

22 February 2023 - Ash Wednesday

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.

*As Lent begins let us pray with confidence to our God seeking his mercy because we trust in his kindness
We need to acknowledge openly that we truly need God's forgiveness*

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.

*Take time to be honest about the sins for which you need forgiveness the most
Be open with yourself about the temptations which you find most difficult to resist*

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.

*Once forgiven we must acknowledge that we need God to give us a pure heart and steadfast spirit
Pray for a renewed closeness to God and his spirit in our daily living*

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.

*Make sure you stop and rejoice that God is with you as you do good
Thank God for the gift of prayer and worship in your life*