

# *RECONCILIATION*

## *at St Vincent de Paul School, Stevenage*

When Jesus saw  
how much faith they had,  
he said to the man,  
“Your sins are forgiven,  
my friend.”

Luke 5:20



“If you forgive others  
the wrongs they have done to  
you, your Father in heaven  
will also forgive you.  
But if you do not forgive others,  
then your Father  
will not forgive  
the wrongs you have done.  
Matthew 6:14-15

### **Before Confession**

- 1 Select one of the cards to read  
Luke 15:4-7;  
Luke 15:11-24;  
Acts 3:18-20  
This will help you prepare for  
Reconciliation and decide what you  
want to say sorry for.
- 2 Spend some time thinking about  
making the best choices in the  
future.
- 3 Ask God to help you make a good  
Confession.

## **During Confession**

*You will be shown where to sit in the hall*

**In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Amen.**

**Bless Me Father, I have sinned.**

**It is (say how long) since my last confession.**

*The priest will welcome you  
and ask you what you want to tell God.*

*Tell the priest what you want to say sorry for,*  
**I have ... ; I have ...; I have....**

**This is all I can remember,  
I am sorry for these and all my sins.**

*Listen to the priest, he will ask you to do a 'penance' -  
something you can do after, to show you are sorry.*

*Say your Act of Contrition:*

**O my God,  
because you are so good,  
I am sorry that I have sinned against you  
and with your help,  
I will try not to sin again.  
Amen**



Make the sign of the Cross as the Priest says:  
I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen**

**This is where you are forgiven by God**

**Thank you Father**

*Leave the priest and complete your Penance*

St. Peter spoke in the temple after Jesus had returned to the Father in heaven:



“Repent, then, and turn to God,  
so that he will forgive your sins.  
If you do, times of spiritual strength  
will come from the Lord, and he will send Jesus,  
who is the Messiah he has already chosen for you.  
Acts 3:18—20



What are you truly sorry for?  
God is ready to forgive you,  
What are you ready to talk to God about?

Jesus wants us to love one another,  
as he loves us.

Jesus said  
“If you have love for one another then  
everyone will know  
that you are my disciples.”

Jesus recognised that humans  
make mistakes and sin.

We can damage our friendship with God and  
each other when we sin.

Recognising our mistakes  
and asking God to forgive us is the way  
to repair those friendships.

During your Reconciliation you are repairing  
your relationship with God.

God will forgive you, you can forgive yourself.

**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

## Prayers to Help You

**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.

**Prayer of St Richard of Chichester**

Day by day,  
O Dear Lord,  
three things I pray:  
to see you more clearly,  
to love you more dearly  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.

**Act of Contrition**

O my God,  
because you are so good,  
I am sorry that I have sinned against you  
and with your help,  
I will try not to sin again.  
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.  
Amen.

## What did Jesus teach about God and forgiveness?

### THE LOST SHEEP LUKE 15: 4– 7

<sup>4</sup> “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what do you do?

*God knows  
when you have made a mistake.*

You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it.

*God does not turn away from  
you,  
God looks for you  
and waits for you to turn to Him.*

<sup>5</sup> When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders <sup>6</sup> and carry it back home.

*When you are sorry  
and turn to God.  
He forgives you.*

Then you call your friends and neighbours together and say to them, ‘I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!’ <sup>7</sup>

*God celebrates your return.*

<sup>7</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent.

*God is always ready to forgive you  
when you are sorry.*

**Our Heavenly Father, loves all his children. Even when we make mistakes, he looks for us to return to Him.  
Our reconciliation and return is celebrated. There is no end to the love of God.**



Are there times when you have only thought about what you want?

Are there behaviour choices you have made that you would change?

Are there things you want to say sorry to God for?

God is ready to welcome you to Reconciliation.

What are you truly sorry for?

The Father forgave his son, he celebrated with the son, because the son had come back.  
God is ready to hear you and forgive you.

## What did Jesus teach about God and forgiveness?

### THE LOST SON LUKE 15: 11– 24

<sup>11</sup> Jesus went on to say, “There was once a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to him, ‘Father, give me my share of the property now.’ So the man divided his property between his two sons.

**Are there times when you have only thought about what you want?**

<sup>13</sup> After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> He spent everything he had.

**Are there behaviour choices you have made that you would change?**

Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. <sup>15</sup> So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. <sup>17</sup> At last he came to his senses and said, ‘All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against God and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers.”’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and started back to his father.

**Are there things you want to say sorry to God for?**

“He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> ‘Father,’ the son said, ‘I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup> But the father called to his servants. ‘Hurry!’ he said. ‘Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.’ And so the feasting began.



**God is ready to welcome you to Reconciliation.**

**What are you truly sorry for?**

**The Father forgave his son, he celebrated with the son, because the son had come back.  
God is ready to hear you and forgive you.**