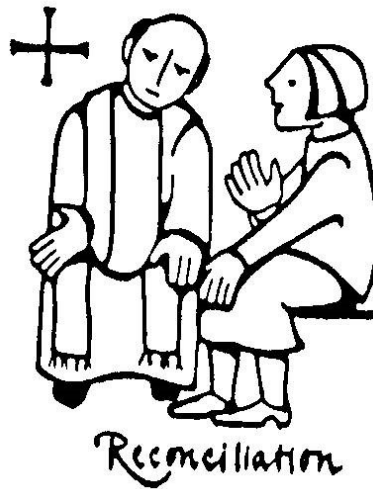




St. Jude's Catholic Primary School

Sacrament of Reconciliation Parent Booklet



The children are due to make the sacrament of Reconciliation on March 4th. Pupils are required to attend mass at St. Dunstan's Church in Kings Heath at 11am. Please arrive no later than 10.50am. The sacrament will follow Mass. A parent is asked to attend with each child. It is not necessary to wear school uniform.

In order to support you and your child, please read this booklet carefully and work with your child, as we continue to in school, to prepare them fully for the sacraments this year. It may be a useful learning tool for you too or as a reminder especially if you have limited experience of the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Ahead of their First Confession very shortly, please watch the recommended youtube clips, read about what happens in confession and help your child to learn what they need to say on March 4th.

This is a very important time in your family's life with Jesus Christ and His Church. The preparation time for First Reconciliation marks another important step in your child's formation in the Catholic faith. What a wonderful privilege it is for you to talk to your own son or daughter about your relationship with Jesus; to teach them about how unique and special they are in God's eyes, and about how much God loves them!

As we grow older we deepen, through prayer and experience, our love and personal friendship with Jesus. We learn right from wrong and we become conscious of our sins and failings, but also of God's boundless mercy and forgiveness, when we repent and say sorry. We learn to change and do better, and to live the values of the Gospel which Jesus taught. So, with the help of God's grace, we find the strength to become 'the light of Christ' in our families, communities and in the world.

We all have a responsibility to give our very best to passing on the faith amidst our daily living. Children learn best from watching their parents, and they will act the way their parents do, because that is what they think is right. Church teaching is clear, that the handing on of the faith is primarily the responsibility of parents – as expressed in the words of every baptismal liturgy – where parents are described as the first and best of teachers of their children in the ways of faith. However, you are not alone in this role; you have the support of our parish and your school to assist you too. The school and parish are partners in your child's preparation, and we are all committed to supporting you as Christian parents. May God bless you on your child's faith journey! Children at St. Jude's Catholic Primary School make the sacrament in Year Three, however they begin learning about the sacrament through the Religious Education program, Learning and Growing as People of God, delivered by their classroom teachers each year.

Thank you for giving your very best effort to make this opportunity as valuable as possible for your child. May God bless you and your family abundantly at this special time in your child's faith journey.

Regards,

B. M. Smith (Headteacher)

Loving God

Help us to teach our children that You love us all totally and unconditionally.

Guide us to model for them how to grow in love each day.

May we lead by example, in our words and actions showing kindness and forgiveness and teaching the value of a genuine 'I'm sorry'.
You always forgive.

May we, as parents of our precious children, be always ready to forgive and offer a fresh start.

Remind us to pray with our children and to share our faith with them as we journey together.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



As a parent of a child about to receive the Sacrament of Penance, the goal of this booklet is to support you to:

- nurture your child's relationship with Jesus as the one who loves and showers God's mercy upon us.
- nurture an appreciation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a way to experience God's mercy and forgiveness.
- nurture the practice of forgiveness and reconciliation in daily life and as a way of living.

Parents have an important role in helping a child to become "ready" by:

- using the "teachable moments" in your family life to reinforce forgiveness and reconciliation
- modelling and encouraging your child to take responsibility, express sorrow and make amends when arguments and conflicts occur in your home
- practising forgiveness in your home - avoiding rehashing old arguments and letting go of grudges
- celebrating the "making up" after a family quarrel
- reinforcing the stories of Jesus forgiving others
- thanking God each day for his abundant mercy when we fall short
- teaching children responsibility for others – love takes the form of action
- celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, at least once a year during Lent, but ideally more often throughout the year.

Why are there different names for the same sacrament?

You may hear the Sacrament being called Confession, Penance or Reconciliation and they are all the same Sacrament. The different names highlight different aspects of the sacrament:

Penance refers to our remorse, sorrow and resolution to change our life with God's help.

Confession refers to the act by which we 'tell' or 'confess' our sins to the priest.

Reconciliation refers to the goal of the celebration, which is that sinners are reconciled to God and the Church.

Baptism

Each of us is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). When we are baptised we become brothers and sisters of Christ, entering into a personal relationship with God, and as children of God, we have a mission to live as peacemakers committed to justice. The way we live our lives and the choices and actions we make, can either contribute to, or be in conflict with, the happiness of ourselves and of others. As we are all members of God's family and made in God's image and likeness, we have a responsibility to treat one another with respect. Our relationships should be built upon the qualities of trust, care, forgiveness and honesty.

Respectful Relationships

Respect is about valuing people, including people who are like us and those who are different from us. Everyone has the right to feel safe, to be treated with fairness, to be valued, and to feel accepted for who they are. Respectful relationships help us to feel safe, encouraged, trusted, and comfortable, that we matter, that it's okay to be honest and open, listened to, equal and treated fairly, valued, understood, and accepted.



Parables that Teach about Forgiveness

Below are some extra youtube clips to assist your child to understand how Jesus teaches us about love, mercy and forgiveness. Try to set aside some time to view and discuss these together when you have a moment.

Luke 19:1-10 Jesus came to find and save sinners

Youtube - Zaccheus Zaccheus - Animated Song -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bn1TXs2QsAc>

Luke 15:11-24 The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Youtube - The Prodigal Son

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfDfMZ6MTJs>

Luke 10: 30-37 Jesus tells us - show mercy to all, even those people we don't like

Youtube - The Good Samaritan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLzdQtetedc>

Exodus 20:1-17 The Ten Commandments

Youtube - The Commandments - for kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaClq4q9Xuc>

Luke 15:1-7 The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Youtube - The Lost Sheep

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=094upaf4BME>

Matthew 5:13-16 You are the light of the world

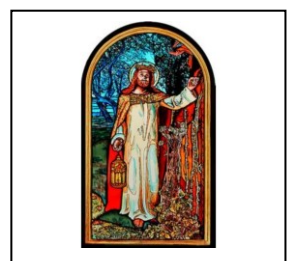
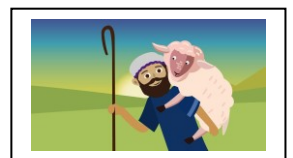
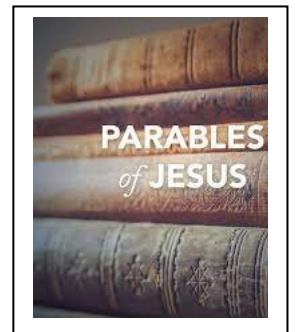
Youtube - You are the Light of the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xgCq5Mtl-M>

Luke 15:8-10 The Parable of the Lost Coin

Youtube The Parable of the Lost Coin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78UMX1i9oVo>



What is our Conscience?

Conscience is a deep inner awareness of what is right and wrong and the degree to which our thoughts and our actions are working in harmony. Conscience is our true inner voice. Our conscience is important because through it we respond to God's call to be the person God made us to be. The only way we can understand who we are called to become is through our conscience, where our life experiences, our standards, and our serious reflection shape our understanding, our knowledge and our choices. The formation of our conscience is a life-long process, beginning with the morals and values taught by our parents and teachers; with stories from our Christian tradition and scripture; with insights from our culture; with our own best experience, and, positively or negatively, from interactions with our peers.

Free will is something God gives us, so we have to be careful that we know what is right and what is wrong. Sin is a deliberate choice to do wrong. Sometimes we make mistakes which can have a negative effect on ourselves or on someone else. This is not sin. We make choices all the time. Some are everyday choices like what to wear, or what to have for breakfast. These choices do not hurt others. Some choices we make throughout a day do affect other people, the way we act towards them and the way we act to God. Disciples of Jesus choose to do right by themselves and others. We use our conscience to help us make these choices. We all need support in making positive choices and maintaining respectful relationships.

The Sacrament of Penance is one of two sacraments of healing (the other being the Anointing of the Sick). Penance is a sacrament of forgiveness and celebrates God's love and mercy towards us. It is about acknowledging and naming those times when we know we have done wrong, and then making peace and restoring the relationships with those who have been affected by our poor choices.

What happens during the sacrament?

Penance involves acknowledging our sins and receiving the forgiveness of God through the ministry of the priest. Through this process, a person is reconciled with the Church, they renew his/her Baptism, and continue to live as a disciple of Jesus.

What are the different ways that Reconciliation can occur?

There are three different forms that the Sacrament of Penance can take.

1. The first form is when we individually confess our sins to the priest. **This what the children will experience on March 4th.**
2. The second form is a celebration that occurs within the Church with the whole community and involves individual confession and absolution.
3. The third form is also centred on the gathering of the community but is designed for situations where there is a grave necessity.

Before a person goes to confession, they are asked to examine their conscience. An examination of conscience is a prayerful reflection on our actions in light of our faith in order to identify sins, patterns of sin, or ways that we are falling short of who God is calling us to be. Once we recognize our sins, we can ask God for forgiveness and healing.

A good examination of conscience considers all areas of our lives—our thoughts and words, what we have done, and what we have failed to do (to paraphrase the Confiteor, a prayer we say in Mass). Typically it consists of questions in three categories: the call to love God, the call to love others, and the call to love one's self.

Examination of Conscience

As part of the preparation for confession, ask yourself these questions.

Reflect on them and think of ways to show God that you can make good choices.



As well as examining their conscience, a person receiving confession should inwardly say a short prayer:

Prayer Before Confession

Dear Jesus,
Help me to make a good
confession, help me to
remember the times when
I didn't live as Jesus
asked me to. Help me to
be sorry and to decide not
to sin again.
Have mercy on me Lord
and forgive me.
Amen.

When it is their time to make their confession, each child will sit with the priest in Our Lady's chapel at the side of the church. No-one will be able to hear them speak, but they can be seen as the chapel is behind a glass wall. The following will then happen:

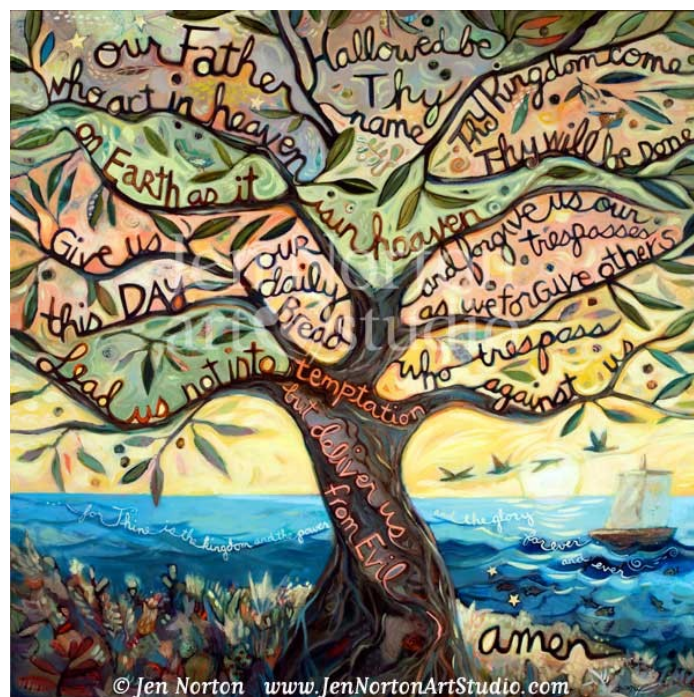
- The priest will begin with the sign of the cross.
- The person receiving confession will ask for Father's blessing by saying:
'Bless me Father, for I have sinned. This is my first confession and these are my sins.'
- The person making their confession then tells the priest their sins, the things that they have thought about when they have examined their conscience.
- When the person making their confession has finished, they say:
'For these and all my sins, I am very sorry.'
- The priest will then suggest something to help the person grow closer to God, a penance. This is usually a prayer or an action.
- The priest will also ask for an act of contrition to be said aloud:
'O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you. With the help your grace, I will not sin again.'

On leaving confession, the person returns to their seat, kneels and says their penance quietly.



The Our Father

Our Father,
Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
Amen



The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death,

Amen.



Glory Be

Glory be to the Father,

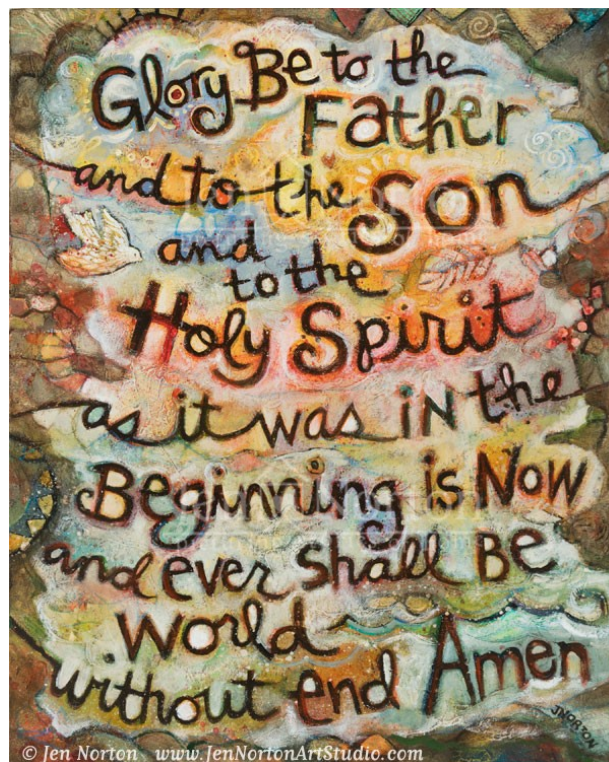
and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.



Jesus forgave
Zacchaeus and that
changed him.



S&S link: Christian Life and Faith: Biblical and Christian Foundation: Jesus, God's Son-1e
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The Lost Coin Wordsearch

u	k	v	p	k	v	y	t	l	r	t	p
s	e	o	p	f	v	r	z	u	e	s	e
d	x	q	e	l	t	o	u	b	v	e	l
q	j	z	e	j	e	t	p	b	e	a	b
l	y	u	w	u	a	s	m	x	c	r	a
e	p	j	s	s	c	m	a	c	i	c	r
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missing
safe
coins
count
rejoice

parable
jesus
teaching
search
lamp

story
party
lesson
sweep
happy



Forgiveness Coloring Page

