

3. We Celebrate God's Forgiveness

One of the first things we do when we gather together for Mass is to acknowledge that there have been ways in which we have failed ourselves, each other and God, and we ask for forgiveness for those times. This is called the Penitential Rite. The two prayers most commonly used during the Penitential Rite are the *Confiteor* ('I Confess ...') and the *Kyrie* ('Lord, have mercy').

You can help to prepare for the Penitential Rite by encouraging your child to look back over the week and to think about anything he/she did for which he/she is sorry. Remind your child that God is always ready to forgive us, like the loving father in Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son.



Later in the Mass, during the Our Father, we pray that God will '... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'. The two-fold nature of forgiveness is clear here: we ask God to forgive us as we forgive others. We cannot ask for forgiveness without being willing to forgive. After the Our Father, we share with one another a gesture of reconciliation and solidarity: a sign of peace.

The Mass is therefore a celebration of God's love for us and of his forgiveness. We, in turn, share this love and forgiveness with others. We help children to understand this in the pages that follow.

A Prayer for Parents and Families

Loving God,
You sent your Son, Jesus, to reveal to us the depth of your love.
His words and actions showed us how to be reconciled with you, with others and with ourselves.
Help us to teach our child about your never-ending love and forgiveness.
Amen.

As **friends of Jesus**, we always do our best to live in the way he asked, by loving God and one another. But sometimes we say or do things that are wrong, or that hurt others. When we realise that we have done something wrong, we need to **say that we are sorry**.

When we gather together at Mass on Sundays, we ask for God's forgiveness.

Can you think of a time when ...

You had mean thoughts about other people?

You were supposed to do something but you didn't?

You did something that you shouldn't have done?

You said something that was hurtful?



We know that **God always loves us** and that he will always forgive us. At Mass, we celebrate this forgiveness. How lucky we are to know **that God will always be there for us**, waiting to show us that he loves us, no matter what!

One of the ways that we thank God for his love is by **sharing it with others**. Because God always forgives us, we must always be ready to forgive other people. We can show that we forgive other people later on in the Mass, when we share a **sign of peace** with each other. This sign of peace shows that we forgive those who have hurt us and that we want to share God's love and forgiveness with all of his people.

What do we say to each other when we share a sign of peace?



PJ Prayer

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,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
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. Amen.