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## What is the Church?

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### **Children's Worksheet: Unit 3**

## **We are People who Celebrate Forgiveness**



## **Jesus wants us to love God and one another**

*When Jesus was asked which was the greatest of all the commandments, he said that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart and love our neighbour as we love ourselves.*

Jesus showed us how to do this:

- ♦He spent time in prayer
- ♦He did what God wanted him to do
- ♦He was kind and loving
- ♦He made people happy who were sad
- ♦He made friends with people
- ♦He loved people that no one else loved

Jesus wants us to be just like he was

**Sometimes things go wrong but we can always start again**

Mum or dad might be cross with you and shout at you when you are naughty and cause trouble but they still love you. Can you think of a time when you did something wrong at home?

### **A Recipe for Happiness**

Jesus  
Others  
Yourself

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Sometimes you might have been unkind and mean and nasty to a friend and you fall out but then you make up and become friends again. Can you think of a time like this?

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# When we come together at Mass...

## ...we celebrate forgiveness

We begin by remembering that there are things we need to say we are sorry for. This is called the Penitential Rite.

We tell God and one another (our brothers and sisters) that we have not always got things right:

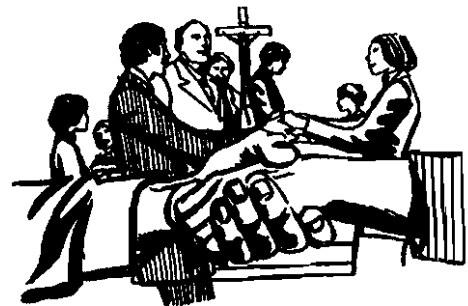
- we have done things that we should not have done
- we have failed to do things we should have done

We are reminded that God still loves us and that God forgives our sins.

The priest says: 'May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life'. We say: 'Amen'.

Later in the Mass - just before Communion  
- we are invited to offer one another a sign of peace.

Through the Penitential Rite and the Sign of Peace we are reconciled with God and one another.



### Reconciliation is about...

*(Tick the ones you think are right)*

Making friends again ☐

Helping other people make friends ☐

Trying to win an argument ☐

Saying 'Sorry' ☐

Forgiving and being forgiven ☐

Always wanting your own way ☐

Not letting others join in and share ☐

Sulking and not making friends ☐

Showing you are sorry for spoiling  
a friendship ☐

Making peace ☐

Feeling happy and celebrating because you are forgiven ☐

# **In the Sacrament of Reconciliation...**

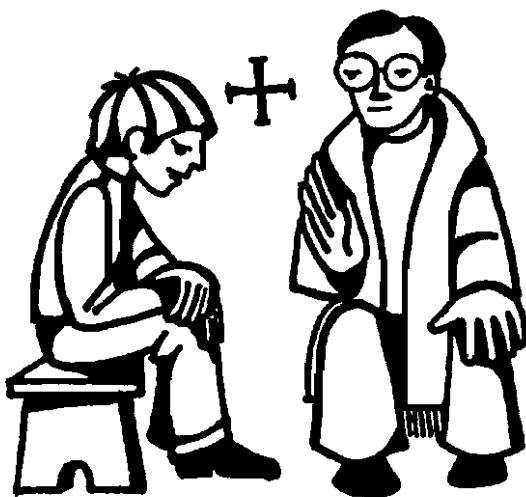
## **...we celebrate forgiveness**

Sometimes we celebrate God's love and forgiveness in a special way through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Advent and Lent are very good times for this, as we prepare for the Feasts of Christmas and Easter.

We can celebrate this sacrament together with family, friends and other members of the parish community.

The hymns, prayers and readings for our special service will remind us of God's love and forgiveness.

We reflect together on how we have loved God and one another and we express our sorrow for the times we have not got this right.

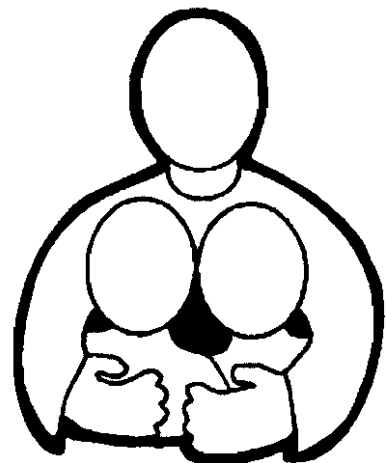


We tell the priest the things we have done wrong. There is no need to make a big list, or to worry if we forget to mention something. We are simply showing that we want God's forgiveness.

The priest gives us absolution. He tells us that God forgives our sins and that we are reconciled with God and one another.

We end our service with a prayer or hymn giving thanks to God for the love and forgiveness we have received.

*"The Lord has freed you from your sins,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord."*



## At home...

Spend a little bit of time preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation by thinking about how you have loved God and other people.

Have I said my prayers?

Have I always done what I should have done?

Have I fallen out with people and not made friends again?

Have I said sorry when I have hurt others?

Have I forgiven others when they have hurt me?

Draw a picture of yourself doing something to show you are sorry.

When you have celebrated the Sacrament, complete this Certificate:

On _____
in _____ Church
Father _____
and my family and friends celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with me for the first time

This worksheet belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_