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**Ash Wednesday**

*What does Ash Wednesday celebrate?*

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Ash Wednesday is a Catholic celebration. It begins the season of Lent, which is 40 days, not counting Sundays, of fasting and repentance before the celebration of Easter.

*When is Ash Wednesday?*

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Ash Wednesday occurs 46 days before Easter. Since Easter moves around on the calendar, so does Ash Wednesday. The earliest the day it can happen is February 4th and the latest is March 10th.

Here are some dates for Ash Wednesday: February 22, 2012 February 13, 2013 March 5, 2014 February 18, 2015 February 10, 2016 March 1, 2017 February 14, 2018 March 6, 2019 February 26, 2020

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*What do people do to celebrate?*

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Many Catholics attend an Ash Wednesday service at their church. During this service the priest or helper may rub the sign of the cross on their foreheads using ashes. This is called being anointed. The ashes represent mourning and repentance. Sometimes the ashes are gathered from the burning of the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Catholics often fast on Ash Wednesday.

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In addition to fasting, Catholics often give up something for Lent as sacrifice. This usually is something people enjoy like eating chocolate, playing video games, hot water for showers, or even sleeping in a bed.

*History of Ash Wednesday*

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The day of Ash Wednesday is not mentioned in the Bible, but it is in honour of events that occurred in the Bible. It is believed that Ash Wednesday was first celebrated in the Middle Ages around the 8th century, then it was called the Day of Ashes. (263 words)

## Task – Ash Wednesday

Learners Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the text and answer the questions below.

### 1. Information is obtained from the text (1.1)

Identify the overall idea of the text

Which of these is the best description of the main idea of the whole text?

- a) Ash Wednesday is fun for Catholics
- b) The date for Ash Wednesday changes each year
- c) A description about Ash Wednesday

Identify the main points and supporting details

Read these lines in the text. Are these ideas from the text main ideas or supporting information?

Write 'M' or 'S' next to each one

Lines 1-5	Main or Supporting
a) Lent is 40 days	
b) Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent	
c) Lent celebrates Easter	

Lines 16-21	Main or Supporting
a) Attend a service for Ash Wednesday	
b) Get ashes out on your forehead	
c) What Catholics do to celebrate Ash Wednesday	

Lines 27-30	Main or Supporting
a) The first Ash Wednesday was in the Middle Ages	
b) History of Ash Wednesday	
c) Ash Wednesday was called Day of Ashes	

### 2. The meaning of essential vocabulary used in the text given (1.2)

sacrifice	repentance	anointed
mourning	celebration	season
previous	gathered	occurred

- a) Working hard does not mean you have to \_\_\_\_\_ your whole life.
- b) The family were in \_\_\_\_\_ for a year after the death of their grandmother.
- c) Catholics enjoy the Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ once a year.
- d) Many of the students \_\_\_\_\_ to attend Ash Wednesday.
- e) The students were \_\_\_\_\_ with ash on their foreheads.
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ means to turn away from sin.