



Ash Wednesday

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When is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday.

This year, Ash Wednesday is on the 17th February.

What do we do on Ash Wednesday?

On Ash Wednesday our priests or our teachers draw a cross on our forehead from ashes made out of burnt palm leaves from Palm Sunday from the year before.

The ashes symbolise death and repentance.



What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is a day for praying and fasting.

It's the start of Lent and it leads up to Easter.

What colour does the priest wear on Ash Wednesday?

On Ash Wednesday the priest wears a robe and the colour of it is purple and white.

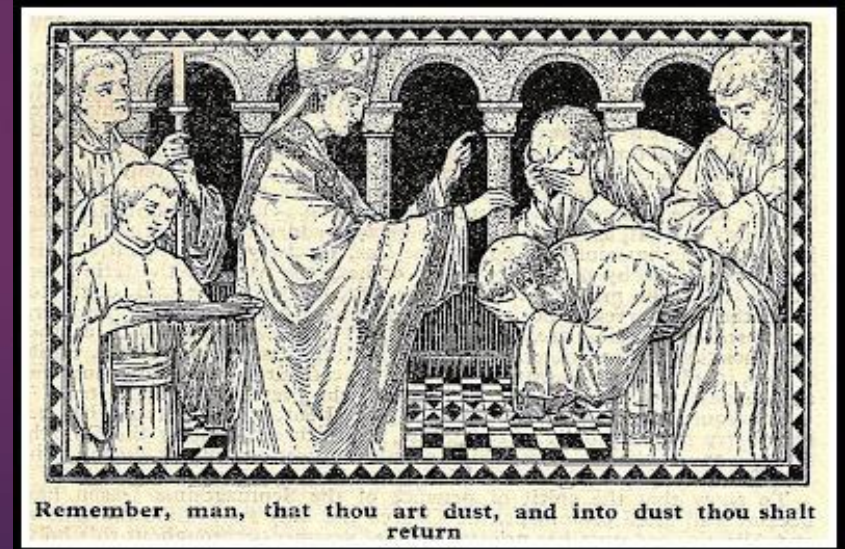


What is the history behind Ash Wednesday?

The first **Ash Wednesday** ceremonies were likely held sometime in 11th century CE.

Ash Wednesday is not mentioned in the Bible. A verse can be found in the Book of Daniel linking fasting to ashes. Some scholars believe this is the origin of the Lenten practice.

Since Old Testament times, ashes have been a symbol of sorrow for sin.



An Ash Wednesday prayer:

Dear Lord,

On this day we pray for the people less fortunate than us.

Let the ashes on our forehead bless us.

Let them bless our family and friends and let me be grateful for everything I have .

Help me to be the best I can be.

Amen

