

Refection for Saturday 13 February

On Ash Wednesday next week one of the sentences the priest might say to us as he places the ashes on our heads is, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” As Lent begins we are reminded by those words that we are in need of God’s grace so that we can grow into his image and likeness.

How can that happen? Jesus shows us the way by his example of the 40 days he spent in the wilderness, wrestling with the devil as to the way forward his Father wanted him to proceed. It was not to be through political strength or magical power but through a life of humility grounded in the love of God and people. That love would lead Jesus in the way of the Cross which he knew was what God wanted.

For us, so that in the 40 days of Lent we can rise from the ashes of sin to the newness of life in the Resurrection, we need to get closer to God and find out what he wants of us so that we can grow into him. Lent gives us that opportunity for us to do so. This year it will be a bit of a challenge for us because we are already feeling somewhat down by the restrictions of this lockdown. To be asked to take on more discipline might be a bit too much. But we should not see it in that way. Lenten discipline is a way of showing our love of God and our willingness to grow into him.

If we make some progress in our relationship with God we shall have risen a little from the ashes of sin and our meeting with the risen Lord at our Communion with him at Easter will be truly wonderful for us.

To help us in our Lenten exercise may I commend the “Lenten Activity” in the parish bulletin as to how we can use the Stations of the Cross devotion this Lent. I would also commend the booklet, “Walk with Me” which can be obtained from St Joseph’s. It will help us to read the Scriptures prayerfully and draw us closer into the way of Christ.

Roger Watson