep Lent faithfully.*

After a short time of silent prayer the president says the collect for Ash Wednesday. At the end: **Amen.**

*Make our hearts clean, O God.*

**And renew a right spirit within us.**

*Father eternal,*

**giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us.**

**We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and lead us out of darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.**

*Our Lord Jesus Christ called upon the cities of Galilee to repent in sackcloth and ashes. As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter,*

*I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross, the symbol of our salvation.*

A short time of silence is kept.

A small plate of ash has been placed on each seat. Please pick up the plate and hold it out in front of you as the president says the prayer over the ashes:

*God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

*Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.*

Everyone who wishes to receive the ashes puts a finger into the ash and traces the sign of the cross on their forehead and then sits or kneels for a time of silent prayer.



Then the president says the absolution.

*Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Ministry of the Word follows.

**FIRST READING** Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated as we hear:

*Lord, in this thy mercy's day, ere it pass for aye away,  
On our knees we fall and pray.*

*Lord, on us thy Spirit pour, kneeling lowly at the door,  
Lest it close for evermore.*

*By thy night of agony, by thy supplicating cry,  
By thy willingness to die.*

*By thy tears of bitter woe, for Jerusalem below,  
Let us not thy love forgo.*

*Grant us 'neath thy wings a place, lest we lose the day of grace,  
Ere we shall behold thy face.*

**SECOND READING** 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation:

*A pure heart create for me, O God,  
and give me again the joy of your salvation.*

*Harden not your hearts today,  
but listen to the voice of the Lord.*

**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end:

*This is the Gospel of the Lord:*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please SIT for the sermon. After the sermon there will be a time of silence. Then please remain seated or kneeling as we hear:

**Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;  
Cast me not away from thee, let thy Spirit dwell in me;  
thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.**

**Sinners then shall learn from me and return, O God, to thee;  
Saviour, all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing thy love;  
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.**

*A metrical setting of Psalm 51*

Please stand. The president introduces THE PEACE:  
*Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

**And also with you.**

All exchange a sign of peace as we hear:

***Not the formal sacrifice hath acceptance in thine eyes;  
Broken hearts are in thy sight more than sacrificial rite;  
Contrite spirit, pleading cries, thou, O God, wilt not despise.***

***Prosper Zion in thy grace and her broken walls replace;  
Then our righteous sacrifice shall delight thy holy eyes;  
Freewill offerings, gladly made, on thy altar shall be laid.***

*A metrical setting of Psalm 51*

The bread and wine are brought to the altar. The president says a prayer over the gifts to which we all respond:

**Blessed be God for ever.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER follows.

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

THE PRESIDENT continues the prayer, thanking God for his saving works, and then invites the people to join their praises with the whole company of heaven: ..... *and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and singing:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

THE PRESIDENT asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit to sanctify the bread and wine, and then repeats the Lord's own words over the bread and cup. ....

*Great is the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES, joining our offering with Christ's sacrifice of himself. At the end of the prayer the president says:

*.....all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The President introduces the Lord's Prayer and all say together:

**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;**

**for thine is the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

We SIT or KNEEL as the president breaks the consecrated bread in pieces for all to share:

*We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.*

**Though we are many we are one body,**

**because we all share in one bread.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God have mercy on us**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins have mercy on us**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world give us your peace.**

The president addresses those who wish to come to Holy Communion:

*Behold the Lamb of God,*

*who takes away the sin of the world.*

*Happy are those who are called to his supper.*

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Those who wish to receive Holy Communion approach the altar.

During communion we hear:

***Now is the healing time decreed  
For sins of heart and word and deed,  
When we in humble fear record  
The wrong that we have done the Lord:***

***Who, always merciful and good,  
Has borne so long our wayward mood,  
Nor cut us off unsparingly –  
In our so great iniquity.***

***Therefore with fasting and with prayer,  
Our secret sorrow we declare,  
With all good striving seek his face,  
And lowly-hearted plead for grace.***

***Cleanse us, O Lord, from every stain,  
Help us the gifts of grace to gain,  
Till with the angels, linked in love,  
Joyful we tread thy courts above.***

***We pray thee, holy Trinity,  
One God, unchanging Unity,  
That we from this our abstinence  
May reap the fruits of penitence. Amen.***

When all have received Holy Communion there will be a time of silent prayer. At the end of the silence all please STAND with the President.

*Almighty God, you have given your only Son  
to be for us both a sacrifice for sin  
and also an example of the godly life:*

***give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive  
these his inestimable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour to follow  
the blessed steps of his most holy life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Please remain standing for the blessing and dismissal.

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*You believe God will not despise a broken spirit  
and a contrite heart:*

**Amen.**

*You believe Christ bore your sins in his body on the tree;  
you have been healed by his wounds.*

**Amen.**

*May he give you a spirit of repentance day by day,  
pardon, peace and the assurance of sins forgiven:*

**Amen.**

*And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son +  
and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you and remain with you  
today and always.*

**Amen.**

*Go in the peace of Christ:*

**Thanks be to God.**



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