

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

What's it all about?



Parents Questions



What do I have to do?



What do I teach my child?



How much time will preparation take?



How can I do some catch up?



How do I answer my child's questions?



What is the role of the school and parish?

Signs of Readiness

Does your child sometimes

- Want to pray to God?
- Say 'Sorry' without being told?
- Forgive others – even if they don't say 'sorry'?
- Take responsibility without blaming other?
- Control instincts (.e.g temper)?
- Know the difference between right and wrong?
- Realise a small thing done on purpose is more serious than a large disaster caused by accident?



If you see some of these signs some of the time a child is generally ready to celebrate the sacrament

YOUR OWN MEMORIES



Can you remember when you made your first confession....

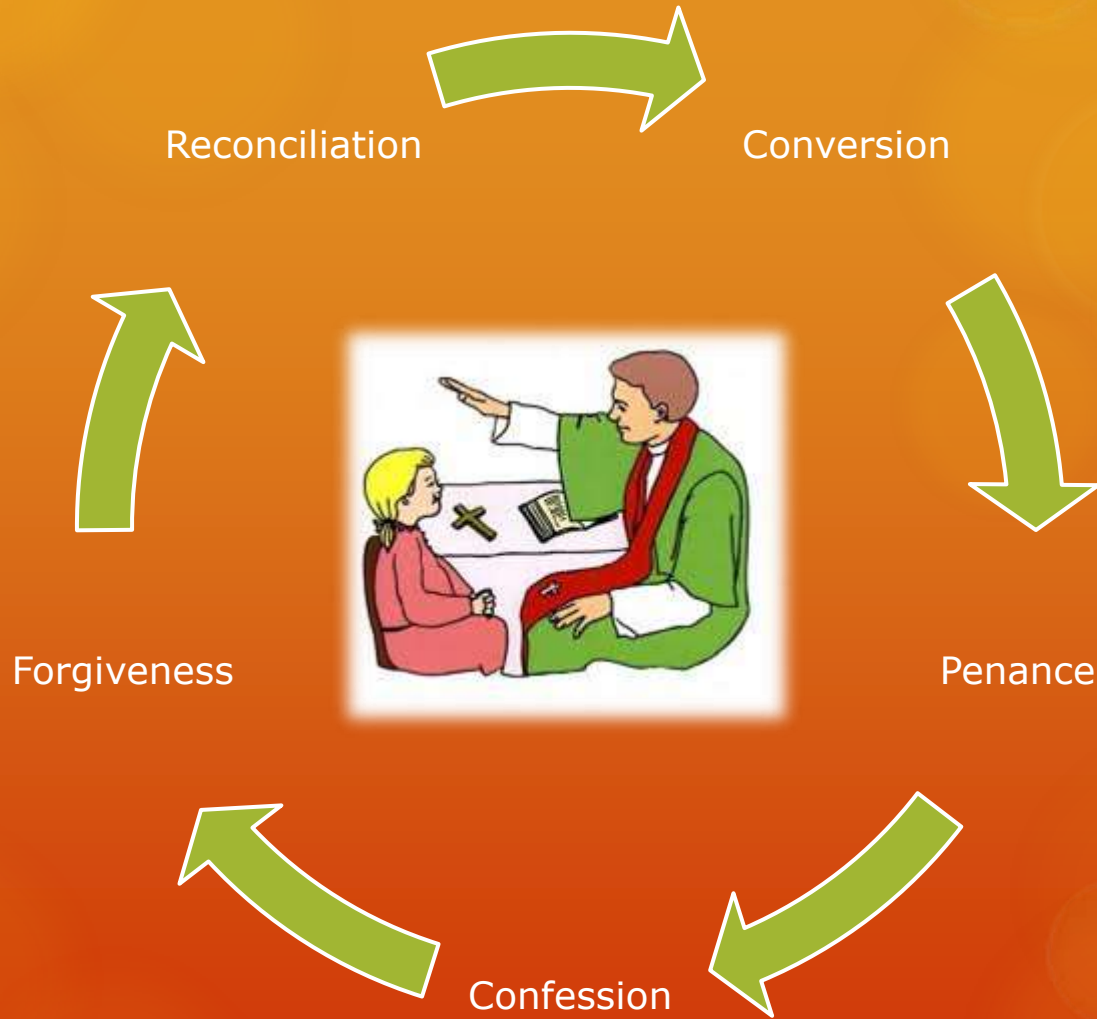
What kind of preparation took place?

What do you remember about the experience that was good?

What was difficult for you?

How do you feel about this sacrament now in adulthood?

The SACRAMENT of



CONVERSION

It connects sacramentally with the call of Jesus in the Gospel to change our hearts

This change of heart is called conversion

This change of heart is shown in our sincere desire to live the values of the Gospel

To turn away from sin and believe the Good News



PENANCE

This is about repairing the damage we have done through sin:

It means taking the steps to start all over again

Being willing to change

Making up for what we have done wrong



CONFESSION

This is about owning up
Saying out loud what we know is wrong
Admitting we have failed
In what we have done
and
In what we have failed to do
In an environment
Of total acceptance



FORGIVENESS

The absolution of the priest grants the penitent 'pardon and peace.' the peace that comes from being united with God and his people giving us the grace to live out our baptism to the full



RECONCILIATION

The word reconciliation means
'coming back together'
God's love reconciles us
restoring our friendship
with him
and bringing his healing
into our lives
and
our relationships



REFLECTION TIME

- What word's do you prefer for this sacrament?
- Which words will you use when speaking to your child about it?
- How can you help you child to grow in understanding of
 - Choosing to follow Jesus and the way he lives
 - Making up for what they have done wrong
 - Owning up out loud when they have done something wrong
 - Trusting in your forgiveness and in God's forgiveness
 - Reaching out to others with forgiveness

TEACH YOUR CHILD

1. That God never stops loving us
2. God's love has no conditions
3. God is our personal friend
4. God always forgives us when we say sorry
5. God does not remember our sins or keep a record of them
6. To Thank God everyday in prayer for all that he does for us
7. To speak to God in their own words
8. To listen to God in moments of silence
9. To say sorry and then move on
10. That God rejoices when we say sorry

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT

- WELCOME
- LISTEN
- REMEMBER
- REJOICE
- THANK



WELCOME



- The priest welcomes me as a child of God in the name of Jesus
- I am reminded that God loves me
- I am welcomed as a baptised family member of the Church

LISTEN



- I am quiet and still
- I listen to Jesus speaking in his Gospel
- The lost son
- The lost sheep
- The lost coin
- The little man

REMEMBER



- I look back and think about my life
- I remember times when
- I haven't loved
- I haven't shared
- I haven't cared

REJOICE



- I say hello
- I talk about my life
- I tell God I'm sorry
- I promise to love and try again
- I listen to the words of God's forgiveness
- I say goodbye and thank you

THANK



- I give thanks that I am loved and forgiven

REFLECTION

- What can you do to help your child understand these five stages in the sacrament?
- What further questions do you have as you leave this evening?

Prayer Together

Loving God help us to teach our children that you love us totally and unconditionally.

Help us to encourage our children to grow in love and to learn how to say sorry knowing that you always forgive.

Give us the courage to pray with our children and to share our faith with them as we journey together.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

