

# Any intentions?



**Please sit quietly and while the music plays,  
think carefully about somebody in your life  
you would like to pray for**

# Mission Statement

To walk hand in hand with God,  
loving Him, loving each other and  
ourselves, doing our best with the  
gifts he has given us to make the  
world a richer place.



# Building Bridges

What is going on in this picture?



# Key Questions

What is the man in the picture is doing?  
What makes you think he is sorry for something?  
How does this picture make you feel?  
How do you feel when you have done something wrong?  
What is the next thing you might do?



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also called Confession,

Penance and Sacrament of Forgiveness. This Sacrament has been given to us to confess or acknowledge our sins, seek forgiveness and be reconciled to God and one another.

It is like a bridge. It helps Christians to live as followers of Jesus, knowing that forgiveness leads to joy and peace. In this sacrament, those receiving it may be sure of the love and mercy of God.

The most important thing that people preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation need is to be sorry for their sins. There is a special word for this – ‘contrition’.

When you have had a quarrel with someone, you can never make up unless you are really and truly sorry – that is, if you have contrition.

It is about realising the consequences of what you have done, the hurt you have caused to others, as well as to yourself. When you have contrition, you will try very hard not to sin again and there will be peace in your heart.

God expects us to build bridges with our family and friends before we can take our place in church.

Listen to what Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel:

*So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that another has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with that person, and then come back and offer your gift to God*

# Activity 1

**Make a mini-theasaurus for the important words involved with forgiveness.**

Word	Meaning	Daily Life

# **Building Bridges: Penitential Rite**

There are two different ways of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Rite 1 and Rite 2.

# So, what are they?

In Rite 1, individuals will make their Confession to the priest.

Before they do that, they will have prayed and thought carefully about their life, have contrition and want to make a new start. They will tell the priest their sins and listen



# Rite 2

Sometimes Rite 2 of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is used. This often happens in Advent and Lent when people gather together to prepare for the feasts of Christmas or Easter.

In Rite 2, a number of people come together for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, often with a few priests who have come from neighbouring parishes. There is a service of prayers and readings, which help people to prepare. They are then invited to make a personal confession to one of the priests available.

Sometimes schools will have a Penitential Service with the opportunity for confession, Rite 2. Whatever a person talks to the priest about is in absolute confidence.

They can feel that they are talking to God alone. When the confessions are finished, the priest invites everyone to thank and praise God for his mercy and forgiveness.

# Key Questions

Have you ever celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

How did you prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Why do you think it is helpful to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

What is hard about it and what is good?

Why do you think people would come together to celebrate Rite 2?