

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 our mortality;  
for it is by your grace alone  
that we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

God our Father,  
the strength of all who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because, in our weakness,  
we can do nothing good without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*This year, you might like to mark a cross on a stone, or draw a picture  
of a cross and place it in a prominent place in your house, to remind  
you of the spirit of Lent.*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

### **Blessing**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

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## **Parish of Timperley** Christ Church and Holy Cross

### ***Ash Wednesday***



## Confession

*Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.*

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord  
all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy  
and impatience of our lives.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people.  
Our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.  
Our negligence in prayer and worship  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Accept our repentance, Lord  
for the wrongs we have done,  
for our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements,  
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours  
and for our prejudice and contempt  
towards those who differ from us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Bible reading

### John 8.1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

## Prayers for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.