

# Second Rite of Reconciliation | Year B

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## Outline of the Second Rite of Reconciliation

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The Second Rite of Reconciliation “shows more clearly the communal nature of penance” (Sacrament of Penance #22).

The community gathers having been given some formation beforehand so that for them the celebration is more fruitful and they understand the aim of the rite.

### The Word of God

The Word of God read and in the homily, prepares those gathered in heart and mind to come to reconciliation with a deeper understanding of God’s love and forgiveness.

### Examination of Conscience

During the examination of conscience there should be time given for those attending to reflect on how they have fallen short of their commitment to Jesus Christ.

### Personal Reconciliation

The priests stand in full view of all in a space where the penitent can be seen but not heard. While no time restriction is placed on the individual, good manners and sense dictates that people limit the time they spend with the priest.

If it is necessary to spend time in discussion then the first rite of reconciliation is where they should attend.

### Conclusion

After confessions, a prayer of thanksgiving and a blessing are recited. These are not an added extra, but an integral part of the rite and should be attended by all those gathered.

## INTRODUCTION

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Commentary: Welcome to our rite of reconciliation service for Advent.  
We are all in need of making changes in our lives so we can better act in the way God directs us and in the image of Jesus Christ. Along the way we need forgiveness and renewal of our relationship with God.

## OPENING SONG

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Grant to Us, O Lord, a Heart Renewed. Gather Australia: Number 303  
or  
A New Heart for a New World. Gather Australia: Number 438

## OPENING PRAYER

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Priest: God of goodness and kindness, you offer us opportunities of forgiveness as we strive to live as your people. Help us to let you change us to be more like you. Give us the courage to open our hearts fully in truth and hope.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

## READING

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Romans 3: 22-26.

People's sins are forgiven through their faith in Jesus Christ

or

2 Corinthians 5:19-21.

Be reconciled to God.

## PSALM

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Psalm 36 [or Psalm 51]

**Response: How precious, O God, is your constant love.**

Lord, your constant love reaches the heavens,

Your faithfulness extends to the skies.

Your righteousness is towering like the mountains. **R**

Your justice is like the depths of the sea.

We find protection under the shadow of your wings

You are the source of all life. **R**

Because of your light we see the light.

You continue to love those who know you

And do good to those who are righteous. **R**

## GOSPEL

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Luke 23: 39-43.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

or

Matthew 5:1-12.

Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven.

## HOMILY

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## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

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**Celebrant: Let us reflect on how we respond to the message of Jesus in our everyday life.**

- Am I attentive to the Word of God and the Eucharist, interacting with them so as to live as God asks of me?
- Am I allowing the things of the world to distract me from being a committed follower of Christ?
- Am I willing to be seen as a follower of Jesus in the way I act and speak?

**Celebrant: Let us reflect on how following Jesus Christ influences how we treat others.**

- Am I a good neighbour, helping and supporting those in need?
- Am I critical and disrespectful of those who are different from me or those who do not believe what I believe?
- Am I caring and careful of others, property, not envious or jealous of what they have?

**Celebrant: Let us reflect on how we respond to the relationships in our lives.**

- Am I a person of peace or do I carry anger and resentment within myself?
- Am I open to the good in other people or do I begrudge others of their talents?
- Am I thankful for what God has given to me?

**Celebrant: Let us reflect on how we treat ourselves.**

- Am I able to see the good in myself or am I always putting myself down?
- Am I caring for the gift of my body?
- Am I generous with the gifts and talents God has given me or do only what I have to?

## RITE OF RECONCILIATION

### GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

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Priest: My sisters and brothers, confess your sins and pray for each other, that you may be healed. Together we pray.

**All: I confess to almighty God, ...**

Priest: The Lord is merciful.  
He makes us clean of heart  
and leads us out into his freedom  
when we acknowledge our guilt.  
Let us ask him to forgive us and bind

**All: Amen.**

## INVITATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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An invitation is now extended to the community to approach one of the priests for confession and absolution. Explain that penitents only need to concentrate on two or three areas of difficulty in their lives. Music is played in the background during confessions.

*(At the end of the individual confessions and absolutions, before the concluding prayer, encourage those gathered to continue leading good lives which will proclaim the grace of repentance in the life of the entire community and each of its members.)*

## THANKSGIVING

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Priest: As a sign of reconciliation and peace let us join together and pray the Prayer our Lord gave us.

**All: Our Father...**

Priest: Almighty God and Father, you have shown us your mercy and made us new through your love.

**All: We praise and thank you.**

Priest: May we always seek the truth that you have given to use through your Son Jesus Christ.

## SIGN OF PEACE

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Priest: The Lord has given us the gift of his peace by restoring our friendship with him. Let us offer the same gift of peace and friendship to our brothers and sisters.

*(ALL OFFER EACH OTHER THE SIGN OF PEACE)*

## CONCLUDING RITE

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Priest: May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love and fill you with Christ-like patience.

**All: Amen.**

Priest: May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Priest: The Lord has freed us from sin, so we may live fully the promise made to us through Jesus Christ. Go now to live in peace and the love of God.

**All: Amen.**

## CONCLUDING SONG

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Now Thank We All Our God. As One Voice 1 Number: 189  
or

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful. Gather Australia Number: 429