

This is our acceptable time.

As we journey through Lent “let us dream” with Pope Francis;
let this be an unfolding:

a time to **See**

a time to **Choose**

a time to **Act**



Litany Prayer

R/: Teach me Lord, to see

Teach me to see, my Caring God, those far from me—to hear in my heart the whisper of the hopeless, the plea of the forgotten, the cry of the anguished. R/:

Help me to see, O God my Mother, myself— to be less afraid to trust the voice inside me—in the deepest part of me. R/:

Teach me to see, Holy Spirit your Presence—in business and in boredom, in certainty and in doubt, in noise and in silence. R/:

For what else should we pray?

With Mary, we sing her *Magnificat* as a song of commitment for this journey forward.
(select your own)

Let us pray:

Take us into the future O God,
with the power that comes with a freedom to commit;
renew us as your helpers and as creators
that we may face our world with new possibility,
putting strength in our feet and joy in our hearts
as we journey through the days of Lent.

Amen.

Ash Wednesday

Let your hearts be broken; not your garments torn



A JOURNEY
through Lent

Evening Prayer—Reflection

*As we enter this prayerful Season of Lent, how do we ready ourselves?
Today's readings encourage us to ritually prepare our physical selves in readiness for our internal transformation:
Anoint your head—bless yourself as a child of God on the Journey to the Kingdom.
Wash your face – ready yourself for this pilgrimage of the soul.
Sign yourself with the Cross of Salvation—and enter into the journey with your head held high and your eyes forward.*

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor 5:19-20; 6:1-2.

Because in Christ God reconciled the world with himself, no longer taking into account their trespasses and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we present ourselves as ambassadors in the name of Christ, as if God makes an appeal to you through us. . . . Being God's helpers we beg you: let it not be in vain that you received this grace of God. Scripture says; *At the favourable time I listen to you, on the day of salvation I help you.* This is the favourable time: this is the day of salvation.

Response:

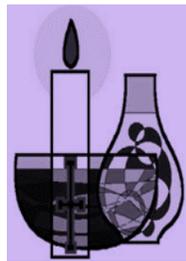
L: Into your hands I commit myself

R: **Into your hands I entrust**

L: All that is and all that holds my heart

R: **Into your hands I commit.**

*Taking the oil, anoint your head, hands or brow.
In the water, symbolically wash your hands/face or
mark yourself with the Cross of Salvation.*



As background: Play Monica Brown: *Into Your Hands* (Holy Ground ©2000) or any other suitable reflective music.

- ◇ What am I committing to as I felt the ashes, the oil bless my head, brow or hands?
- ◇ Of what I am letting go as I washed my hands or felt the water run through my fingers?

Reflection

This Lent, let us look beyond ourselves: let us look forward and “Let us Dream” with Pope Francis, to see our place in the world during this precious time.

Ash Wednesday is the day the Lord listens to us, on this day the Lord will help us. Pope Francis does not give up hope despite the global atrocities, violence, political turmoil and more recently, the pandemic, that has over taken the world in various forms of severity – all those who are disenfranchised by society and all those who dwell on the margins. He almost encourages us to look more at the margins of our world—places of sin and misery, exclusion and suffering, of illness and solitude— because according to St Paul, they were also places full of possibility: “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (Romans 5:20).

As terror and fear spreads a global shadow, we can, when we really set out this Lent with purpose, with intent, and with a listening heart, be startled by the prospect of our own vulnerability and personal need.

The Preface for Lent (IV) will lift us out of the usual malaise we have with the image of a “sackcloth and ashes” type of Lent. It’s prayer will lead us to a favourable sacrifice: correcting our faults; raising our minds, helping us to grow, and rewarding us. This is the time to see with new eyes— consider all the things we do and don’t do in the light of being God’s helper.

Do we ever make the connection?

Are we healing the world by living in it?

Then let us not forget the grace that we have received.

Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future. Pope Francis. Austen Ivereigh, © 2020