

Booklet
for adults



Start of Lent

HOPE

In a world where it can sometimes feel hard to be optimistic, God offers us something deeper – hope.

This Lent is an opportunity to put down deep roots of hope, discovering God's promises for the future and his presence with us now.

Prayer for the week

Faithful one,
your word is sure and never fails.
Help us to endure patiently
the trials and tribulations of this life
in sure and certain hope
of being with you for ever.
Amen.

Ash Wednesday

'Can the dead live again?'



Read

If mortals die, will they live again? All the days of my service I would wait until my release should come.

Job 14.7-14

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

A living hope



Read

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.

Job 19.23-27

Ash Wednesday reminds us of the fragility and brevity human life. The day invites us to confront the reality of death.

In the book of Job, the suffering man compares his life to a tree. He feels like there is more hope of renewal for trees than for human beings! He wonders about what happens to the dead.

What happens when we die is a question we often avoid. We're more comfortable talking about the hope of a reunion in heaven but hesitant to explore what that truly means.

Perhaps Ash Wednesday is not just about receiving the sign of the cross, but also about engaging with the difficult questions about death and beyond. Maybe we can allow ourselves to ask these big questions about where our hope comes from. We can bring these questions to God, asking him to lead us into deeper hope this Lent.



Challenge

Is there a trusted person you could explore these big questions with? Perhaps a friend, minister or family member?