

The Parish would like to offer those children who celebrated their First Holy Communion during Covid, the opportunity to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** in person, as they now prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

A General Absolution was given at the time instead, but it is strongly recommended that the children celebrate First Reconciliation before making their Confirmation. With this in mind, we have organised a series of dates where that opportunity is available. These dates are based on an offer to all parents and children making their Confirmation and are not broken down by School.

You can choose which date and church suits you and your child best. However, to manage numbers attending, we ask that you please fill out a registration form online. Thank you.

DATE	Church	Time
Tuesday 1st April	The Holy Rosary Church, Greystones	5.30pm
Thursday 3rd April	St. Anthony's Church, Kilcoole	6.30pm
Tuesday 8th April	St. Joseph's Church, Newtownmountkennedy	7pm
Thursday 10th April	St. Anthony's Church, Kilcoole	5.30pm

Please arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled service so that we can gather and begin on time. The service will take between 30 – 40 minutes depending on numbers attending.

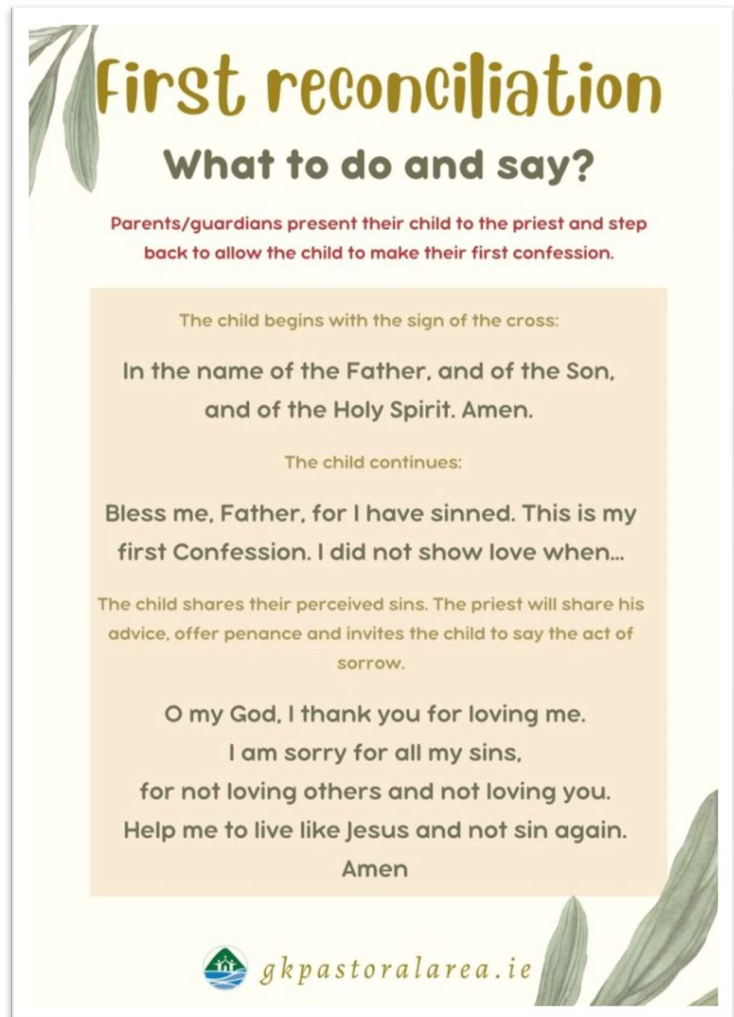
Reconciliation is a significant part of the spiritual journey. The resources here will lead to meaningful preparation for the Sacrament at home and will give confidence and courage in participating well.

Ways of preparing at home:

- 1. Help your child to understand the Sacrament**
- 2. Familiarise your child with the rite**
- 3. Look at parts of the Sacrament**

DETAILS ONLINE:

Please see **2025 Reconciliation for Confirmation Candidates** on the Sacramental Preparation 2025 GoTo page for the registration process, other links and resources mentioned here.



First reconciliation
What to do and say?


Parents/guardians present their child to the priest and step back to allow the child to make their first confession.

The child begins with the sign of the cross:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The child continues:
Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. This is my first Confession. I did not show love when...

The child shares their perceived sins. The priest will share his advice, offer penance and invites the child to say the act of sorrow.

O my God, I thank you for loving me.
I am sorry for all my sins,
for not loving others and not loving you.
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again.
Amen

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1. Help your child to understand the Sacrament

We recommend every family watch video 1 of the iCatholic series "Come to the Table of the Lord". (This is used in preparing for First Reconciliation for First Holy Communion but will be very useful for Confirmation candidates also).

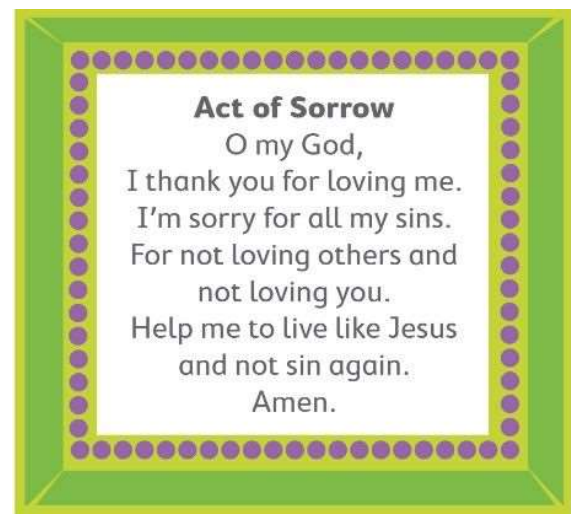
2. Familiarise your child with the Rite

We recommend that you and your child are familiar with the Rite (overleaf). Please look at the First Reconciliation Rite below and guide your child in becoming familiar with it. There will be copies of this available on the day for the children to use.

3. Look at parts of the Sacrament

- There will be a Welcome and Introduction by the priest.
- He will invite the children to prepare for confession by using this Child Friendly Examen. This will help you prepare your child for making the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You are encouraged to go through this with your child in the coming days.
- You and your child will be invited forward. The priest will be seated and your child is invited to sit opposite him. We do not use Confession boxes.
- You will be asked to introduce your child to the priest. Then you as the parent will step back to give your child some privacy, however they will both be in your sight.
- Your child will follow the Rite as per the 'What To Do and Say' resource above. Once they have made their confession to the priest, he will invite them to make an Act of Sorrow. The priest will help them along each step... it will be like a conversation between them both.
- Once absolution has been given by the priest, the child will be asked to do an Act of Goodness by the priest, after which they will return to you. You are encouraged to give them a hug or some other gesture of love.
- You are free to leave quietly at this point or to stay and pray quietly in the church.

Think about your day and answer these questions.



We recommend that you bring your child to one of these ceremonies in the coming weeks or to take another opportunity for Reconciliation elsewhere before the Sacrament of Confirmation. We encourage you to spend time with you child preparing for this ceremony. We look forward to seeing you soon.