

**St. Mary's High School
Ash Wednesday 2021
Prayer Service to be celebrated at
home**



Family Prayer Service Leader:

We begin by lighting our candle. Our candle reminds us that God is with us. We pray in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Today we begin the season of Lent. This is a special time when we are getting ready to celebrate Easter. During Lent many people 'give up' things or 'turn away' from things that they do too much of. For example, too much eating, too much TV or time playing computer games. Lent is a time for turning away from things that distract us from God. It is a time for drawing closer to God.

First Reading: A Reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbour.

Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in jealousy or spite, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader 2: Responsorial Psalm: *The
Response to the Psalm is: A humble,
contrite heart you will not spurn.*

All: *A humble, contrite heart you will not
spurn.*

Reader 2:

Have mercy on me, God in your kindness
In your compassion blot out my offense.
Wash me more and more from my guilt
And cleanse me from my sin.

All: *A humble, contrite heart you will not
spurn.*

Reader 2:

For I know all my transgressions
And my sin is before me.
Against you, you alone have I sinned.
What evil in your sight I have done.

*All: A humble, contrite heart you will not
spurn.*

Reader 2:

Cast me not away from your presence
And do not deprive me of your Holy Spirit.

*All: A humble, contrite heart you will not
spurn.*

Reader 2:

In sacrifice you take no delight

Burnt offering from me you would refuse.

My sacrifice, a contrite spirit;

A humble, contrite heart you will not spurn.

*All: A humble, contrite heart you will not
spurn.*

All Standing

Reader 3: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you O Lord.

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayers

Loving God, you invite us to be close to you.
May we try to find quiet time to pray to you just
like Jesus did. May we listen to you in our hearts
during this special time of Lent. God of Love,
turn our hearts to you. Response: God of Love,
turn our hearts to you

Loving God, you want us to care for our friends.
Help us to be kind to those around us during this
special time of Lent. God of Love, turn our
hearts to you. Response: God of Love, turn our
hearts to you

Loving God, you want us to be unselfish and not to be greedy. Help us to be generous in our giving and sharing during this special time of Lent especially to those who are in need. God of Love, turn our hearts to you. Response: God of Love, turn our hearts to you

Loving God, you want us to be healthy and well.
Help us to remember all the people in our world
who are sick at the moment because of Covid.
We pray that soon we will be able to play with
our friends and get back to school. Response:
God of Love, turn our hearts to you

Concluding Prayer

By your mercy, may they merit the rewards you promise to those who do penance.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.