

## The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Guidelines for the Sacramental Preparation of Children in the R.C. Diocese of Aberdeen

General Topic with Direct & Indirect Aims	Main Points of Doctrinal Content	Sources for the Catechist
<p><b>God's Love for Us</b>  <i>Direct Aim</i> – Present ways God has revealed his love for mankind and instill a desire to respond to him with love.  <i>Indirect Aims</i> – 1) Introduce concepts of intellect, will, freedom and conscience as gifts that enable every human person to know God and to respond to him. 2) Introduce revelation, faith, commandments and baptism as further gifts of God, offered to all human persons, which perfect our knowledge of him and his will for us, and give us the grace to respond to him as his children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation as God's gift to us (earth, plants, animals, people – family, friends...)</li> <li>• Uniqueness of human beings – of all creation, we alone are called to communion with the Creator</li> <li>• Baptism makes us children of God; it is the beginning of eternal life – our life of communion with God</li> </ul>	<p><i>The Holy Bible</i> – Creation: <i>Genesis 1:1-2:4; 2:4-25</i>; Burning Bush: <i>Exodus 3:1-22</i>; Crossing the Red Sea: <i>Exodus 14:5-31</i>; Covenant at Sinai and the Commandments: <i>Exodus 19:1-8 and 20:1-17</i>;  The Lord is my Shepherd: <i>Psalms 23:1-6*</i></p> <p><i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> 50-100, 142-184, 337-354, 355-384, 1213-1284, 1691-1748, 1776-1802, 2052-2082</p> <p><i>This is Our Faith</i> – P3 RERC 1-02A*, 1-21A*, 1-23A*</p>
<p><b>Sin and the Gift of God's Mercy</b>  <i>Direct Aim</i> – Connect the experience of evil in the world to the reality of sin (man's free choice of evil) and acknowledge man's need to turn from sin (repent) and to turn again to God (reconciliation)  <i>Indirect Aims</i> – 1) Emphasize that God never turns away from us, he waits for us, seeks us, offers us forgiveness, and promises to save us from sin and its consequences (redemption) 2) Lead children to examine their own conscience (recognize evil choices for which they are responsible), to express sorrow for sin (contrition), and to desire God's forgiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God created the world good, evil entered it by man's free choice (sin) – Adam &amp; Eve's choice to disobey God (the original sin) and each person's evil choices (personal sins)</li> <li>• God remains faithful despite man's unfaithfulness (as we see throughout the history of salvation in the Old Testament) and he promises redemption (as announced by the Prophets)</li> <li>• Difference between sin, temptation, emotions/feelings, accidents/mistakes</li> <li>• Define contrition and learn an <i>Act of Contrition</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>The Holy Bible</i> –  Fall of Adam and Eve: <i>Genesis 3:1-24</i>;  The Good Shepherd: <i>John 10:1-18*</i>;  Parable of the Lost Sheep: <i>Luke 15:1-7*</i>;  Parable of the Lost Coin: <i>Luke 15:8-10</i>;  Parable of the Merciful Father: <i>Luke 15:11-32*</i></p> <p><i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> 385-421, 1749-1775, 1846-1876, 1420-1439, 1450-1454</p> <p><i>This is Our Faith</i> – P3 RERC 1-03A*, 1-06B, 1-09A, 1-21A, 1-22A*, 1-23A</p>

<p><b>Redemption in Christ</b>  <i>Direct Aim</i> – Announce that God loved us so much that he sent his Only Son, Jesus, who by his death and resurrection has forgiven our sins, freed us from its power over us, and given us a share in God’s own eternal life  <i>Indirect Aims</i> – 1) Explore what Jesus taught about God’s love and mercy 2) Lead children to express gratitude for God’s gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, and for Jesus’ offering of his own life to save us from sin and its consequences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus is the eternal Son of God – He became man to save us from sin and to reconcile us with God</li> <li>• Through his words and actions, Jesus taught us about God’s unconditional love for us and his desire to forgive our sins and restore us to communion with God</li> <li>• Jesus us taught us how to love God and neighbour</li> <li>• Jesus died for all human beings of all times and places in order to take away our sins</li> <li>• Jesus rose from the dead and promised that at the end of time, those who believed in him would also be raised like him to live with God forever</li> </ul>	<p><i>The Holy Bible</i> –  The Annunciation: <i>Luke:26-38* or Matthew 1:18-25</i>; God so Loved the World: <i>John 3:16-21</i>;  The Good Shepherd: <i>John 10:1-18</i>;  Excerpts from the Passion and Resurrection accounts: <i>Matthew, Mark, Luke, John</i>;  The Good Thief: <i>Luke 23:39-43</i>;  The Greatest Commandment: <i>Matthew 22:34-40</i>;  Excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount: <i>Matthew 5:1-7:29</i></p> <p><i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> 422-455, 456-469, 512-570, 599-623, 638-658</p> <p><i>This is Our Faith</i> – P3 RERC 1-06B*, 1-09A</p>
<p><b>Forgiveness in the Church</b>  <i>Direct Aim</i> – Connect forgiveness in the Church through the Sacraments – particularly Baptism and Reconciliation – to Jesus’ gift of the Holy Spirit to his Apostles and their successors  <i>Indirect Aims</i> – 1) Recognize Baptism as the sacrament of forgiveness, which Jesus commanded his Apostles to make accessible to all human beings 2) Recognize the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a gift to restore and strengthen our communion with God by forgiving sins committed after Baptism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only God can forgive sin, so Jesus – the Son of God – forgave sinners while he lived on earth</li> <li>• After his resurrection, Jesus gave his Apostles the power to forgive sin by giving them the gift of the Holy Spirit, and this power has been handed down in the Church from the apostles to the bishops and priests of today through the Sacrament of Holy Orders</li> <li>• Baptism cleanses us of all sin – original sin and all personal sins committed before our baptism – and makes us children of God</li> <li>• The Sacrament of Reconciliation restores and strengthens our relationship with God when we ask forgiveness for sins committed after Baptism</li> </ul>	<p><i>The Holy Bible</i> –  Cure of the Paralytic: <i>Mark 2:1-12</i>;  Power to Forgive Sins: <i>John 20:19-23*</i>;  Commissioning the Disciples: <i>Matthew 28:16-20</i>;  True Vine: <i>John 15:1-17</i></p> <p><i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> 731-747, 767-769, 772-776, 1213-1284, 1420-1439, 1440-1449</p> <p><i>This is Our Faith</i> – P3 RERC 1-09A*</p>

<p><b>The Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>  <i>Direct Aim</i> – Familiarize the children with the Rite of Penance  <i>Indirect Aims</i> – 1) Assist children in making an examination of conscience in preparation for their First Reconciliation 2) Encourage them to desire to receive this sacrament regularly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Model the steps of going to Confession <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Examine your conscience</li> <li>○ Confess sins to the priest</li> <li>○ Make an act of contrition</li> <li>○ Receive absolution</li> <li>○ Do penance</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Discuss effects of the Sacrament of Reconciliation</li> </ul>	<p><i>The Holy Bible</i> –  Parable of the Merciful Father: <i>Luke 15:11-32</i>;  Pharisee and the Tax Collector: <i>Luke 18:9-14</i>;  Zacchaeus: <i>Luke 19:1-10</i>;  The Good Samaritan: <i>Luke 10: 29-37</i>;  The Lord’s Prayer: <i>Luke 11:1-4 or Matthew 6:5-15</i></p> <p><i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> 1450-1467, 1468-1470, 1480-1498</p> <p><i>This is Our Faith</i> – P3 RERC 1-09A*, 1-11A, 1-20A, 1-22A</p>
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