

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Holy Season Lent, 2021 begins on Ash Wednesday 17th February 2021. This year of course we find ourselves under Covid-19 restrictions, yet we will be celebrating this day at St. Martin's although the liturgy will be slightly different to the normal practice. The Mass of Ash Wednesday with the Imposition of Ashes will be offered at 10:30am on Ash Wednesday 17th February. The Imposition of Ashes will take place as people are leaving Church and will not involve any touching of foreheads but rather a sprinkling of ashes on the crown of the head.

The Holy Season of Lent is a time of reflection upon and preparation for the events of Easter. It is usual to adopt a Lenten discipline of reading and fasting, together with a giving up of something. In order to assist you all in forming your Lenten Discipline there are two things that you can collect from Church: first, the Lenten Booklet 'A New Dawn' which will take you through Lent day by day; second, an ACS Lent Box. The Additional Curates Society exists to help provide priests for parishes. It has been very generous to St. Martin's for the last five years. However, during 2020 the Society suffered a £89,000 drop in its income due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, the Society has maintained its commitment to paying grants to parishes. Obviously this is an alarming drop of income, so I ask you to be generous in your Lent Collection for the ACS so that it can continue its crucial work. At Easter you can if you so choose bring the box to Church and I will send a collective offering to the Society or you can send your offering individually, in either case please complete the address section and so Gift Aid your offering.

I will continue to send out by email the weekly Pew Sheet and from time to time addresses by the Bishop of Ebbsfleet. If you are not receiving the Pew Sheet it will probably be because I do not have your Email Address; could you send it to me if this is the case and I will add you to the emailing.

God Bless you and Keep Safe,

Fr. David