

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET

ASH WEDNESDAY



HIGH MASS

WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Wednesday 18th February, 2026

6.30pm

§ All stand when the bell rings. Join in with the bold text.

A LENT PROSE



Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

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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, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

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, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated: bow down and hearken to thy weeping children: pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

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, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God. Wisdom 11.24

In the name of the ☧ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

§ All sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Joel 2.12-18*

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, ‘Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is their God?” ’ Then the Lord became jealous for his land, and had pity on his people.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY 51

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness: according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences. Wash me throughly from my wickedness: and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged. Behold, I was shapen in wickedness: and in sin hath my mother conceived me. But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts: and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly. Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness: that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Turn thy face from my sins: and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence: and take not thy holy Spirit from me. O give me the comfort of thy help again: and stablish me with thy free Spirit. Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked: and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health: and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness. Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord: and my mouth shall shew thy praise. For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee: but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise. O be favourable and gracious unto Sion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with the burnt-offerings and oblations: then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

EPISTLE 2 *Corinthians 5.20-6.2*

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

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

§ *All stand.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL *St Matthew 6.1-6; 16-21*

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Make me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Praise to you...

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

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

Glory be to thee, 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. 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret;

and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 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. But 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. 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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

§ *All sit.*

HOMILY Fr Alan Rimmer

§ *All stand.*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Brethren, it has been the custom in the Church from ancient times to observe with great devotion the days of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection, and to prepare for the same by a season of penitence and fasting. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us ask God our Father that he vouchsafe to bless these ashes with an abundance of his grace.

§ *The ashes are blessed:*

O God, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his sin and be saved, mercifully look upon the mortality of our mortal nature, and of thy goodness vouchsafe to bless these ashes now to be set upon our heads in token of humility and to obtain pardon; that we knowing we are but dust and that for our unworthiness unto dust shall return, may through thy mercy be found meet to receive forgiveness of all our sins, and those good things which thou hast promised to the penitent, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

§ All are invited to receive the imposition of ashes at the chancel screen.

Remember thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.

Genesis 3.19

MOTET NOLO MORTEM PECCATORIS

Thomas Morley, 1557-1602

Nolo mortem peccatoris; hæc sunt verba Salvatoris.

I do not wish the death of a sinner; these are the words of the Saviour.

Father I am thine only Son, sent down from heav'n mankind to save. Father, all things fulfilled and done according to thy will, I have. Father, my will now all is this:

Nolo mortem peccatoris; hæc sunt verba Salvatoris.

Father, behold my painful smart, taken for man on ev'ry side; Ev'n from my birth to death most tart, no kind of pain I have denied, but suffered all, and all for this:

Nolo mortem peccatoris; hæc sunt verba Salvatoris.

§ All stand.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

In Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

§ All sit.

MOTET EMENDEMUS IN MELIUS

Cristóbal de Morales, c.1500-1553

*Emendemus in melius quae ignoranter peccavimus, ne subito praeoccupati die mortis
quaeramus spatum paenitentiae, et invenire non possimus. Attende, Domine, et miserere;
quia peccavimus tibi. Memento, homo, quia pulvis es et in pulverem reverteris.*

Let us amend for the better the sins we have committed in ignorance, lest, suddenly overtaken on the day of death, we seek time for repentance and are not able to find it. Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us; for we have sinned against thee. Remember, O man, thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.

§ *All stand.*

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at thy hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord: that like as we do by these our oblations bring to remembrance the institution of this holy Sacrament, so we may by thee be enabled to offer the same according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

§ *The celebrant sings the preface.*

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory, Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

MASS SETTING MISSA EMENDEMUS IN MELIUS

G. P. da Palestrina, c. 1525-1594

§ *All kneel. The Canon of the Mass follows.*

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**O Saviour of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast
redeemed us, save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**

§ *The Canon concludes: Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.*

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.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. [x2]

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

§ *As the choir sings the Agnus, the celebrant shows the consecrated host to the people:*

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

§ *Anyone baptized in the name of the Trinity may receive Holy Communion. Low-gluten hosts are available at the Lady Altar station.*

COMMUNION ANTIphon

He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

Psalm 1.2

§ *All sing the hymn.*

**LEAD, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on;**

**The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead thou me on.**

**Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.**

**I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
Shouldst lead me on;**

**I loved to choose and see my path; but now
Lead thou me on.**

**I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.**

So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still
Will lead me on
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone,
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

St John Henry Newman, 1801-1890

ALBERTA

William H. Harris, 1883-1973

§ *All stand.*

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:

And may the blessing of God almighty, the ✠ Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

§ *All sing the final hymn:*

CHRISTIAN, dost thou see them
On the holy ground,
How the hosts of Midian
Prowl and prowl around?
Christian, up and smite them,
Counting gain but loss;
Smite them by the merit
Of the Holy Cross.

Christian, dost thou feel them.

**How they work within,
Striving, tempting, luring,
 Goading into sin?**

**Christian, never tremble;
 Never be down-cast;
Smite them by the virtue
 Of the Lenten fast.**

Christian, dost thou hear them,

How they speak thee fair?

‘Always fast and vigil?

Always watch and prayer?’

Christian, answer boldly,

‘While I breathe, I pray:’

Peace shall follow battle,

Night shall end in day.

‘Well I know thy trouble,

O my servant true;

Thou art very weary,-

I was weary too;

But that toil shall make thee

Some day all mine own,-

And the end of sorrow

Shall be near my throne.’

J.M. Neale, 1818-1866

ST ANDREW OF CRETE

John Bacchus Dykes, 1823-1876



*Collection is taken at the card reader at the back of church,
or by using this QR code. Thank you for your support.*

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET | LENT 2026

Night Shelter Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th March.

Please be in touch (assistantpriest@asmk.uk) with Fr Alan.

Parish Theatre Trip & Lent Seminar

There will be a parish trip to see *Shadowlands* on the evening of Thursday, 5th March, followed by a seminar on C.S. Lewis the following Tuesday, 10th March.

Limited tickets available for the play (sign up soon via the Parish Website or weekly email); all welcome to the seminar.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent stations will take place after the 12noon Mass on Wednesdays, beginning on 25th February, and after the 6.30pm Mass on Fridays.

Holy Hour Wednesdays 5.30pm

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed before the 6.30pm Mass.

Confessions

Confessions may be heard before or after any Mass, or by appointment.

Fulham Lay Congress

Bishop Lindsay Urwin OGS will help us to reflect on how we can be more effective in our sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Saturday, 21st March, 10am-3.30pm at St Alban's, Holborn. All Welcome.

Parish Email

Sign up for our weekly email on the Parish's website: asms.uk/news

Sunday, 22nd February | LENT I

8.30am Low Mass; 11am High Mass

Eccard | Gibbons

Preacher: *The Vicar*

5.15pm Low Mass; 6pm Evensong & Benediction

Anerio | Asola | Byrd | Guerrero | Victoria