

Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Second Class Level) March 2021

Celebrating Change in Lent

During Lent we focus on trying to be our best selves so that we may:

- Have healthier bodies
- Develop better relationships
- Focus on what is most important in life
- Take note of what we need to improve
- Take action towards steady improvement
- Accept that no one is perfect
- Doing our best is good enough
- Accept that God loves us unconditionally

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
In my thoughts and in my words
In what I have done
And in what I have failed to do.
Therefore, I ask blessed Mary, ever-Virgin,
All the angels and saints,
And you, my brothers and sisters
To pray for me to the Lord our God.

Take Time to Pray as a Parent

Just sit in God's company for a few minutes at the end of the day letting yourself be fully present to your breath in the present moment. Each breath is a gift of the Holy Spirit and a sign that we are alive. In gratitude for the gift of life in the present moment, let your conscious inhaling and exhaling be your prayer in God's presence.



Grow in Love

The **Grow in Love** Holy Week lesson in second class focuses on the betrayal of Jesus by Judas. Judas regretted his betrayal as soon as he did it! He was one of Jesus' best friends and he gave him away to his greatest enemies.

We have all experienced betrayal and may be guilty of it at times. No one is perfect, but a reflective way of living helps us to avoid having more regrets than necessary.

Peter also denied Jesus.

However, he declared his sorrow to Jesus and reconnected anew. He accepted forgiveness and was committed to change.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's unconditional love for us and our connection with God through love.

How to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

We usually celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a service during Holy Week.

It is not possible to do so this year, but we are organising a virtual Reconciliation Service.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will not be celebrated at the service, but we will be facilitated to make a Good Act of Contrition after reflecting on how we have been living our lives in recent times.

You are invited to participate in the virtual

Reconciliation Service
on Wednesday 31 March at 7p.m.

It would benefit as part of preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and as a way of gathering ourselves for the joyful celebration of Easter.

Holy Week

Holy Week brings us to the end of Lent towards Easter. It begins with **Palm Sunday**, the day on which Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time. He rode a colt into the city while people scattered palm branches on the ground before him as we unroll a red carpet. They waved palms to worship Jesus as their king. These same people denied him when he was under threat and in danger. They stood back as he was accused of a crime that he did not commit. They were with Jesus for the good times, but lost courage when the challenge arose to do what was right and to go against the popular viewpoints.

Judas, one of Jesus' best friends betrayed him on **Spy Wednesday** for 20 pieces of silver!

Jesus gathered his friends for the Passover Meal/the Last Supper on **Holy Thursday**. He washed their feet at the beginning of the meal to provide them with an example of humble service before he changed the bread and wine into his own Body and Blood at the meal which is now our celebration of the Mass/Eucharist.

Jesus suffered and died for love of us on **Good Friday**.