

# Ashes at home

A solemn act of penitence for the church at home

We begin by making the sign of the cross and say:

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

We keep a period of silent prayer before saying the collect:

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. Amen

We keep a period of silent reflection on our sins before saying:

Make our hearts clean, O God;  
and renew a right spirit within us.

Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.

We sprinkle dry ashes over our heads or make the sign  
of the cross on our forehead using ashes mixed with oil  
and say:

On your own head (if alone):

I remember that I am dust, and to dust I will return.

I will turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

On another's head:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall  
return.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

After a moment of silence, we say:

May the Lord enrich us with his grace,  
and nourish us with his blessing;  
the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil;  
the Lord accept our prayers,  
and absolve us from our offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
Amen.