

**Thought for the day – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**By Revd John Marshall**

**Ash Wednesday    Malcolm Guite**

Receive the cross of ash upon your brow  
Brought from the burning of Palm Sunday's cross,  
The forests of the world are burning now  
And you make late repentance for the loss.  
But all the trees of God would clap their hands  
The very stones themselves would shout and sing  
If you could covenant to love those lands  
And recognize in Christ their lord and king.  
He sees the slow destruction of those trees  
He weeps to see the ancient places burn,  
And still you make what purchases you please.  
And still to dust and ashes you return.  
But hope could rise from ashes even now  
Beginning with this sign upon your brow.

Sounding the Seasons    Canterbury Press

As we receive the cross what do we think?