

## **Penitential Service -1 Corinthians 13**

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

**Amen.**

**The Lord be with you.**

**And with your spirit.**

**In this Penance Service, we come before the Lord  
with the burdens of our brokenness and  
sinfulness seeking the healing that comes from  
being forgiven and the grace of a new beginning.**

**In prayer and song, and listening to God's word  
we will welcome the Lord  
who always comes to restore us,  
our God who never pushes us away.**

**Let us pray:**

**Lord our God,  
source of all goodness and mercy  
we set this time aside  
to seek your forgiveness.  
Give us true sorrow for our failings  
and loving trust in your compassion.  
Grant us to clearly see our own sins  
and not to judge our neighbour.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Scripture Reading:** From the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is always patient and kind;  
it is never jealous;  
love is never boastful or conceited;  
it is never rude or selfish;  
it does not take offense, and is not resentful.  
Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins  
but delights in the truth;  
it is always ready to excuse,  
to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.  
Love does not come to an end.

*(Silent pause.....)*

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

**A Psalm could be SUNG in response**

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE:**

As we take this time to examine our lives,  
we will be guided by St Paul's great hymn to love.  
In saying 'Love is patient, love is kind',  
St Paul is reminding us:  
God is patient, God is kind.  
Trusting in God's unending loving kindness towards us  
we open our hearts:

**St Paul wrote: Love is patient;**

Lord forgive me when I have been impatient  
and lacking in understanding  
with others and with myself.

You, Lord of love, are patient with me.

**St Paul wrote: Love is kind;**

Lord forgive me when I have been cruel;  
when I could have been kind or more thoughtful of others  
but didn't show it.

You, Lord of love, are incredibly kind to me.

**St Paul wrote: Love is not envious or boastful  
or arrogant or rude.**

Lord forgive me for being envious of others  
for being full of self-importance  
for not walking humbly with you  
and with my brothers and sisters

You, Lord of love, are gentle with me.

**St Paul wrote: Love does not insist on its own way.**

Lord forgive me when I impose myself on others  
and see only what I want.

You, Lord of love, never impose yourself on me.

**St Paul wrote: Love is not irritable or resentful;**

Lord forgive me for when I am overcome  
with negative thoughts about my life or about others  
and fall into discouragement.

You, Lord of love, come to restore my joy.

**St Paul wrote: Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing,  
but rejoices in the truth.**

Lord forgive me for what I have done wrong  
and for the good I have failed to do.  
Forgive me for when I have lied  
when I was not honest in my words or actions.  
You, Lord of love, rejoice in the truth that I belong to you.

**St Paul wrote: Love bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.**

Lord, I thank you that you put up with me,  
with all my faults and weaknesses.  
Lord I thank you that despite my wrongdoing  
you believe in me,  
that you have hope for me.  
You are taking care of my future  
you will walk with me through all things  
and your love for me will never end nor fade away.

**Act of Sorrow:**

***All say together:***

O my God, I thank You for loving me.  
I am sorry for all my sins,  
for not loving others and not loving You.  
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen

**OUR FATHER**

Let us pray for the courage to forgive others  
as we ourselves have been forgiven:  
Our Father who art in heaven...

**Concluding Prayer**    Let us pray.

Lord God,  
our true and tender Father,  
your goodness and mercy are boundless.  
We thank you for all your gifts  
and ask you to keep us always as your family.  
May we grasp with joy  
the merciful hand you stretch out to us  
and walk more readily in your ways  
of living faith, firm hope  
and sincere love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Final Blessing**

**Concluding Hymn.**

## **PENANCE SERVICE – WITH RUSSIAN LITANY**

### **Opening Song:**

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Lord our God,  
it is useless for us to hide anything of ourselves from you  
since you know us deeper and better than we know ourselves.  
You call us out of darkness into your wonderful light,  
out of self-deception into truth.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
fill our hearts with courage  
in response to the call of your Son.  
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **SCRIPTURE:**

A reading from the book of Sirach 2: 7a 9-11, 17b-18

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy...  
You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,  
for lasting joy and mercy.

Consider the generations of old and see:  
has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed?  
Or has anyone persevered in the fear of the Lord  
and been forsaken?  
Or has anyone called upon him and been neglected?  
For the Lord is compassionate and merciful;  
he forgives sins and saves in time of distress.  
Those who fear the Lord prepare their hearts,  
and humble themselves before him.  
Let us fall into the hands of the Lord...  
for equal to his majesty is his mercy.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

**Responsorial Psalm:** from Psalm 103(102)

**Response:** My soul, give thanks to the Lord

My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
all my being, bless God's holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. R.

It is God who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. R.

God fills your life with good things,  
renewing your youth like an eagle's.  
The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy. R.

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is God's love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far does God remove our sins. R.

**Gospel:** from the gospel according to John 10:10,14.

Jesus said: "The thief comes  
only to steal and kill and destroy.  
I have come so that they may have life  
and have it to the full.  
I am the good shepherd;  
I know my own  
and my own know me,  
just as the Father knows me  
and I know the Father;  
and I lay down my life for my sheep."

**LITANY** adapted from the Orthodox Prayer:

*Akathist to Our Sweetest Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ*

Sweetest Lord, you have delivered us from eternal death,

**Response: Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me.**

Jesus, inextinguishable loving-kindness: **R: Jesus, Son of God...**

Jesus, most glorious, Jesus, most peaceful! **R.**

Jesus, most gracious, Jesus, most tender! **R.**

Jesus, lover of humankind: **R.**

Jesus, Eternal God! All-merciful Saviour! **R.**

Jesus, my Hope, Jesus, my Shepherd! **R.**

Jesus, radiant beauty! Jesus, indescribable love! **R.**

Jesus, comforter of my soul! My Light, enlighten me! **R.**

Jesus, constant in mercy! Jesus, calmer of storms! **R.**

Jesus, Shelter of joy, cover me, though I'm unworthy! **R.**

Jesus, Finder of those that seek, find my soul! **R.**

Jesus, Opener to those that knock, open my heart! **R.**

Jesus, clothe me with the warmth of your Holy Spirit! **R.**

Jesus, Redeemer of sinners, blot out my transgressions! **R.**

Jesus, Judge of the living and the dead. **R.**

Jesus, Hope of the hopeless! Comfort of those who mourn! **R.**

Jesus, Glory of the poor! Jesus, guide of pilgrims. **R.**

Jesus, do not condemn me because of my deeds! **R.**

Jesus, cleanse me according to Your mercy! **R.**

Jesus, drive from me despondency! **R.**

Jesus, from sickness of soul and body deliver me! **R.**

Jesus, God, raise me who am fallen! **R.**

Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me! **R.**

**Act of Sorrow:**

*All say together:*

**O my God, I thank You for loving me.**

**I am sorry for all my sins,**

**for not loving others and not loving You.**

**Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen**

**OR:**

I confess to almighty God  
and to you my brothers and sisters  
that I have greatly sinned...

Lord our God, you know all things.  
You know that we want to be more generous  
in serving you and our sisters and brothers.  
Look upon us with love and hear our prayer:

**R: Lord hear our prayer.**

Give us the strength to turn away from sin.

**R: Lord hear our prayer**

Help us to be sorry for our sins  
as to follow through on our good intentions.

**R: Lord hear our prayer**

Forgive us our sins and have pity on our weakness.

**R: Lord hear our prayer**

Grant us trust in your goodness and make us generous.

**R: Lord hear our prayer**

Help us to be true followers of your Son,  
living members of his Body the Church.

**R: Lord hear our prayer**

The Lord delights when we turn to him and live.  
May God be pleased that we have confessed our  
sinfulness and show us mercy as we pray in obedience  
to his Son:

**OUR FATHER....**

**Concluding Prayer - Final Blessing**

## **Penitential Service – Holy Week**

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

**Amen.**

**The Lord be with you.**

**And with your spirit.**

**My sisters and brothers ,  
in these days of Holy Week we remember  
Christ's saving Passion, Death and Resurrection.  
Let us ask the Lord to renew within us  
the grace of our baptism  
as we turn to Him in repentance.**

**Let us pray:**

**Lord our God,  
source of all goodness and mercy  
we set this time aside  
to seek your forgiveness.  
Give us true sorrow for our failings  
and loving trust in your compassion.  
Grant us to clearly see our own sins  
and not to judge our neighbour.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:** *Peter's denials*

**From the gospel according to Luke 22: 54-62**

**They seized Jesus and led him away,  
and they took him to the high priest's house.  
Peter followed at a distance.**

**They had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard  
and Peter sat down among them,  
and as he was sitting there by the blaze  
a servant girl saw him, peered at him, and said,  
"This person was with him too."**

**But he denied it.**

**"Woman," he said, "I do not know him."**

**Shortly afterward someone else saw him and said,  
"You are another of them."**

**But Peter replied, "I am not, my friend."**

**About an hour later another man insisted, saying,  
"This fellow was certainly with him.**

**Why, he is a Galilean."**

**"My friend," said Peter,**

**"I do not know what you are talking about."**

**At that instant, while he was still speaking,  
the cock crew,**

**and the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter,  
and Peter remembered what the Lord had said to him,**

**"Before the cock crows today,  
you will have disowned me three times."**

**And he went outside and wept bitterly.**

***(Silent pause.....)***

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Reflection: The Look of the Lord

Lord, I am like Peter.  
I profess that you are my Lord,  
the Christ, you have the words of eternal life.  
I make promises  
with every good intention of keeping them.  
We are so close,  
yet something makes me slink away  
to dark corners  
and only follow you at a distance.  
Fear of losing something seizes me.  
I choose to act as if I don't know you.  
I deny knowing you.  
I deny my true self.  
And you turn and look at me  
in that very moment.  
Our eyes meet across the distance.  
Your look does not condemn me.  
Your eyes do not say:  
'How could you?'  
Or 'we're finished.'  
Your look disarms me  
with total compassion,  
constant love,  
the grace of a new beginning.  
Holy tears wash my spirit  
and already you help me to recover.

### **Act of Sorrow:**

***All say together:*** O my God, I thank You for loving me.  
I am sorry for all my sins,  
for not loving others and not loving You.  
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again.  
**Amen**

We pray for the courage to forgive others  
as we have been forgiven:  
Our Father...

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord our God, you created us in love  
and redeemed us in mercy.  
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 Christ's body,  
as sheep of your flock, as children of your family.  
Do not allow the enemy to triumph over us  
or death to claim us forever,  
for you raised us to new life in baptism.  
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 which your mercy now restores.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Final Blessing:**

May the deep peace of God  
flowing from the forgiveness offered us in Christ Jesus  
grow in you, anchor you  
and sustain you now and always. **Amen.**  
And may almighty God bless and protect you,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

### Irish Bishops' COVID framework document: June 2020

'For the Sacrament of Reconciliation, provision should be made in the body of the Church for a confessional area. Consideration should be given to the privacy of the sacrament as well as the requirements of physical distancing and hygiene.'

examples:

Springfield Parish – the **car park**

In airy spacious side rooms off the main body of the church where the seal of confession can be totally respected – **confession with a perspex screen** between priest and penitent.

### The Assurance:

**Archbishop Diarmuid Martin November 19<sup>th</sup> 2020:**

"At meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bishops' Conference, there was some discussion as to how we can provide greater access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for those who wish to avail of it.

The Bishops also reminded that, when access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation is not readily available, people can make acts of perfect contrition in order to attain forgiveness and return fully to the state of grace."

Active penance: acts of kindness to neighbours... reaching out to the isolated.

Blessing themselves with Holy Water at home – since the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores us to our original Baptismal grace. (Provide bottles of Holy Water at the back of your Church – which have been sanitized).

### FORGIVE The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

by the German electronic musician Hainbach:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZbeK6ifA9I>