

CLARE COLLEGE CHAPEL



Vigil with Imposition of Ashes Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 14 February 2024
10.00 p.m.

All stand as the choir and clergy enter

The Introit is sung

Introit	Peccantem me quotidie, et non me poenitentem, timor mortis conturbat me: quia in inferno nulla est redemptio. Miserere mei, Deus, et salva me.	<i>Sinning every day and not repenting, the fear of death troubles me: for in hell there is no redemption. Have mercy on me, God, and save me.</i>
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Words *Anonymous*

Music *Cristóbal de Morales (c. 1500–53)*

All sit

Welcome	Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
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All	and also with you.
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Dearly beloved, 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.

All	Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.
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Collect	Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.
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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.
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Reading	Matthew 4: 1–11
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Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' '

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

All stand

Hymn 67

Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild,
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day,
Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,
Prowling beasts about thy way,
Stones thy pillow; earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,
And awhile from joys abstain,
With thee watching unto prayer,
Strong with thee to suffer pain?

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

So shall we have peace divine,
Holier gladness ours shall be,
Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by thy side,
That with thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.

Words *George Hunt Smytton (1822–70) and Francis Pott (1832–1909)*
Music 'Aus der Tiefe' *Martin Herbst in Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch 1676*
Melody possibly by *Martin Herbst (1654–81)*

All sit or kneel

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

All God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

All God the Son,
have mercy upon us.

All God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

All Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
have mercy upon us.

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice;
and from all evil intent,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow;
in all times of joy;
in the hour of death,
and at the day of judgement,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
All **good Lord, deliver us.**

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

All **Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

All **Make our hearts clean, O God;
and renew a right spirit within us.**

Silence is kept

All **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 from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

Psalm 51 Miserere mei, Deus,
secundum magnam misericordiam tuam
et secundum multitudinem
miserationum tuarum dele iniquitatem
meam.
Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea
et a peccato meo munda me.
Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco
et peccatum meum contra me est semper.

Tibi soli peccavi
et malum coram te feci,
ut iustificeris in sermonibus tuis
et vincas cum iudicaris.
Ecce enim in iniquitatibus conceptus sum
et in peccatis concepit me mater mea.
Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti:
incerta et occulta sapientiae tuae
manifestasti mihi.
Asperges me hyssopo et mundabor;
lavabis me et super nivem dealbabor.

*Have mercy upon me, O God,
according to your great mercy
and according to the abundance
of your compassion blot out my
transgressions.*

*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my offence
and my sin is ever before me.*

*Against you only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight
that you may be justified in your sentence
and vindicated when you judge.
Behold, in guilt was I conceived
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, you delight in sincerity of heart,
and in my inmost being
you teach me wisdom.*

*Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be
purified; wash me and I shall be whiter
than snow.*

Auditui meo dabis gaudium et laetitiam
et exultabunt ossa humiliata.

Averte faciem tuam a peccatis meis
et omnes iniquitates meas dele.
Cor mundum crea in me, Deus,
et spiritum rectum innova in visceribus
meis.

Ne proicias me a facie tua,
et spiritum sanctum tuum ne auferas a me.

Redde mihi laetitiam salutaris tui
et spiritu principali confirma me.
Docebo iniquos vias tuas:
et impii ad te convertentur.
Libera me de sanguinibus,
Deus, Deus salutis meae,
et exultabit lingua mea iustitiam tuam.
Domine, labia mea aperies,
et os meum annuntiabit laudem tuam.

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium
dedissem utique;
holocaustis non delectaberis.
Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus:
cor contritum et humiliatum,
Deus, non despicias.
Benigne fac, Domine,
in bona voluntate tua Sion,
ut aedificentur muri Ierusalem.
Tunc acceptabis
sacrificium iustitiae,
oblaciones, et holocausta:
tunc imponent super altare tuum vitulos.

*Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness;
the bones which you have crushed shall
rejoice.*

*Avert your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquity.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew in me a righteous spirit.*

*Cast me not out from your presence,
and take not your holy spirit from me.*

*Give me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me in a willing spirit.
I shall teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness,
O God, God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall exalt your justice.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

*For you are not pleased with sacrifices,
else would I give them to you;
neither do you delight in burnt offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a contrite heart:
a broken and sorrowful heart,
O God, you will not despise.
Be favourable and gracious
unto Sion, O Lord,
build again the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you shall be pleased
with the sacrifice of righteousness,
oblations and burnt offerings;
they shall offer young bulls upon your altar.*

Words Psalm 51

Music Gregorio Allegri (1582–1652)

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.

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.

In the Bible, the putting on of ashes symbolises sometimes purification, sometimes penitence or sorrow, and sometimes a recognition of our own mortality. All three strands of meaning are intertwined in the Imposition of Ashes.

This ceremony, from which Ash Wednesday takes its name, has been practised by the Church from ancient times to the present day. A mark is made with the ash, in the sign of the cross, on the forehead of each person with the words:

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

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

All those who wish to receive the mark of ash in this way are invited to come forward.

During the Imposition the Choir will sing the Lent Prose

The Lent Prose *Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinn'd against thee.*

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.
Hear us, O Lord,

O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.
Hear us, O Lord,

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated
bow down and hearken to they children
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.
Hear us, O Lord,

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee
with true contrition, now no more we veil them
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.
Hear us, O Lord,

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting
falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced,
save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.
Hear us, O Lord,

Words 10th century Mozarabic hymn, *Attende Domine*
Music plainsong

Anthem *Civitas sancti tui facta est deserta. Sion deserta facta est.
Jerusalem desolata est.*

The holy cities are a wilderness.
Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.

Words Isaiah 64: 9–10
Music William Byrd (c. 1540–1623)

At the conclusion:

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.

All **Amen.**

All stand

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 the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Choir and clergy process out.

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Thursday 15th 6.15 p.m. Choral Evensong (in Chapel)

Sunday 18th 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (in Chapel), followed by breakfast in A2
 5.25 p.m. Vocal Recital (in Chapel)
 6.00 p.m. Choral Evensong (in Chapel)

Tuesday 20th 6.15 p.m. Choral Evensong (in Chapel)

Please note that the use of cameras, recording equipment, video cameras and mobile phones is not permitted in Chapel.