

# Where's Your Chair?

Ash Wednesday



For you desire no sacrifice, else would I give it; you take no delight in burnt offerings.  
The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise.  
Psalm 51:17-18

## **Praising:**

He gave his life in selfless love,  
for sinners once he came;  
he had no stain of sin himself,  
but bore our guilt and shame:  
he took the cup of pain and  
death,  
his blood was freely shed;  
we see his body on the cross,  
we share the living bread.

## **Reading:**

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Be reconciled

When some Christians wear ash on Ash Wednesday it's not about announcing to the world that they are fasting, in sack cloth and ashes as it were. It's actually a personal reminder that they are dust and someday shall return to being dust. Until that day comes, there are lots of ways we can all

put our human frailty and weakness productively to God's use. St Paul understood this very well. To begin with though, there has to be a conscious, clear-minded decision from us that we're going to surrender our mortality to God's immortality. If we're serious about taking up Jesus' offer to follow him, we need to recognise both our shortcomings and his power to overcome them. Ash Wednesday is about surrendering our humanity to God's divinity and saying: okay God, over to you.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We pray dear Lord, for...

- those who live fast, thoughtless, reckless lives unaware that human life is limited
- those gathering, acquiring and amassing as though this life is all there is to it
- those nearing the end of life who have yet to give real thought to what will come next

Father: I thank you for each new opportunity to see my own limitations. Each one throws me deeper into your mercy, more fully into your power to make up for my deficiencies. Amen

## **Doing:**

Wednesday, 10 February 2016