

What is Lent?

Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, is a solemn season of preparation leading up to the celebration of Easter. It is the forty weekdays plus six Sundays before Easter. During Lent our worship services take on a quieter tone. We do not use the word “Alleluia” and our hymns are sombre. Sundays are not included in Lent as they are always celebrations of Jesus’ resurrection.

Observing Lent

Lent is traditionally a time for reflection and self-examination. It can be observed by the “giving up” of an activity such as watching TV, or a particular food such as chocolate, or it can be a time of “taking on” an activity such as volunteering. Fasting is also traditional whereby the time used for a meal would be spent in prayer or reading the Bible, while the monies for the missed meal would be donated to charity.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is an traditional prayer with which to begin a daily Lenten time of devotion:

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

While not required, the act of confession with a Priest sometime in Lent may add to the journey of reflection and self-examination.

Special Days and Services 2019

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - March 5th - 6pm

This is the day before Ash Wednesday. The name comes from the need to “shrive” or confess before Lent begins. It is often called Pancake Tuesday, as that was a way to use up the ingredients that would be abstained from during Lent.

Ash Wednesday - March 6th - 10am & 7pm

The first day of Lent is observed with a special service. The theme is that, but for the Grace of God, we are sinners and otherwise cut off from God. The symbol of this is the sign of the cross on the forehead, with the words “you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. The use of ashes is a sign of penance and mourning. Ash Wednesday is one of two days recommended for fasting. This refers to the practice of giving up food for a meal or for the entire day.

Lenten Lunch Series

Tuesdays, March 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd, 9th - 12noon – 1pm

The theme this year is “The Last Words of Christ”. Each week will feature the appropriate musical sonata by Joseph Haydn, and will prayerfully reflect on Jesus final words, spoken from the cross. The service is followed by a simple lunch.

Palm Passion Sunday - April 14th - 9:30am

This service commemorates Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a blessing of palms and a procession. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, and our final walk with Jesus to the cross. This year we are privileged to have Bishop Fenty join us for this service.

Seder Supper – April 17th – 6pm

This Passover meal follows a traditional Jewish liturgy. It celebrates the faith by which Jesus lived, and our shared heritage with the people God first called. It remembers the night the angel of death “passed over” the Israelite houses in Egypt, and it prays for an end to conflict amongst all God's people.

Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae - April 18th - 7pm

The Latin word “Maundatum”, meaning “commandment” is the basis for this service, from the words of Jesus – “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another”. This service re-enacts Jesus washing of his disciples feet, our example of service. This leads to the commemoration of the Last Supper, Jesus final meal with his disciples. Following the Eucharist, the church is stripped of any ornamentation in preparation for the solemn observance of Good Friday.

Good Friday - April 19th – 10am

Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross to free humanity from sin. Through his sacrifice we are able to be in relationship with God. This is the second day of special observance (the other being Ash Wednesday) for the practice of fasting.

Holy Saturday - Choral Evensong - April 20th – 7pm

This solemn service takes us from the grave of Jesus to the power and joy of the resurrection. The new light of Easter will be lit to show how we have passed from darkness to light.

Easter Sunday - April 21st - 8:30am & 10:30am

The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and his victory over death. We come together in obedience to his command – “do this in memory of me”.

All Saints' Anglican Church

Collingwood's welcoming haven of support, care, outreach and Inspiration



Lenten and Holy Week Observances

Incumbent – The Reverend Doug Michael
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