

## Ash Wednesday (Year C)

### First Reading - *Daniel 9.3-6,17-19*

A reading from the book of Daniel.  
With Jerusalem lying in ruins,

I, Daniel, turned to the Lord God  
to plead in prayer,  
with fasting,  
and in sackcloth  
and ashes.

And I prayed  
to the Lord my God,  
making confession, and saying,  
'O Lord, great and awesome God,  
you keep your covenant, in steadfast love,  
towards those who  
love you, and keep your commandments.

But we have sinned, and done wrong.  
We have acted wickedly, and rebelled.

We have turned aside  
from your commandments and decrees.

We have not listened to your servants  
the prophets, who have spoken in your name,  
in every generation.

O Lord our God, hear the prayer of your servant;  
and for your own sake, O Lord,  
look with pity  
upon the desolate ruins  
of your holy temple.

Hear my cry, O Lord our God,  
and look upon the desolation  
of the people, and the city,  
that bear your name.

In this our plea, we trust not  
in our righteousness,  
but in your great mercy.

Hear, O Lord, and forgive;  
and for your own sake, O Lord my God,  
act, and do not delay;  
for the city, and the people,  
bear your name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

### Second Reading - *Philippians 2.12-15*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I know that you have  
continued to trust  
in all that I was able to teach you  
while I was with you,  
and that you continue  
to commit yourselves  
to walking in the way of salvation.

Always do so with humility, honouring  
both the power  
and the majesty of God.

For it is God who is  
at work within you:  
it is God who gives you  
both the desire  
and the strength  
to do God's will.

So avoid

complaint and dispute,  
and you will be innocent and uncorrupted  
children of God,  
shining as lights  
in the darkness of this  
wicked and corrupt  
generation.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Gospel - *John 8.2-11*

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

Early in the morning,  
Jesus came again to the temple.

All the people  
gathered around him,  
and he sat down, and began to teach them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees

brought to him  
a woman who had been  
caught in adultery;  
and making her stand there,  
in front of all the people,  
they said to Jesus,

'Teacher, this woman was caught  
in the very act  
of committing adultery.'

In the law, Moses commanded us  
to stone

such women.  
What do you say?'

They said this  
to test Jesus,  
so that they might have some charge  
to bring against him.

Jesus bent down,  
and wrote, with his finger, on the ground.

As they kept on questioning him,  
he straightened up  
and said to them,

'Let the one who is  
without sin  
cast the first stone.'

And once again,  
he bent down  
and wrote on the ground.

Having heard these words  
they went away,  
one by one,

beginning with the eldest,  
until Jesus was left alone  
with the woman standing there.

Jesus straightened up  
and said to her, 'Where are they?'

Has no one  
condemned you?'

She said, 'No one, sir.'

And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you.  
Go on your way,  
and do not sin again.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.