

Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 15th February)

18th February

Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent - a season of simplicity leading up to the celebration of Easter.

It takes its name from the ceremony, which occurs during the Mass. Palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burnt and the ashes used to mark a cross on the forehead of the people present. It is a sign of self-abasement and penitence stretching back deep into Old Testament times. As the sign of the cross is made, the priest recites the formula:

Remember, O man, that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return.

We are, therefore, reminded that life without God is transitory; and it is only by the Sacrifice of Christ that we can find eternal life.