

**Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Liturgical and Prayer Resources for Days of
Fasting and Reparation
following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse**

Lent 2018

COMMON PENITENTIAL CELEBRATION

Ritual Notes

1. Penitential celebrations, mentioned in the *Rite of Penance* (no. 36-37), are beneficial in fostering the spirit and virtue of penance among individuals and communities; they also help in preparing for a more fruitful celebration of the sacrament of penance. However, the faithful must be reminded of the difference between these celebrations and sacramental confession and absolution.
2. The particular conditions of life, the manner of speaking and the educational level of the congregation or special group should be taken into consideration. Thus liturgical commissions and individual Christian communities preparing these celebrations should choose the texts and format most suited to the circumstances of each particular group.
3. To this end, an example of a common Penitential Celebration is offered below. This is one model and should be adapted to the specific conditions and needs of each community [*Rite of Penance* (1975) Appendix II: Sample Penitential Services]

ENTRANCE SONG

E.g. *A Hymn of Healing for the Church* by Br Michael Herry FMS (www.maristmusic.org.au) or other hymns/songs associated with penance/reconciliation and healing.

GREETING

The celebrant briefly explains the purpose of the celebration in the light of God's word.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

SILENCE

COLLECT
Celebrant:

Lord Jesus,
you turned and looked on Peter
when he denied you for the third time.
He wept for his sin
and turned again to you in sincere repentance.
Look now on us and touch our hearts,
so that we also may turn back to you
and be always faithful in serving,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading

Luke 22:31-34

I tell you, Peter: the cock will not crow today before you deny me three times.

Silence

Second Reading

Luke 22:54-62

Peter went out and wept bitterly

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 31: 10, 15-17, 20 or Psalm 51 or another appropriate psalm

Gospel

John 21:15-19

Simon, son of John, do you love me?

HOMILY

The celebrant may speak about:

- *The trust we must put in God's grace, not in our own powers;*
- *The faithfulness by which we as baptised Christians must live as true and faithful followers of the Lord;*
- *Our weakness and the Church's failures in relation to sexual abuse where members of the Church have fallen into sin and failed to give witness to the gospel;*
- *The mercy of God, who welcomes as a friend the one who turns to the Lord with his/her whole heart.*

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

After the homily, the examination of conscience takes place. A period of silence should be included so that each person may personally examine his/her conscience.

During this time of prayer and penance for victims of sexual abuse, what personal attitudes do I need to change as a member of the Church faithful to the Gospel?

During this time of prayer and penance for victims of sexual abuse, what individual or communal actions do I/we need to change?

During this time of prayer and penance for victims of sexual abuse, what resolutions do I/we need to make in the future?

ACT OF REPENTANCE

Celebrant:

My brothers and sisters,
Let us turn to God who is compassionate and merciful,
and repent of our own sins and the sins of the Church:

All:

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offences.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offence truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when you judge,
O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may revive.
from my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

Celebrant:

Lord,
Your sons and daughters stand before you
In humility and trust.
Look with compassion on us
As we confess our sins.
Heal our wounds;
Stretch out a hand of pity
To save us and raise us up.
Keep us free from harm
As members of the Christ's body,
As sheep of your flock,
As children of your family.

Hear, Lord, the prayers we offer from contrite hearts.
Have pity on us as we acknowledge our sins.
Lead us back to the way of holiness.
Protect us now and always
From the wounds of sin.
May we ever keep safe in all its fullness
The gift your love once gave us
and your mercy now restores.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God for ever and ever.

All: Amen

DISMISSAL

HYMN

A New Heart, for a New World/Create a New Heart, Holy Lord
[*Catholic Worship Book II* (2016) 477] or another suitable liturgical
song.

Source

Excerpts from *The Rite of Penance* (1975):
Appendix II - Common Penitential Celebration. Sydney: E. J. Dwyer, 1975.

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