

# The Blessing of the Ashes

*The ashes, which are made from olive branches if possible or other branches blessed the previous year, are placed in a vessel on the altar. After Terce and before Mass, the ashes are blessed by the Celebrant using the following:*

*First the choir sings this Antiphon:*

Ant.  
7  
**E** Xáudi nos \* Dómi- ne, quóni- am be- nígna est mi-se-ri-cór- di- a  
tú- a: secúndum multi-tú- dí- nem mi-se-ra-ti- ó- num tu- á- rum ré-spi- ce  
nos, Dó- mi- ne. *Ps.* Sál- vum me fac Dé- us : quóni- am in-travé-runt áquae \* ús-  
que ad á-nimam mé- am. Gló- ri- a Pátri. E u o u a e

*The celebrant then says:*

Ÿ. Dóminus vobíscum.

Ź. Et cum spírítu túo.

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Ź. And with Your spirit.

*He then continues with the following prayers:*

*Oremus.*

Omnípotens sempitérne Déus, párcé paeniténtibus, propitiáre supplicántibus, et mittere dignéris sánctum Angelum túum de caélis, qui beneŕdícat, et sanctíŕficet hos cíneres, ut sint remédium salúbre ómnibus nómen sánctum túum humíliter implorántibus, ac semetípsos pro consciéntia delictórum suórum accusántibus, ánte conspéctum divínae

*Let us pray.*

O almighty and everlasting God, spare those who are penitent, be merciful to those who implore You; and promise to send Your holy Angel from heaven, to bless and halŕlow these ashes, that they may be a wholesome remedy to all who humbly implore Your holy Name, and who accuse themselves, conscious of their sins, deploring their crimes before Your divine

cleméntiae túae facinóra súa deplorántibus, vel sereníssimam pietátem túam suppliciter, obnixéque flagitántibus: et praesta per invocatiónem sanctíssimi nóminis túi; ut quicúmque per éos aspérsi fuérint, pro redemptióne peccatórum suórum, córporis sanitátem, et ánimae tutelám percípiant. Per Chrístum Dóminum nóstrum.

*R̄. Amen.*

mercy, or humbly and earnestly beseeching Your sovereign goodness: and grant through the invocation of Your most holy Name that whosoever shall be sprinkled with them for the remission of their sins may receive both health of body and safety of soul. Through Christ our Lord.

*R̄. Amen.*

*Oremus.*

Déus, qui non mórtem, sed paeniténtiam desíderas peccatórum: fragilitátem conditiónis humánae benigníssime réspice; et hos cíneres, quos cáusa proferéndae humilitátis, átque promeréndae véniae, capítibus nóstris ímponi decérnimus, benehícere pro túa pietáte dignáre: ut, qui nos cínerem ésse, et ob pravitátis nóstrae deméritum in púlverem reversúros cognóscimus; peccatórum ómnium véniam, et praémia paeniténtibus repromíssa, misericórditer cónsequi mereámur. Per Chrístum Dóminum nóstrum.

*R̄. Amen.*

*Let us pray.*

O God, who desires not the death, but the repentance of sinners, look down most graciously upon the frailty of human nature; and in Your goodness promise to bless ☩ these ashes which we purpose to put upon our heads in token of our lowliness and to obtain forgiveness: so that we who know that we are but ashes, and for the demerits of our wickedness are to return to dust, may deserve to obtain of Your mercy, the pardon of all our sins, and the rewards promised to the penitent. Through Christ our Lord.

*R̄. Amen.*

*Oremus.*

Déus, qui humiliatióne flécteris, et satisfactióne placáris: aurem túae pietátis inclína precibus nóstris; et capítibus servórum tuórum, hórum cínerum aspérsione contáctis, effúnde propítius grátiam túae benedictiόnis: ut éos et spírítu compunctiόnis répleas, et quae júste postulavérint, efficáciter tríbuas; et concéssa perpétúo stabílitá, et intácta manére decérnas. Per Chrístum Dóminum nóstrum.

*Let us pray.*

O God, who is moved by humiliation, and appeased by satisfaction: incline the ear of Your goodness to our prayers and mercifully pour forth upon the heads of Your servants sprinkled with these ashes the grace of Your blessing: that you may both fill them with the spirit of compunction, and effectually grant what they have justly prayed for: and ordain that what you have gránted may be permanently established and remain

R̄. Amen.

unchanged. Through Christ our Lord.  
R̄. Amen.

Oremus.

Let us pray.

Omnípotens sempitérne Déus, qui Ninivítis in cínere et cilício paeniténtibus, indulgéntiae túae remédia praestítisti: concéde propítius; ut sic éos imitémur hábitu, quátenus véniae prosequámur obténtu. Per Chrístum Dóminum nóstrum.  
R̄. Amen.

O almighty and everlasting God, who did promise Your healing pardon to the Ninivites doing penance in sackcloth and ashes, mercifully grant that we may so imitate them in our outward attitude as to follow them in obtaining forgiveness. Through Christ our Lord.  
R̄. Amen.

*The Celebrant then puts incense into the thurible, sprinkles the ashes with holy water three times while saying, recto tono, the Asperges me without psalm. He then incenses the ashes three times.*

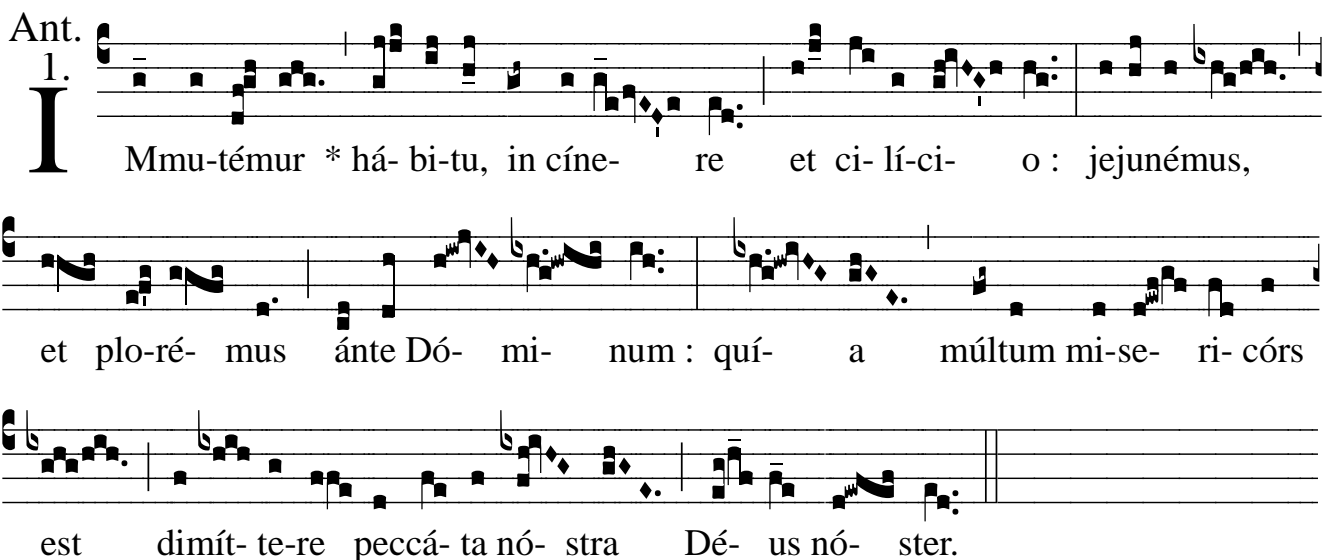
*As he signs the cross in ashes on the head of each of the people the priest says.*

Meménto, hómo, quía púlvis es, et in púlverem revertéris.

(Gen. 3. 19) Remember, man, that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.

*As this is being done the choir sings the following Antiphons:*

Ant.



I. Mmu-témur \* há- bi-tu, in cíne- re et ci- lí-ci- o : jejunémus,  
et plo-ré- mus ánte Dó- mi- num : quí- a múltum mi-se- ri- córs  
est dimít- te-re peccá- ta nó- stra Dé- us nó- ster.

*Another Antiphon:*

Ant.

4.

**J**

Ux- ta vestí- bu- lum \* et al- tá- re plo- rá- bunt sacer- dó- tes et le-

ví- tae minístri Dómini, et dí- cent : Pár- ce Dómine, pár- ce pópu- lo

tú- o: et ne dí- sipes ó- ra clamá- nti- um ad te, Dó- mi-

ne.

Resp.

4.

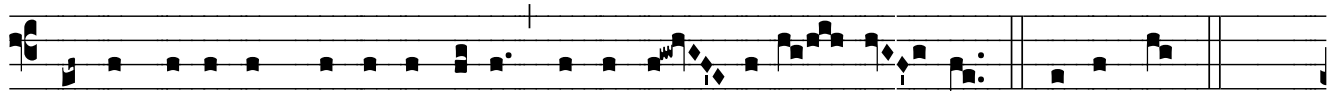
**E**

- mendé- mus \* in mé- li- us, quae igno- rán- ter pec- cávi- mus: ne

súbi- to prae- occu- pá- ti dí- e mórtis, quaerá- mus spá- ti- um paeni- ténti- ae, et

inve- ní- re non possí- mus. \* Atténde Dómi- ne, et mi- se- ré- re:

quí- a peccá- vi- mus tí- bi.  $\forall$  Ad- juva nos, Dé- us sa- lu- tá- ris nó- ster : et



própter honó-rem nómi-nis tú- i, Dómi-ne, líbe- ra nos. \* Atténde.



Gló- ri- a Pá- tri, et Fí-li- o, et Spi-rí- tu- i Sán- cto. \* Atténde.

*When all distribution of the ashes is done the Celebrant says the following:*

Ÿ. Dóminus vobíscum.

R̄. Et cum spírítu túo.

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

R̄. And with Your spirit.

*Oremus.*

Concéde nóbis, Dómine, praesídia milítiae  
christiánae sánctis inchoáre jejúniis: ut  
cóntra spirítáles nequítias pugnatúri  
continéntiae muniámur auxiliis. Per  
Chrístum Dóminum nóstrum.

R̄. Amen.

*Let us pray.*

Grant us, O Lord, to begin with holy fasts  
the campaign of our Christian warfare:  
that, as we do battle with the spirits of evil,  
we may be protected by the help of self-  
denial. Through Christ our Lord.

R̄. Amen.

*Mass follows:*

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