

Ash Wednesday
14 February 2018

Today is both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day. A perfect coincidence, because both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are about Love and Sacrifice.

When you love someone - *deeply* love them - you put them ahead of yourself. You give up things for them. You sacrifice for them. Sacrifice is usually difficult and irritating. Only love can make sacrifice easy. Perfect love makes sacrifice a joy. That's Valentine's Day.

Ash Wednesday is about the perfect love story. God so loved the world that he gave up his only Son, Jesus. Jesus so loved us that he sacrificed his life for us, so we might live with him, the Father and the Spirit forever. Today we weep over the ways we have turned our back on the God who loved us so much that he made that sacrifice. Today, like returning to a lover, we return to the Lord our God, to that loving relationship. Today we begin a season of sacrifices, sacrifices we make to deepen our relationship with the God who loved us, sacrifices we make to return the love that he has given us in abundance. The sacrifices of Lent are easy, because they are made easy by love.