

Ash Wednesday

17 February 2021

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Randwick

MASS TIMES for ASH Wednesday

9.30 AM

12 Noon

7 PM

NEW RITE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

An instruction has come from Rome (Congregation for Divine Worship) and has been passed on to parishes in the Archdiocese of Sydney. It is proposed that this year, because safety precautions due to COVID 19, an alternative rite of the distribution of the ashes take place.

1. The priest says only once “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return”, rather than repeating the formula to each person;
2. The priest puts on a facemask and sanitises his hands before distributing the ashes;
3. The priest sprinkles the ashes on the heads of the faithful who come forward.

While this procedure is unfamiliar to us in Australia, it is nevertheless a common practice in other parts of the world.

It should also be noted that placing ashes on top of the head is the more ancient practice.

Most importantly, the ashes, regardless of how they are used, symbolize our fragility and mortality, and our need to be redeemed by God’s mercy.

This alternative practice, which is adopted this year, has the advantage of not requiring the priest to contact the skin of many people one after another, risking inadvertent infection.

Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. For the Lenten liturgy disposes both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery: catechumens, through the several stages of Christian initiation; the faithful, through reminders of their own baptism and through penitential practices.

General Norms for the Liturgical

RITE OF ELECTION

The Rite of Election is celebrated each year at the Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent. At this beautiful rite the catechumens are enrolled in the Book of the Elect. We have five enrolled in the RCIA in this parish who will be attending this rite. This is the last important step before they will be baptised at Easter. We keep them in our prayers at this most sacred time.