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**Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday 17February 2021

Reflection 01

*Dust to dust*

Ash Wednesday can be seen as a solemn day. It marks the first day of the 40 days of Lent, a period of fasting in preparation for Jesus’ trial, crucifixion and then resurrection. Often read are the words spoken over Adam and Eve by God after the Fall: *“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust and to dust you shall return”* (Genesis 3.19).

It is a humbling passage to read and one that reminds us of our mortality. We will indeed all one day die and that is what we are reminded of by the ashen cross marked on our forehead. We have all sinned and that is why we die.

But there of course is hope! Jesus came to bring us our light and our hope of resurrection, which we shall journey towards together over this period of Lent. The sinless one, who did not deserve the penalty of death, died, so that we might live. Death is a reality, but so is new life!

It reads thus in the psalms: *“For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust […] but the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him”* (Psalm 103.14-17).

Jesus came that we *“may have life and have it abundantly”* (John 10.10) and we can enjoy this life without fear of death for we know that we will live forever because of Jesus.

 **Lord God,**

 Forgive me for my sin. I am sorry and I know that my sin means that I should die.

 But thank you for taking my place. Thank you for your abundant, selfless love.

Help me to not be a slave to my sin now, but to live in the fullness of this life that you have bought for me with your blood.

Thank you, Lord Jesus.

