

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Lent is a time for reconciliation and healing. It is a time to seek reconciliation with God, with others and perhaps one of the hardest with ourselves. This weekend we will be having our parish Lenten reconciliation service and I thought we would do well to remind ourselves of some points concerning this sacrament so that we can all approach it in a relaxed and prayerful way.

The meaning of the word 'Reconciliation' means to be reunited to become as one once again.

It is primarily a healing sacrament

It is linked to our baptism and is a celebration of our baptism in the current reality of our life.

It is **NOT** just a wiping of the slate clean but a celebration of God's activity in our lives. God is the outstanding ecologist and with God nothing is wasted. Our failures God takes and uses to our good. All we have to do is take ownership of our sins and leave it in some very good hands.

It is the visible sign and celebration of the invisible fact that we have already been forgiven.

In the Holy Scriptures the Greek word 'metanoia.' It is usually translated as 'repentance.' The word Jesus used was the Aramaic 'Teshuva' so it is better understood as an entering into a dynamic of change. It is being caught up in the activity of God for our inner transformation best described as an ongoing conversion.

We will have two extra priests to hear your confession so this will be a wonderful opportunity to participate in this lovely Sacrament so much part of our Catholic tradition.

Fr. Patrick