

Second Rite of Reconciliation | Year B

Outline of the Second Rite of Reconciliation

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.

Prayer Focus

Lent in Year B is about the Covenant between God and His people. As the covenant is written in the Scriptures and completed in Jesus Christ, the Book (bible) and the cross are good images to use. Use a large central Bible, on a stand open with a number of ribbons in purples, greys or black coming from it. At the end of each ribbon place a smaller closed Bible. If possible, use different versions. A Cross can be placed behind or near to the Bibles.

INTRODUCTION/ WELCOME

Commentary: As baptised people, we are asked each day to do our best to live the covenant that we have with God by living as directed by the life and death of Jesus.
The readings chosen for this celebration are from Galatians and Matthew and remind us of the love that God has for us, forgiving our sins and making us members of his Holy Family.

OPENING PRAYER

Priest: Loving God, as we come before you in humility, may we through your loving kindness and forgiveness be reconciled to you and your family on earth and rejoice in your mercy. Gracious Father, fill our hearts with love, as we ask for your healing.

We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

READING

Galatians 3: 21-29

You are the Children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

PSALM

Psalm 51 [Sung Version - Gather Australia - #40 or #41]

Option 1: Be merciful O Lord.

Option 2: Create a clean heart in me O God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22: 34—40

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul.

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Celebrant: Let us take time to think about our lives, and ask ourselves how we have failed to live out the call to build God's kingdom on this earth.

Celebrant: I believe in God the Father almighty maker of heaven and earth.

- ✦ Do I respect the natural world that God has given to me, caring for all He has created?
- ✦ Do I respect myself as a creation of God?
- ✦ Do I respect the name of God or use His name incorrectly?
- ✦ Do I turn to God in times of trouble?

Celebrant: I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ.

- ✦ Do I put my relationship with God before worldly things?
- ✦ Do I love and care for my family and neighbors?
- ✦ Am I willing to share what I have with those poorer than me?
- ✦ When people speak against the love of God: do I agree, am I silent?

Celebrant: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

- ✦ Do I use the gifts given to me to build up the Church on earth?
- ✦ Am I a person of peace, working for harmony in my home and workplace?
- ✦ Do I spend time in prayer?

Celebrant: I believe in the Holy Catholic Church.

- ✦ Do I go to Mass with the will to be part of the worshipping community?
- ✦ Am I always truthful with my family, friends and society?
- ✦ Do I accept all people knowing they are part of God's family?
- ✦ Am I willing to be known as a Catholic?

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

Priest: Lord help us to come to you with humble and contrite hearts, prepared to accept your loving forgiveness and intent upon changing our lives to follow you more closely.
Together we pray:

All: I confess to almighty God ...

Priest: The Lord is merciful, His word and loving acceptance bring us freedom when we reconcile ourselves to Him. Let us acknowledge our guilt and ask for his forgiveness.

All: Amen.

INVITATION TO INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

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. May we always seek the truth that you have given us through your Son Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

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

Priest: May God give us the strength to turn away from sin and live the promises of our baptism, renewing our commitment to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. May Almighty God bless you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.

CONCLUDING SONG

Though the Mountains May Fall - Dan Schutte [Gather Australia #453]