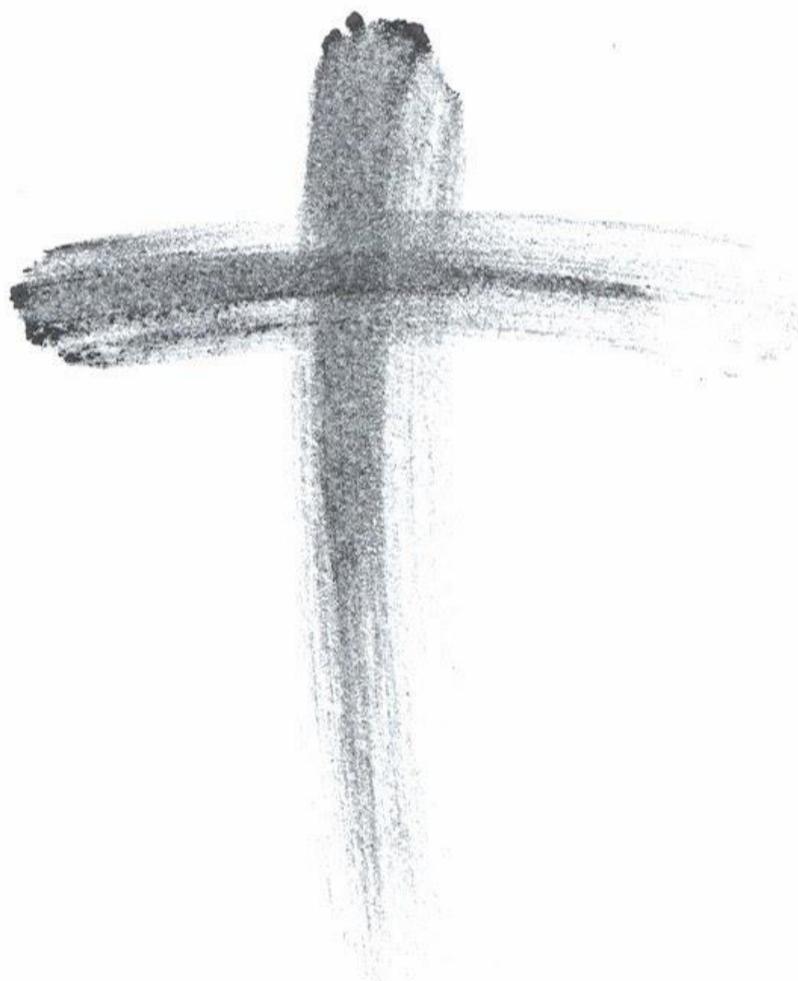




The Box River Benefice

*Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton*

ASH WEDNESDAY



The Imposition of Ashes

For the Beginning of Lent

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

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Fr James explains the meaning of Lent and invites the people to observe it faithfully.

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.

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

The Collect (Prayer for the day)

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept.

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.**

Readings

Fr Rb explains the purpose of the scripture readings.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading *Please stand and face the Gospel.*

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

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

Then at its end...

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Liturgy of Penitence

Fr James *now introduces the penitential rite and leads a corporate examination of conscience,*

We confess to you, Lord ...

all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Silence is kept.

All **We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The Imposition of Ashes

Fr Rob *now introduces the imposition of ashes, explains its meaning and says*

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.**

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

Then this prayer is said by the president

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.**

The Peace

Fr James now explains the purpose of the peace in our liturgy and then leads the congregation:

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace. *(cf Romans 5.1,2)*

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Dismissal

Blessing

Fr Rob now expounds the final blessing before blessing the congregation.

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.**

Some may choose to make the sign of the cross as we ask God to bless our lives in the service of Christ

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

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