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## † Prayer of Sorrow

Let us acknowledge that we have sinned in different ways and show how sorry we are. We do this by saying together the "I confess ..."

**I confess to almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

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## † The 'Our Father'

*The priest / leader introduces the Our Father.*

**Our Father ...**

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## † Sharing Peace

*The priest / leader invites everyone to share a sign of peace.*

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## † Individual Confessions and Sacrament of Reconciliation

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## † Final Blessing

Lord, we want to make use of this favourable time. We want to accept your invitation — the chance you are giving us to turn away from sin. We thank you for wanting to give us your forgiveness and blessing. Help us to be strong as we try to choose you and say no to sin this lent as we move on from the darkness of sin to the light of the Risen Christ. Help us to be with you and do what you want every day of our lives.

We ask you this through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



**LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE**



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## LENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

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# NOW IS THE FAVOURABLE TIME

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## † Gathering

*A hymn is sung or some music played.*

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## † Introduction / Greeting

We gather together today to think about our relationship with God in this special time of Lent. God speaks to us in many ways. In the scripture readings today he speaks to us about turning back to him. He invites us to take advantage of this 'favourable time'. This time is now. Now that he is inviting us to turn back to him, to believe the Gospel, to sin no more. He is 'Ready to relent'. He is 'Rich in graciousness' and wants to give us his blessing and forgiveness. He invites us to do this today through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

*Silence.*

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## † Opening Prayer

Merciful Father,

You never stop inviting us to turn away from sin and come back to you. Help us as we gather together to listen to your Word. Give us courage to listen and to accept your invitation. We know that we can only find joy and peace of heart with you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*All answer: Amen.*

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## † Word of God

### 1st Reading

#### **From the prophet Joel:**

But now, now – it is the Lord who speaks, come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping,



mourning. Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn, turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and ready to relent. Who knows if he will not turn again, will not relent, will not leave a blessing as he passes!

**This is the word of the Lord.**

*(Joel 2:12-15)*

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*The response is:* Have mercy on us Lord for we have sinned.

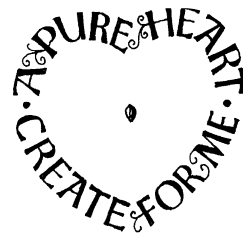
Have mercy on me, O God, in your faithful love,  
in your great tenderness wipe away my offences;  
wash me thoroughly from my guilt,  
purify me from my sin. *Response.*

For I am well aware of my offences,  
my sin is constantly in mind.  
Against you, you alone, I have sinned,  
I have done what you see to be wrong. *Response.*

But you delight in sincerity of heart,  
and in secret you teach me wisdom.  
Purify me with hyssop till I am clean,  
wash me till I am whiter than snow. *Response.*

God create in me a clean heart,  
renew within me a resolute spirit,  
do not thrust me away from your presence,  
do not take away from me your spirit of holiness. *Response.*

Give me back the joy of your salvation,  
sustain in me a generous spirit.  
Turn away your face from my sins,  
and wipe away all my guilt. *Response.*



*(Psalm 51)*

### **Second Reading**

**From the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians:**

We are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: Be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God. As his fellow workers, we beg you once again

not to neglect the grace of God that you have received. For he says: At the favourable time, I have listened to you; on the day of salvation I came to your help. Well, now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

*(2 Corinthians 5:20 — 6:2)*

*Silence.*

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### **✝ Reflection / Homily**

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### **✝ Examination of Conscience**

Let us think of the times we turned away from God. Let us show our sorrow for having sinned and ask him to give us the grace of reconciliation.

*The response is: Give us your forgiveness, Lord.*

ME AND GOD: Do I really love God before everyone else?  
For the times I have put my love to God aside, when I gave no regard to His law or what he wanted of me in different situations.

*All: Give us your forgiveness, Lord.*

ME AND MY FAMILY: Do I always respect, love and honour everyone in my family?

For the times I failed to show love, care and understanding to all in my family.

*All: Give us your forgiveness, Lord.*

ME AND MY FRIENDS: Do I always relate to my friends in a Christian way?

For the times I have not been a true friend by being selfish, disrespectful, refused to offer help or have set bad example.

*All: Give us your forgiveness, Lord.*

ME AND MY CHRISTIAN LIFE: Do I live as a true Christian everywhere?

For the times I did not tell the truth, when I did not respect other people's property or when I failed in any of my other duties as a Christian.

*All: Give us your forgiveness, Lord.*