

# THE BENEFICE OF WITNEY



St Mary  
the  
Virgin

St John  
Baptist Curbridge

St John  
Evangelist Hailey

Holy Trinity  
Woodgreen

St Kenelm  
Minster Lovell

Called to be a community of mercy and kindness



## Ash Wednesday Liturgy

## Litany of Penance

*As Ash Wednesday marks the Lenten observance of the Church's preparation for Easter we traditionally begin with a Litany—a series of petitions asking God for forgiveness. Please stand as the altar party enters.*

LORD have mercy. ***Lord, have mercy.***  
Christ, have mercy. ***Christ, have mercy.***  
Lord, have mercy. ***Lord, have mercy.***  
Christ, hear us. ***Christ, graciously hear us.***

God the Father of Heaven, ***Have mercy on us.***  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, ***Have mercy on us.***  
God the Holy Ghost, ***Have mercy on us.***  
Holy Trinity, one God, ***Have mercy on us.***  
Incarnate Lord, ***Have mercy on us.***  
Lover of souls, ***Have mercy on us.***  
Saviour of sinners, ***Have mercy on us.***  
Lord who came to seek those that were lost, ***Have mercy on us.***  
Lord who fasted for forty days and nights, ***Have mercy on us.***  
By your welcome given to the returning Prodigal, ***Have mercy on us.***  
By your gentleness with the woman of Samaria, ***Have mercy on us.***  
By your pity upon the woman taken in adultery, ***Have mercy on us.***  
By your love of Mary Magdalene, who loved much, ***Have mercy on us.***  
By your converting look, at which Peter wept, ***Have mercy on us.***  
By your gracious words to the thief upon the cross, ***Have mercy on us.***

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, ***Spare us, O Lord.***  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, ***Christ graciously hear us.***  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, ***Have mercy on us.***

Christ, hear us ***Christ, graciously hear us.***

## **The Gathering**

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

**All Amen.**

## ***The Greeting***

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

## ***The priest introduces the Mass***

My sisters and brothers in Christ: since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church to prepare for this season by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season of Lent was observed by those preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognise that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might 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 now, 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.

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

## ***The Opening Prayer***

Let us pray:

*A short silence follows*

Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before you:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*Please sit*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

***Reading(s)***

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Reading***

*Please stand*

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

*A scripture verse proper is said or sung, to which all respond:*

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

***Sermon***

## The Imposition of Ashes

*A minister introduces **the prayers of penitence.***

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Kyrie eleison** *may be said or sung.*

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

From all evil and mischief;  
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;  
from envy, hatred, and malice;  
and from all evil intent,

**good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money;  
from hardness of heart  
and contempt for your word and your laws,

**good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;  
From the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

**good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow;  
in all times of joy;  
in the hour of death,  
and at the day of judgement,

**good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
by your birth, childhood, and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,

**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,

**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

Give us true repentance;  
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins;  
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

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

*Silence is kept.*

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

### ***The Imposition of Ashes***

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.  
**Amen.**

*The president and people receive the imposition of ashes, the president first receiving the imposition from another minister.  
At the imposition a minister says to each person*

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

*At the end of the imposition, the president says*

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 all our offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

## **Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### ***The Peace***

*Please stand*

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

***Preparation of the Table  
Taking of the Bread and Wine***

God of mercy and compassion,  
your Word calls us home to faith and love.  
Accept all we offer you this day  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*All*           The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*           Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All*           Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.  
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.  
Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.  
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and *saying*:



*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and  
according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus  
Christ;

who in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread  
and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness  
of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

*All* **Great is the mystery of faith  
Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole  
world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection  
and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and  
thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup and we  
thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your  
presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this  
one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of  
Mary the Mother of God, John the Baptist,  
John the Evangelist, Kenelm, Frideswide and of all the  
saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty  
Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## ***The Lord's Prayer***

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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 for ever. Amen.**

## ***Breaking of the Bread***

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,**  
**because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world,**  
**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world,**  
**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world,**  
**grant us peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*The president and people receive communion.  
At the distribution, the communicant replies **Amen.***

### ***Post Communion Prayer***

*Please sit or kneel. Silence is kept*

Lord,  
through this communion  
may our Lenten penance give you glory  
and bring us your protection.

**All Amen.**

**God of our pilgrimage,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*Please stand*

## ***The Blessing***

The Lord be with you  
**All and also with you.**

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken  
spirit, give you a contrite heart.  
**All Amen.**

May God the Son, who bore our sins in his body on the  
tree, heal you by his wounds.

**All Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace

**All Amen.**

And the Blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Called to be a community  
of mercy and kindness**



