



## Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday 22 February 2023

**Celebrations  
12:05 PM & 5:30 PM**

*The ashes on our forehead are our public witness that we acknowledge our failure and sins.* We admit our human weakness and plead for Christ's help, because we are powerless without Him.



The sign of the cross on our foreheads is a reminder of the other times of our Christian lives that we have been signed with cross and holy oil: the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick.

On Ash Wednesday this cross upon our forehead is different. There is no sacrament, no holy oils. We are signed with dust, a reminder of our death and decay. The ashes remind us of our sins. And yet, that cross of ashes is not doom and gloom. The cross gives us hope, reminding us that our source of grace is Christ crucified. He conquers sin and death. *By receiving that cross of ashes, we are making the first step to return to Christ and walk with Him on this Lenten journey, because without Him we are and can do nothing!*