

Ash Wednesday Assembly Hursthead Infants February 22nd 2012

Emma: Hello.

Yesterday was a very special day that had a very special name. Can anyone tell me what it was?

Pancake day/Shrove Tuesday.

Did anyone here have pancakes for tea? What do you like on your pancakes? Take a few answers. Using a frying pan as a prop ask if anyone was allowed to flip their pancakes.

Well Shrove Tuesday is a special day in the Christian calendar which is the day before the beginning of Lent. Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter. Traditionally people remember that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and nights and didn't eat anything so that he could prepare himself for the work God wanted him to do (make people better and teach them about God). Jesus had to make some hard choices in the desert but he always did the right thing.

On Shrove Tuesday people used to use up all the butter/fat and eggs in the house and make pancakes and then they wouldn't have fat or eggs and sometimes meat during the whole of Lent to remember that Jesus didn't eat during his time in the desert.

Sometimes nowadays people give something up for Lent to remind themselves that Jesus didn't eat or drink for 40 days. People usually give something up that they really enjoy like chocolate or crisps or sometimes tea or coffee or sometimes their electronic gadgets (props: choc bar, packet of crisps, mug and DS). Sometimes people give up watching some television so that they can do something else useful or to help others with their time.

Gill: On Ash Wednesday people used to go to church and they would have a cross marked on their forehead with ashes to show they were sorry for the things they had done wrong. Some Christians still do this today. (Gill puts some on Emma) On Ash Wednesday people take a look at their faults – the things they do wrong, not to feel bad but to help them to think how they can do things better and to be how God wants them to be.

During Lent we can think about how we might improve our behaviour and we remember how much God loves us. We try extra hard to do what is right and to make the right choices.

Perhaps we can think about things we have done wrong and say sorry for them. Perhaps we have been fighting with our brothers or sisters or said something unkind to someone. Perhaps we can think of ways we could be kinder like sharing our toys, or perhaps laying the table or tidying up at home without be asked.

Gill Song: Jesus Love is very wonderful.

Emma Prayer:

Dear Lord,

We are sorry that sometimes we do unkind things. Please help us to do the right things and to make the right choices so that we can grow up to be all you would like us to be. Amen.