

## RITE OF RECONCILIATION

### Invocations of Forgiveness

Let us call on God our Father, who waits for his children who are far off. When they come back he embraces them with his mercy.

We have not recognised you as the merciful Father. We have gone far from your house, but trusting in your love, we turn to you.

*Lord have mercy...*

We have not responsibly taken care of our part of the estate, or of our lives, and the freedom that the Father has given us, but trusting in your love we turn to you.

*Christ have mercy...*

We have not listened to your Word of reconciliation, we have not rejoiced in and celebrated the forgiveness that you offer to our brothers and sisters, but, trusting in your love, we turn to you.

*Lord have mercy...*

Priest: In Christ we are able to present ourselves to the Father in one Spirit, because we have become his heirs. As brothers and sisters, members of one family, we turn with trust to the Father, saying *Our Father...*

*The priest concludes:*

Lord, look with love on your sons and daughters so that they may acknowledge their sins. Freed from every fault by the ministry of your Church, may they be thankful for your merciful love and journey back to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

### Individual Confession and Absolution

*During this period of quiet prayer you are invited to make your confession to a priest. Pray that the Lord will show you your sin. Pray for the grace to change your life. Pray for one another.*

*Simply tell the priest when you last made your confession and then tell him your sins. He will give you a penance and absolution. There are no other prayers to say now as these will be said together.*

### Thanksgiving

**All: Heavenly Father, compassion and forgiveness belong to you and although we wander far from your house, you will always help us to find our way home; forgive us what is past, and help us in the future to seek your kingdom above all else. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn (I heard the voice of Jesus say)**

**No 795 - Laudate**

## A LITURGY OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION FOR LENT

*"The Journey to the Father"*



The "journey to the Father" is possible only if one accepts the road of authentic conversion, accepting Christ the Redeemer of humanity. Precisely because of this we now gather together to listen to the Word, the source of conversion and reconciliation. Only in this way can we discover and experience the love and goodness of God who reveals himself in an unexpected way, turning around our own ideas and plans.

If you have not celebrated this sacrament for some time, do not worry about remembering set prayers as we say all our prayers together tonight and the priest will gently guide you through your confession. Our loving Father has searched the horizon for you and found you and now offers you a new beginning in his love and mercy.

### Entrance Hymn (Our Father we have wandered)

**No 211 - Laudate**

### Greeting

May the Lord, who in his great mercy renews us with the freedom of being children, be with you all.

**R. And with your Spirit**

### Introduction

Priest: Every journey by which we return to God is in reality a welcoming anew of the merciful love which the Father extends to us. God turns his face toward us so that reborn in his presence we ourselves may become witnesses of his love to the whole of creation.

### Opening Prayer

Holy and merciful Father, you always call your children back with the power and gentleness of love. Break the hardness of our pride and create a new heart within us, able to welcome the life-giving gift of your Son. For he is Lord, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading** 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

### **Responsorial Psalm 50**

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*All: Praise to you O Christ our Saviour, Word of the Father calling us to life. Son of God who calls us to freedom, Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

I will leave this place and go to my Father and say:  
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'

*All: Praise to you O Christ our Saviour, Word of the Father calling us to life. Son of God who calls us to freedom, Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

**Gospel** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

*based on the Gospel*

### **Reflection based upon the younger son's behaviour.**

Have I made an inappropriate request for something to which I am not entitled to? (Lk 15:12).

Have I placed a parent or someone else in an unfair position? (Lk 15:12).

Am I selfishly preoccupied with myself, while I disregard other family members? (Lk 15:12).

If I have received a generous gift, have I failed to say "Thank you"? (Lk 15:12-13).

Have I kept what I have to myself without sharing? (Lk 15:12-13).

Have I distanced myself from my family, or abandoned them altogether? (Lk 15:13).

Have I wrongfully mocked or belittled my family's honourable way of doing things? (Lk 15:13).

Have I neglected important family obligations? (Lk 15:13).

Have I spent an excessive amount of money on things that are bad for me? (Lk 15:14).

Have I set aside important matters of the faith that my parents tried to instil in me? (Lk 15:15).

Have I associated with people who have a bad influence on me? (Lk 15:15).

Have I taken a job that is incompatible with the gospel or sound morals? (Lk 15:15).

Does the work I do offend the sensibilities of others? (Lk 15:15).

Is my sorrow for my sin insincere? (Lk 15:17-19).

When I ask for forgiveness, do I demand it on my own terms? (Lk 15:19).

Do I try to earn God's love by what I do rather than receive it as a gracious gift? (Lk 15:19).

### **Reflection based upon the older son's behaviour.**

Have I been silent during the course of an illegal or immoral transaction? (Lk 15:12).

Have I failed to intervene in a dispute when I could have been an agent of reconciliation? (Lk 15:12).

Have I taken money that I am not entitled to? (Lk 15:12b).

Have I given in to jealousy? (Lk 15:28a).

Have I defied a legitimate request from my parents or someone in authority? (Lk 15:28b).

Have I shamed my family, or others, by my behaviour? (Lk 15:28c).

Have I lied about my past, claiming I am innocent to cover up my guilt? (Lk 15:29a).

Have I competed with family or friends, so I might get an edge on them? (Lk 15:29b).

Have I sought favoured treatment for myself at the expense of another? (Lk 15:29b).

Have I rejected a brother, sister, or other family member whom I have grown to despise? (Lk 15:30a).

Have I lied about someone, or falsely accused them, so as to discredit them? (Lk 15:30b).

Have I harboured deep resentments? (Lk 15:30).

Have I damaged or destroyed harmony? (Lk 15:28-30).

Have I withheld forgiveness, thereby preventing the re-establishment of peace? (Lk 15:28-30).