

Hello «Name_First»

Welcome back after the mid-term break. As we begin Lent and the First Reconciliation ceremonies are taking place, I am writing to bring to your attention some resources to support your family in preparing with «Childs_Name_First» for the Sacraments and the feast of the Resurrection at Easter. This is quite a long message, I ask you to persist with it through to the end.

On-Line Resource

Pray as you go is a daily prayer session, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly while travelling to and from work, study, etc. It is produced by Jesuit Media Initiatives.

They have a Lenten Retreat available consisting of seven, twelve minute sessions, one per week, that you can use as you wish. It is available on [Soundcloud](#), their App: [for Android >>>](#) [for iOS >>>](#) or on the [web](#)

People who have used it previously find it very helpful in praying with Scripture.

Evening Programmes

Wednesdays: Let's Talk Family

We have a 6 session programme under the title Let's Talk Family taking place on each Wednesday in Lent. The programme is designed to help people engage with the Pope's letter 'The Joy of Love'. The purpose is to open up at parish level a discussion on family and family life in context of today.

The sessions take place in Kilian House Family Centre on Wednesday evenings from 8 to 9:30pm. They begin this Wednesday, the 21st, with the topic: The Reality of Family Life Today.

People are welcome to take part in one or all of these sessions.

Thursdays: Taizé Prayer

We began our Lenten Taizé prayer in the Carmelite Monastery in Delgany on this Thursday, 15th, and will continue each Thursday up to and including the 22nd March. It is from 8 to 9pm.

Taizé prayer offers a particular style of prayer, involving gentle music, quiet and reflection on Scripture.

Fridays: Stations of the Cross

Beginning this Friday, 16th, we offer a period of reflection on the Way of the Cross in Holy Rosary Church from 8 to 9pm. It will continue each Friday of Lent up to and including Friday 23rd March.

Other Items

The Eight amendment

There will be a talk on the upcoming Referendum to repeal the 8th Amendment in Kilian House Family Centre on Thursday 1st March at 8:00pm. There will be more detail about this on our parish website closer to the time.

Eucharistic Adoration

There will be Eucharistic Adoration, in addition to the regular periods of adoration in Holy Rosary and St. Kilian's Blacklion, taking place as follows for the weeks of Lent:

- St. Patrick's, Kilquade: Tuesdays 10.30am - 11.30am
- St. Anthony's, Kilcoole: Fridays 7pm - 8pm
- St. Joseph's, Newtown: Saturdays 12 noon - 1pm
- Holy Rosary, Greystones: Sundays 5pm - 6pm (time to be confirmed, check parish website for specific detail)

Our Preparation Meeting for First Reconciliation

We had very well attended and lively meetings during the first week of February. At those meetings we invited you to have a conversation with your child about their first Confession.

What are the children learning about the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

The school programme, 'Growing In Love', focuses on the fundamental goodness of us all as God's children. The children learn how, despite their own uniqueness, they need relationships. If we do not make an effort, if we are selfish, bully or generally misbehave we break these relationships. We become disconnected from our own goodness, from the group and from God. To re-establish these relationships they are challenged to see where they have gone wrong or where they could have done better, they acknowledge it and say sorry. So in a very concrete way they are learning what the Sacrament of Reconciliation is about.

This same thing is taking place at home, when a child is taught the difference between right and wrong, when they have to say sorry to a family member they have hurt, or a family member says sorry to them for a hurt they caused.



How can you help prepare your child for and support your child during the Sacrament so they are not nervous? / How do I talk about sins to my child?

Talk to them about how we show God to others by treating them in a loving way. We acknowledge God in others by treating them with respect. We acknowledge God in creation by how we treat our environment, by being respectful to our environment.

Ask them to think about times when they did not show love or to think of something they were not proud of doing or indeed think of something they could have done better (i.e. do an examination of conscience). This will help them think about their relationship with God, acknowledge it, plan to do better and ask forgiveness

The Scripture Story they are using this year is the story of the lost sheep. We used a video of it at our meetings ([click here](#)). Here also is a link to an animated story of the same scripture passage. ([click here](#))

The following is the text of the Scripture from the Bible:

The Story of the Lost Sheep - Luke 15:2-7

The Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbours and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

Resource Books: We distributed copies of the resource books Preparing for First Reconciliation and Preparing for First Communion at a cost of €10 for the pair. They are not an essential part of the preparation, but many parents have found them useful in the past. If you want copies, there are a number available through the parish office.

The Amoris Cube The cubes have arrived. We have ordered one for each family preparing for First Communion this year. We are going to distribute them during the First Reconciliation ceremonies over the coming weeks.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: The children's liturgy of the Word continues each Sunday as part of the 10:30am Mass in St. Anthony's, Kilcoole and 12:15pm Mass in Holy Rosary, Greystones. Children are welcome to join this on any Sunday.

If there is any way I can be of help to you feel free to get in touch.

Kindest regards

Paul