

# Sanctuary First

A PLACE TO BE

## Lent + Easter: #URMoreThanDust Resource Pack

We are made up of tiny particles of dust and yet we are something more - we have the breath of life in us.

This Lent and Easter we are thinking about dust, ash, particles, molecules... humility, humanity arrogance, confidence, wonder... We are made up of cells, memories, longings, dreams and yet we are something more than the sum of our parts. God takes the dust of what we are and shapes us into something new. God takes the dust of what we waste or damage and forms it into something new.

God changes how we see ourselves. When we read the Jesus Manifesto, when we get to know Jesus, when he calls us by name - we become more than what we thought we were... more than dust...

Join us as we follow Jesus in the dustbowl of the wilderness, avoiding the magic dust of fraudulent salesman, when he is shaking the dust from his feet with the disciples, and when he returns with a message for his neighbours, his friends and for the world. From dust to glory...

*Each week contains 7 Bible references. Usually 4 from Lectionary + 3 additional readings relating to the sub theme.*

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
Sunday 26th Feb	#URMoreThanDust Intro	Genesis 3:1-19 Romans 8: 18-27 Mark 9:2-9  Joel 2: 1-2,12-17 Psalm 51: 1-17 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10 Matt 6:1-6, 16-21	We are made of dust but we are something more than dust. We are more than the sum of our parts.  The story of Adam and Eve speaks of a broken relationship between the creator and the creature and all creation is suffering. Paul in his epistle to the Romans talks about the creation groaning and longing to be reconciled. Transfiguration points to the new creation. Ash Wednesday seeks to re-balance our thinking about ourselves. Recurring theme of reconciliation and humility in the readings.
5 March	God becomes a dustman	Isaiah 53: 1-6 Luke 3:15, 4:1-4 Philippians 2: 1-12  Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	God becomes a dustman, ready to get his hands dusty.  The Gospel explains how messed up, broken people can see value in themselves. Jesus meets us where we are, with all our baggage and prejudices and hangups, and he stands with us in our grief and humiliation telling us we are more than dust. Covenant = not wanting to destroy but to redeem. Recurring themes in the readings of sin and relationship with God.

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
12 March	Breaking stones, breaking bread	Isaiah 55: 1-8 Luke 4: 1-4 John 6: 25-39 <b>Genesis 12:1-4a</b> <b>Psalm 121</b> <b>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</b> <b>John 3:1-17</b>	Wrestling with needs and longings, sustenance and temptation. The quick fix in an instant world of 'have it now - pay later'. Jesus is confronted with the everyman temptation to feed his physical need. His response reminds us that we exist beyond dust. We need to have bread for life not bread for a moment. Recurring theme in the readings of relying on, and having faith in, God.  Bread takes the dust of flour and adds a spark of life.
19 March	A dustbowl salesman, selling dust...	Luke 4: 5-8 John 1: 1-5 <b>Exodus 17:1-7</b> <b>Psalm 95</b> <b>Romans 5:1-11</b> <b>John 4: 5-26</b> <b>John 4: 27-42</b>	Warning against phoney worship, a cult of personality, and false power.  Our destiny lies in becoming a new kind of dust, redeemed and shaped to live in eternity. Recurring theme of 'character' (in the sense of 'having character' or 'character development') in the readings.
26 March	Magic Dust	Luke 4: 1- 12 ( <i>esp 9-12 as looked at first two temptations in last 2 weeks</i> ) John 6: 30-34 <b>1 Samuel 16:1-13</b> <b>Psalm 23</b> <b>Ephesians 5:8-14</b> <b>John 9:1-12</b> <b>John 9:13-41</b>	Understanding our motives behind our activities is an essential part of spiritual growth. In all three of these temptations the ability to stop think and reflect becomes an essential part of being able to overcome our trials.  Journaling is one of those tools that help us to speak truth to ourselves.  There is a recurring theme in these readings of 'the real deal' or the genuine article.
2 April	The Jesus Manifesto Jesus in conversation with his neighbours.	Luke 4: 13-28 Genesis 4  <b>Ezekiel 37:1-14</b> <b>Psalm 130</b> <b>Romans 8:6-11</b> <b>John 11:1-27</b> <b>John 11:28-45</b>	Jesus makes the bold claim that he is God's Messiah.  His claim causes a great upset and he is about to be stoned but the scripture says he managed to elude the crowd. Jesus found it hard to be accepted by the people who knew him. It is never easy living your life in a fishbowl. Ministry is about honesty and integrity. Jesus in this passage is summarising the whole of his ministry. It is a great starting point to consider when starting mission.  Recurring themes in the readings of surprise, the unexpected and reversals.
9 April	Who do you think I am? Jesus in conversation with his friends.	Suggested Holy Week readings: <b>Psalm 31:9-16</b> <b>John 12:1-11</b> <b>John 12: 20-36</b> <b>Hebrews 12:1-3</b> <b>John 13:1-17</b> <b>John 18-19</b> <b>Matthew 27:57-66</b>	Jesus knew that his time was drawing to a close and he began to teach his disciples to become aware of the many trials and tribulations they would have to face.  Recurring themes in the readings include perseverance, difficulty and hard times.

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
16 April	From Dust to Glory. Jesus in conversation with Mary.	John 20: 1-18  Suggested Easter readings: <b>Acts 10:34-43</b> <b>Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</b> <b>Colossians 3:1-4</b> <b>Isaiah 25:6-9</b> <b>1 Corinthians 5:6b-8</b> <b>Luke 24:13-49</b>	As the dust settles we realise something has changed. Out of the ashes comes something new.  God changes how we see ourselves. When we read the Jesus Manifesto, when we get to know Jesus, when he calls us by name - we become more than what we thought we were... more than dust...
23 April	It's for everyone... Jesus in Conversation with the world	Matthew 28:16-20 Matthew 5:13-16 <b>Acts 2:14a, 22-32</b> <b>Psalm 16</b> <b>1 Peter 1:3-9</b> <b>John 20:19-23</b> <b>John 20: 24-31</b>	The dust gets blown far and wide and becomes salt and light...