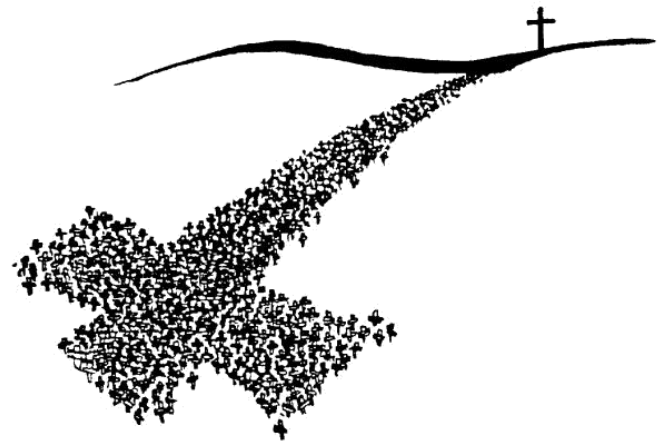


“On the Dusty Road”

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, traditionally a time of fasting and repentance. Why not explore these four Bible verses together and think about what ash and dust mean in the big story of the Bible?



Genesis 2 v 7

Then the Lord God took dust from the ground and formed a man from it. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nose, and the man became a living person.



1

This verse from the book of Genesis says that God created the first human being from the dust. It was the breath of God inside him that made him a living person.

We were not created to be like dust but to be living people in relationship and friendship with God.

2

This verse from the book of Genesis is part of Abraham’s story. God had a big promise for Abraham that he would have many descendants. You can trace the family line of Abraham through Jacob and David, all the way to Jesus.

The promises of God are true and unchanging. Abraham did not even think that he could have children but with God anything is possible!

What could you do during Lent to help build your relationship and friendship with God?



What Bible promises are true for us today?

What plans does God have for your future that He wants to tell you about today?

Genesis 13 v 15–17

All this land that you see I will give to you and your descendants forever. I will make your descendants as many as the dust of the earth. If anyone could count the dust on the earth, he could count your people. Get up! Walk through all this land because I am now giving it to you.”

These verses from Isaiah talk about God giving his people a crown instead of ashes. During times of mourning and sadness people used to dress in sackcloth and place ashes on their heads as a sign of their sadness.

This verse reminds us that we live in an imperfect world which is not how God wanted it to be. Our world is full of sin, sickness and sorrow.

God promises a solution, a future where there will be no more sickness or sadness where we will be in perfect relationship with Him once again. At the heart of that solution is Jesus and the Easter Story.

Isaiah 61 v 2–3

He has sent me to announce the time when the Lord will show his kindness and the time when our God will punish evil people.

He has sent me to comfort all those who are sad and to help the sorrowing people of Jerusalem. I will give them a crown to replace their ashes, and the oil of gladness to replace their sorrow, and clothes of praise to replace their spirit of sadness.

Who can you pray for today that they would be happy and healthy?

What do you see in the world which makes you sad? Why not bring it to God in prayer?

Matthew 10 v 14

“And if a home or town refuses to welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake its dust off your feet.”

Who does God want you to share His Good News with today?



This verse comes from Jesus' instructions to his followers when he sent them out to share the Good News. They were told to heal the sick and raise the dead to life!

God's big plan continues through us as we carry his love to others. Just like the disciples we might find that not everybody is ready to hear our message. This verse reminds us to shake the dust from our feet and carry on! God has lots of work for us to do helping others to learn about how much He loves them!

Why not take on the dusty road Lent Challenge?

Commit to building relationship with God every day during Lent. You could just begin each day by saying "Good Morning" to Him.

Choose one promise verse from the Bible to memorise during Lent.

Take time each day during Lent to pray "Your Kingdom Come, your will be done" over the earth.

Choose one friend who doesn't know Jesus to pray for this Lent.