

# Jubilee Year of Mercy Reconciliation Service



## *Opening Hymn ...*

### *Priest: Sign of the Cross ...*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen. (*Words of welcome*)

As we begin this prayer we thank you, Father, for all the blessings you give us each day; we thank you especially for this time of quiet reflection and renewal. You are a God of compassion and love; our merciful Father. We turn to you today to ask your forgiveness for all those times we fail to live as you would want to. Heal us, give us your grace, and help us always to bring your love into our homes, our school community and into the world in which we live. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### *Letting Go: Reader 1*

On our way in here today each of us has picked up a stone. Pause for a moment. Reflect on what is good in your life; the blessings for which you wish to thank God. (*Pause*)

Now reflect on those things that are negative in your life. Remember perhaps someone you have hurt, or something that has hurt you, that you find difficult to let go of. See in this moment a time of grace; a time for a new beginning. Imagine that all of these negative things are somehow transferred to the stone in your hand.

*Reader 2* When you have been to Confession, or at the end of our Reconciliation Service, return your stone to the basket. All our stones will be added to the sacred space in our school, our Mountain of Mercy, to acknowledge our desire for God's love to change our hearts so that we will always care for others and be forgiving, merciful and just in our daily lives.

### *Scripture Reading* (*Reader 3*) *1 Thessalonians 5:15-18*

Always aim at what is best for each other and for everyone. Always be joyful; pray constantly and for all things give thanks; this is the will of God for you in Jesus Christ.

*Sing:* (*Jubilee hymn refrain*) Misericordes sicut Pater; Misericordes sicut Pater. (x3)

## Gospel Reading (Priest)

Jesus said to the disciples, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." *Luke 6:36-38.*

*(Priest:) Short few words of introduction to the examination of conscience)*

### *Examination of Conscience* Readers A and B

*(Read slowly & reflectively, pause for a few moments silence between each reflection)*

**RA** As you hold your stone look at it, notice how it feels in your hand.

We ask today that our hearts may never be hearts of stone; that we may always remember that God is a God of compassion who says to each one of us "let's talk this over"; and so, we examine our lives in the light of the Ten Commandments.

*(Pause): I am the Lord your God, you shall not have strange God's before me.*

**RB** Is God at the centre of my life? Have I treated people events or things as if they are more important than God?

**RA** *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain*

**RB** Is my language careless? Have my words put down God, the Church or other people? .

**RA** *Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day*

**RB** Do I go to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation? Do I look for ways to spend time with family, or to relax on a Sunday?

**RA** *Honour your father and your mother.*

**RB** Do I show my parents respect? Do I try to have good communication with them? Do I criticize them when they don't see things my way?

**RA** *You shall not kill.*

**RB** Have I harmed anyone through physical, verbal or emotional means, through gossip or social media? When I hurt others do I realise that I am killing something inside them?



*RA You shall not commit adultery.*

*RB* Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself?

*RA You shall not steal.*

*RB* Have I taken something belonging to another person? Have I added to the environmental damage of the earth to the cost of future generations?

*RA You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.*

*RB.* Have I gossiped, told lies or embellished stories at the expense of another?

*RA You shall not covet your neighbour's spouse.*

*RB* Have I disrespected or been jealous of other people's relationships?

*RA You shall not covet your neighbour's goods*

*RB* Am I content with all that I have, or do I compare myself to others and want the things they have when I don't need them?

*Confiteor:* *The priest invites those present to pray together*

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.

*Our Father ...*

*Individual confession ...* *Priest* As you come forward to receive the grace of this sacrament you are invited to bring your stone with you, and to place it in the basket, after confession, before returning to your place.

*During this time reflective music may be played eg Taize music or,  
the official Jubilee hymn etc.*



**Priest** Let us pray together Pope Francis' Prayer for this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

**Lord** Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

**Priest:** Gracious God, we thank you for the love you shower upon us, and for the gift of your forgiveness. Give us the grace to really appreciate your mercy in our lives; let your Holy Spirit transform our hearts that in our lives we may always be merciful to others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

### **Final Blessing.**

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Go in peace and be merciful always, just as your heavenly Father is merciful.

**Closing Hymn ...**

