

St. John's Carrington Parish Eucharist



Ash Wednesday 17th February 2021 *The Season of Lent*

Welcome on behalf of the community of St. John's Church

St. John's seeks to be an inclusive church community where all are welcomed and valued, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender or sexuality.

This is a very unusual time for the Church where, once again, we can't physically be with one another and though the Eucharist will be offered for us all from inside the church.

As ever, wherever we are, as the Body of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit we are united in fellowship with one another and with the whole company of heaven. We are delighted to welcome you.

THE GATHERING AND WELCOME

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

All **and also with you.**

INTRODUCTION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians 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 our 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.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray for the grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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.

All **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 58. 1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

³ 'Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,

whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5.20-6.10

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

'At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 6.1–6,16–21

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² 'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ 'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶ 'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

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

Where possible, we kneel.

Let us pray.
All **Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you, and to one another,
in communion with all the saints
that we have sinned through our own fault
in thought, and word, and deed;
in what we have done
and in what we have failed to do.**

**We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We have not loved one another as Christ has loved us.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.**

Lord, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives,
our self-indulgence and our exploitation of other people.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess our preoccupation with world goods and comforts,
and our envy of others.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess our blindness to human need and suffering,
our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
our misuse and pollution of creation,
and our lack of concern for the generations to come.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Silence is kept.

Make our hearts clean, O God;

All **and renew a right spirit within us.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Dear friends in Christ,

I invite you to receive these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

The Ashes are blessed.

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.

All **Amen.**

*We make the sign of the cross (with or without ash) on our foreheads or ask
someone to do it for us.*

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

The following is sung:

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom,
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**

INTERCESSIONS

The following response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

After the names of the departed have been read out:

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

All **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The prayers may conclude with:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

All **Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Merciful Father,

All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights,
tempted, and yet undefiled.

2. Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow; earth thy bed.

3. Let us thine endurance share
and awhile from joys abstain,
Witt thee watching unto prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain.

4. And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail.
Thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Risen Lord and Saviour,
present among us with the wealth of love,
cleanse us from sin and give us the faith
to offer our praise and grow in your grace.

All **Amen**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (B)

The Lord be with you

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

All **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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup

All **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

THE LITURGY FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church,
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.

I present to you my soul and body with the wish
that they may always be united to you.

And since I can not now receive you in this sacrament,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Let nothing ever separate you from me.

May I live and die in your love. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God,

you have given your only Son to be for us

both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life:

give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive
these his inestimable gifts,

and also daily endeavor to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All **God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

THE 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.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.
2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
self-denying, death defying,
thou to Calvary didst go.
3. Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.



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