

ASH WEDNESDAY- 2 March 2022

Responsorial Psalm- Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

*We know God is kind that is why we can trust in him to be merciful to us
Be honest about your sinfulness, especially the good we have not done*

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

*We know God is holy and that sin and evil contradict that holiness
Be honest about your sinfulness, especially the sins we commit*

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

*God is good – add an ‘o’ to God and we get ‘good’ in English
Pray for God to help us purify our hearts for holiness*

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,

O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

*We know God wants to always help us
Pray for God’s spirit to strengthen us to be constant in God’s praise and service*

Acknowledgements

Excerpts from *The Psalms: A New Translation* © 1963 The Grail (England) published by HarperCollins.