

Child:

Today is Ash Wednesday. We will be marked with a cross of ashes to remind us that sometimes we do not act as we should. We will try to do good things for others and try to say no to things we want for ourselves. By doing this we are trying to be better people. By doing this we are working towards a better world for all.

BLESSING

Leader: Children, we ask God to bless these ashes which are a sign that we are sorry for the things that we have done wrong. Bless all who receive these ashes today. May they try very hard to always do good things for others and to strive for a fairer world during this Lenten season.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Hymn: *Open My Eyes* (Jesse Manibusan: *As One Voice*, Willow Connection Pty Ltd, 1992)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of justice,
We ask that you help us to learn to play fair in the way we share food and water.
Lord hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

God of justice,
We ask that you help us to learn to play fair in the way we treat others, knowing that you made all people equal.
Lord hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

God of justice,
We ask that you help us to learn to play fair in the way we use the earth's resources so that our world and all its creatures continue to survive and grow.
Lord hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

God of Justice,
We ask that you help us to learn to play fair so that we work towards a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
Lord hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

Let us now join together in the prayer Our Lord taught us.

All: Our Father

POWERPOINT REFLECTION

Download a powerpoint reflection from Caritas Australia's website at: www.caritas.org.au

SENDING FORTH

Leader: Go now children and be God's eyes to see injustice in the world.

All: Amen

Leader: Go now children and be God's voice to speak out against what is not fair.

All: Amen

Leader: Go now children and be God's hands to reach out to people in need.

All: Amen

Leader: And may almighty God bless us, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Closing Hymn: *The Face of God* (Mark Raue)

Thanks to David Orr osb for his contribution to this liturgy.