

Parish of Firhouse - Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Second Class Level) - First Reconciliation 2021

Celebrating Change

We can focus on trying to be our best selves,
so that we may:

Have healthier bodies

Develop better relationships

Focus on what is most important in life

Take note of what we need to improve

Take action towards steady improvement

Accept that no one is perfect

Doing our best is good enough

Accept that God loves us unconditionally

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's unconditional love for us and our connection with God through love.

How to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Very often people celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a Celebration of Forgiveness Service during Holy Week or just before Christmas.

Many people go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at other times of the year also.

Unfortunately, that is not possible at the moment.

We can still seek the Lord's forgiveness by telling the Lord we are sorry, make an Act of Contrition, and intend to partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation whenever you can do so in the future.

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
In my thoughts and in my words
In what I have done
And in what I have failed to do.
Therefore, 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.

Take Time to Pray as a Parent

Just sit in God's company for a few minutes at the end of the day letting yourself be fully present to your breath in the present moment. Each breath is a gift of the Holy Spirit and a sign that we are alive. In gratitude for the gift of life in the present moment, let your conscious inhaling and exhaling be your prayer in God's presence.



Grow in Love

The **Grow in Love** Holy Week lesson in second class was focused on the betrayal of Jesus by Judas. Judas regretted his betrayal as soon as he did it! He was one of Jesus' best friends and he gave him away to his greatest enemies.

We have all experienced betrayal and may be guilty of it at times. No one is perfect, but a reflective way of living helps us to avoid having more regrets than necessary.

Peter also denied Jesus.

However, he declared his sorrow to Jesus and reconnected anew. He accepted forgiveness and was committed to change.

Lent / Easter 2021

Before Easter we celebrated Holy Week which began with **Palm Sunday**, the day on which Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time. He rode a colt into the city while people scattered Palm branches on the ground before him as we unroll a red carpet. They were with Jesus for the good times, but lost courage when the challenge arose to do what was right and to go against the popular viewpoints.

Judas, one of Jesus' best friends betrayed him on **Spy Wednesday** for 20 pieces of silver!

Jesus gathered his friends for the Passover Meal/the Last Supper on **Holy Thursday**. He changed the bread and wine into his own Body and Blood at the meal which is now our celebration of the Mass/Eucharist. Jesus suffered and died for love of us on **Good Friday**.

As Parents / Guardians you are preparing for your child's First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. If Holy Thursday and Good Friday had not happened, then you would not be making this preparation.

Of course, Easter Sunday happened, and Jesus rose from the Dead in the Resurrection.

Jesus is present with us encouraging us to love God and each other.

Jesus also forgives us when we need to be forgiven.