

School:

## CELEBRATION OF FIRST PENANCE



## **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**Parish:**

**Dublin 15**

**Date:**

**Time:**

“God gives us the strength to begin anew.”

### **Opening Hymn -**

**Celebrant:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Celebrant:** The love of God our Father be with you all.

**All:** And with your spirit.

### **Celebrant: Words of Welcome:**

Welcome to this celebration of the love and forgiveness of God.

Parents, when you brought your child to the Church to be baptised, you accepted the responsibility of accompanying your child on their journey of faith. Today your child takes a further step on that journey. Support and encourage them to understand God's love and forgiveness every day of their lives.

Children, even if we sometimes forget God, He never forgets us. Today we want to praise and thank God for loving us and for choosing us to be members of His Family in a special way. We are going to remember the times when we were untrue to ourselves and didn't live up to the goodness that God sees in us. We are going

to ask God to search for us, to find us and forgive us, just like the Good Shepherd found the sheep that was lost and brought it back to its flock.

### Opening Prayer

**Celebrant:** God of mercy and love, graciously hear the prayers of all of us gathered here. Forgive our sins and make us children of your light. Grant us pardon and peace, through Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### Reading: The Good Shepherd.

*(May be shared by a number of students - names )*

#### The Story of the Lost Sheep

Once, a flock of one hundred sheep had a very good shepherd who loved each one of them and knew them all by name. The sheep loved their shepherd; they knew his voice and they trusted him to guide them to fresh grazing and water each day and to bring them home safely every day.

One evening the shepherd gathered the flock together to count them. He was shocked and surprised to discover that one sheep was missing. The shepherd looked all around - there was no sign of the lost sheep. He grew worried. Darkness was falling and his poor sheep was lost and alone.

'Stay here', he told the rest of the flock, 'I will be back as soon as I have found the lost one'. Meanwhile, on another hillside the Lost One was getting scared. When she first discovered she was lost, she wasn't too worried. She thought, 'I have a good Shepherd, he will search until he finds me and he will bring me back to my flock'. But darkness was falling and she was frightened. 'Baa, she bleated, how could I have strayed so far from my flock?'

The Good Shepherd had only one thought. 'I must find my sheep; I must not stop searching until I find her'. And because he loved his Lost One and did not give up searching, he found his lost sheep.

He ran and picked her up and carried her on his shoulders back to the rest of the flock where she belonged. 'Listen all of you my sheep', said the shepherd kindly. 'One of us was lost. Now she is found. We are all back together. We are going to celebrate

### Homily

**Celebrant:** Before going for the Sacrament of Forgiveness, It is very important to look at the ways we may not have shown love to God and to others. Below is a way to help you to find out if you have been living the way God wants you to live.

### Examination of Conscience

**Celebrant:** If there were times when we were selfish with our games or wouldn't let others join in.

**Children:** We are sorry.

**Celebrant:** If there were times when we were angry and bad tempered and bullied others.

**Children:** We are sorry.

**Celebrant:** If there were times when we made people sad by not sharing with them.

**Children:** We are sorry.

**Celebrant:** If there were times when we hurt other people by not telling the truth.

**Children:** We are sorry.

**Celebrant:** If there were times when we hurt other people by calling them names.

**Children:** We are sorry.

### **Hymn - I'm Sorry, God**

**Celebrant:** When Jesus wanted to be quiet and still the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to pray. Let us focus now on our picture of a God who loves and forgives us as we say our Prayer for Forgiveness.

## Prayer for Forgiveness

O my God,  
Help me to remember the times  
when I didn't live as Jesus asked me to.  
Help me to be sorry and to try again. Amen

## 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 own 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

## Individual Confession and Absolution

## Prayer after Forgiveness

O my God,

Thank you for forgiving me

Help me to love others.

Help me to live as Jesus asked me to. Amen

## Act of Sorrow

"Oh my God, I thank you for loving me  
I am sorry for all my sins for not loving others,  
and for not loving you.

Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again.!

## Prayers of the Faithful

**Child:** We pray for all families. Bless them  
Lord and keep them safe. Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Child:** We pray for all our teachers, principals  
and friends in school. Lord bless all our  
schools. Lord, hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Child:** We pray for all the new life that will  
grow this spring. Thank you Lord for  
the gift of spring time. Lord, hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Child:** We pray that we will always be kind  
and forgiving. Lord, hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Child:** We pray for all who are sick at home and hospital. May Lord heal them.

Lord, hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Child:** We pray for all our Priests. May God bless them and give them happiness.

Lord, hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### **Sign of Peace**

### Concluding prayer

**Celebrant:** Friends, our God is merciful and we are grateful. Lord, Jesus Christ, Your loving forgiveness knows no limits. You became human to show us how to live faithfully. May we never lose the love you have given us, For you live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:**           **Amen.**

### Concluding Rite:

**Celebrant:** May God bless all those who care for and love these children. We thank God for the gift of children.

**All:**           **Amen.**

**Celebrant:** May God bless all those who accompany these children on their faith journey.

**All:**           **Amen.**

**Celebrant:** May Almighty God bless you all in  
the name of the Father, Son and  
Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

### **Dismissal**

**Celebrant:** Go in peace to live like Jesus.

**All:** Amen.

### **Final Hymn - Zaccheus**

#### **Activity for home - living God's forgiveness**

Write a thank-you note to God for the gift of forgiveness that God offers so freely in the sacrament you received today and in countless other ways. Allow sufficient time for writing these notes and show the note to your parents.



**Thank you!!!**

Well done to all on receiving the Sacrament of First Confession.

THANK YOU:

To our priests who have come to support us today, to our teachers and you children and parents who are present.

To our teachers for sharing their faith with these children and preparing them so well for this day.

Thank you, children, for your hard work and your interest to learn about your faith.