



From Ashes to New Life - Devotional

Key Verse: “For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” — *Genesis 3:19*

There is something haunting about ashes. After a wildfire, what once teemed with life stands blackened and silent. In many ways, Ash Wednesday invites us to look honestly at the burned places in our own lives. Sin leaves scars. Harsh words, broken relationships, hidden shame, stubborn pride—what once seemed green and full of promise can feel reduced to dust.

Scripture reminds us that we were formed from dust. On our own, we are frail and fleeting. Yet the same Lord who declared those words in Genesis also stepped into our dust. Born under the Law, Jesus entered our broken world and bore its curse. Where we failed, He was faithful. Where we deserved ashes, He endured the fire of judgment on the cross.

And here is our hope: fire does not always mean the end. In Christ’s death and resurrection, God brings life out of desolation. The One who redeemed us has marked us with the cross—at Baptism, in Absolution, and again at His Table. Though we return to dust, we belong to Him. And in Him, ashes are not the last word.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You entered our dust and carried our sin to the cross. In this season of repentance, humble our hearts and renew our faith. When we see only ashes, remind us of Your promise of resurrection and new life. Keep us steadfast in Your mercy until the day You raise us from the dust. Amen.