

Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation



Possible Hymns

- God of mercy and compassion [*Canaimis 67*]
- Lay your hands gently upon us [*Canaimis 102*]
- Renew your hearts [*Canaimis 157*]
- Calm me Lord [*Canaimis 34*]

Introduction

Celebrant: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Celebrant: Welcome to our celebration of the forgiving love of God. How we live each day has its effects on other people. We all need the love and support of family and friends to help us be the kind of people that God wants us to be. The relationships we have with each other and with God are what makes us the people who we are.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we believe that God holds each one of us between us in the palm of God's hand. Sometimes we allow things to come between us; an unkind word or a hurtful action. When we do this we know that something is wrong, something is out of place. So tonight we come to name what has gone wrong in our living and to ask God's forgiveness and mercy so that we can live as loving people

Celebrant: I confess to almighty God.....

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us....

Celebrant: Almighty and merciful God,
You have brought us together in the name of your Son,
to receive your mercy and the strength of your grace.
Open our eyes to see the wrong we have done.
Touch our hearts and convert us to yourself.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Colossians 3:12-17

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 51

Gospel Mark 1:40-45

Time for Confession

In our first reading, Paul reminds us that we are God's chosen ones....God loves each one of us and desires that we live in harmony with ourselves, with others, with God and with all of creation...

But we are aware that so often we struggle to live as we would like to...that we don't make the effort to be kind; we fail to be gentle; we get preoccupied with less important things and forget what it is really important....

As we come to make our confession this evening, we remember firstly that we are approaching a God who loves us dearly and like Jesus in tonight's gospel, we hear him say to us, "of course, I want to heal you....."

So for a moment in the quiet, we take time to ask the Lord for what in us needs healing.....and we tell the Lord what are the ways in which we have not been loving in our

relationships with ourselves, with family, with the wider community.....how have we failed to live as God's chosen ones.....

Now you have the opportunity to make an Individual Confession.....I invite you to come forward to one of the priests, to mention when you were last at confession, to confess your sins and he will give you absolution and penance.....

Helpful to have the choir sing gently during the time of individual confession

After individual confessions

Presider: Conscious that we are called by the one Father, and that we are sisters and brothers, we pray together, *Our Father*

Sign of Peace

Presider: Tonight we have opened our hearts to our God, a forgiving parent...

Let us now offer each other the sign of peace....

Closing Prayer

Celebrant: Lord,
as you sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts to make us your children,
we thank you for your forgiveness and love.
Help us always to live the example of forgiveness in all we do and say.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.