

RESOURCES FOR PARISHES FOR SUNDAYS OF LENT 2024

Suggested Preamble For Sundays Preceding Ash Wednesday

This year the Diocese of Ballarat will mark its 150th anniversary. A committee working with Bishop Paul has prepared liturgical resources to help acknowledge the occasion through various times of the year.

We begin with the season of Lent where we will make a point of acknowledging our historic sinfulness and ask God's forgiveness for failing to be the people God called us to be.

Through Ash Wednesday and the Sundays of Lent we will pray for help to recognise our need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God and with our brothers and sisters.

ASH WEDNESDAY

[See separate document]

Readings:

First	Joel 2 12-18. <i>Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn</i>
Second	2 Cor 5:20-6:2. <i>Be reconciled to God</i>
Gospel	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18. <i>Your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.</i>

SUNDAYS OF LENT

SUNDAY 1

Readings:

First	Genesis 9:8-15. <i>There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again</i>
Second	1 Peter 3:18-22. <i>The water on which the Ark floated is a type of the baptism which saves you now</i>
Gospel	Mark 1:12-15. <i>Jesus was tempted by Satan and the angels looked after him</i>

Greeting before Mass:

Brothers and sisters, Lent is a time for us to reflect upon our lives, to acknowledge our sinfulness and to strive to follow Jesus more closely. As we approach the 150th anniversary of our Diocese, let us reflect upon those times when jointly we have failed to live as a true Christian community. Today we acknowledge **our sinfulness as God's people of the Ballarat Diocese**. We pray for a few moments in silence.

Penitential Rite

Priest: Jesus, you prayed for your friends that they would be one as you and your Father are one. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: You offer us the gift of peace and the Spirit of unity. Christ, have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: You pour out upon us your gracious Spirit that we might live as a true community, following your way of love. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

PETITION FOR USE AT PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray that we might reflect honestly upon the history of our Diocese, listen to all our people, and acknowledge the harm that has been done. We ask forgiveness for being quick to see the sins of others and slow to repent of our own. We pray that the Spirit will guide us to work towards reconciliation for all.

God of mercy, hear us.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

SUNDAY 2

Readings:

First Genesis 22 1-2, 9-13, 15-18. *The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith*

Second Romans 8 31-34. *God did not spare God's own son*

Gospel Mark 9: 2-10. *Transfiguration: This is my Son, the Beloved*

Greeting

Brothers and Sisters, Lent is a time for us to turn away from sinfulness and accept God's mercy and reconciliation. As we reflect on 150 years of history of the Diocese of Ballarat, we commit ourselves to positive steps in the work of ensuring that our attitudes, policies and structures truly reflect the gospel and protect people from harm. Today we acknowledge particularly the injustices against **the first inhabitants of our land**. We pray for a few moments in silence.

Penitential Rite:

Priest: Lord Jesus, you offer us the grace to lament past wrongs and recognise our need to grow and change. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy

Priest: You move our hearts to sorrow for the harm done to our First Peoples by the sins and mistakes of flawed human beings, imperfect Church personnel and broken systems. Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: You offer us the gift of perseverance to continue the healing journey. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

PETITION FOR USE AT PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the First Peoples of Australia. We ask for the preservation of their culture and respect for their history and traditions. We seek to walk with our Indigenous sisters and brothers on the journey of healing towards reconciliation and justice.

God of mercy, hear us.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

SUNDAY 3

Readings:

First	Exodus 20:1-17. <i>The Law given at Sinai</i>
Second	1 Corinthians 1:22-25. <i>The crucified Christ, the power and wisdom of God</i>
Gospel	John 2:13-25. <i>Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up</i>

Greeting

Brothers and sisters, Lent is an opportunity for growth, for turning away from sinfulness and accepting God's mercy and reconciliation. As we reflect on 150 years of history of the Diocese of Ballarat we commit ourselves to live in right relationship with God, with each other and with all of creation. Our prayer today asks **forgiveness for sins of abuse**: the abuse of children and young people, the abuse of power, influence, wealth and position. We pray for a few moments in silence.

Penitential Rite:

Priest: All-loving God, you created us all in your own image. You move us to acknowledge the times of failure to respect each other through the misuse of power.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy

Priest: Jesus, you said 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them'. You teach us to repent of our failure to protect our children and young people from abuse. Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: Gracious God, you offer us your guidance through the wisdom you inspire in young and old. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

PETITION FOR USE AT PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray that we may all continue to live by the greatest commandment: to love you with all our heart and soul and all our mind and our neighbour as ourselves and that we might be a community where all are kept safe.

God of mercy, hear us.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

SUNDAY 4

Readings:

First 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23. *God's wrath and mercy are revealed in the exile and release of God's people*

Second Ephesians 2:4-10. *You have been saved through grace*

Gospel John 3:14-21. *God sent the Son so that through him the world might be saved*

Greeting:

Brothers and sisters, as we mark the 150th anniversary of our Diocese, we celebrate the achievements and acknowledge the failures through the years. Today we remember particularly **members of our community have been shunned and excluded**. Jesus called his followers to welcome the downtrodden. May we have the grace to welcome back those who have been hurt or rejected. We pray for a few moments in silence.

Penitential Rite

Priest: Lord, you offer us your wisdom to overcome our harsh judgments and prejudice. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: You prayed that we might be one so that we might offer united witness to your Gospel. Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy

Priest: You came to heal divisions and lead us to communion with you and one another, so that the world might believe in your love. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

PETITION FOR USE AT PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray that we might recognise our part in the hurt of those who have been shunned or excluded by our Church community, and that we might welcome them back as fellow Christians. And we pray with thanksgiving for those among us who have always been accepting and welcoming of the downtrodden.

God of mercy, hear us.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

SUNDAY 5

Readings:

First	Jeremiah 31:31-34. <i>I will write my law in their hearts</i>
Second	Hebrews 5:7-9. <i>He learned to obey and he became the source of eternal salvation</i>
Gospel	John 12:20-33. <i>If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies it yields a rich harvest</i>

Greeting:

On Ash Wednesday when the ashes were placed on our foreheads, we were urged to repent and believe in the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ. The message of Jesus is meant to be **good news for all creation** and we repent of our failures to take proper care of the earth that God has given us. We pray for the grace to protect our common home for the benefit of people today and for the benefit of generations to come. We pray for a few moments in silence.

Penitential Rite

Priest: Lord Jesus, you have taught us that God cares for all creatures, the birds of the air and the flowers of the field. Help us to work towards reconciliation with the world that shelters us. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: You have taught us to give thanks for the gifts we have received. Help us to care for the world that God has given us so that all may enjoy the beauty of creation. Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: You have taught us that we are to live as brothers and sisters in one human family. Help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

PETITION FOR USE AT PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the earth, our common home. May we recognise the beauty and richness of God's creation, be filled with awe and contemplation, and realise that we are profoundly united with every creature. Creator God, hear us.

Response: Creator God, hear our prayer.

SUNDAY 6 – Palm Sunday

Readings:

Procession	Mark 11:1-10/John 12:12-16. <i>Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord.</i>
First	Isaiah 50:4-7. <i>I did not cover my face against insult</i>
Second	Philippians 2:6-11. <i>Christ humbled himself but God raised him on high</i>
Gospel	Mark 14:1-15:47 <i>Passion</i>

The Introductory Rite on this Sunday takes the form of the Procession of Palms, as in the Missal.

PETITION FOR USE AT PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for our Diocesan community as we mark the 150th anniversary of the Ballarat Diocese. May we be inspired by the cross and resurrection of Christ to be a community of hope and love. Loving God, hear us.

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer.