

**Prayer of thanksgiving:** (pray together)

God our Father,  
you chose us to be your children  
to be holy in your sight  
and happy in your presence.

You have forgiven our sins  
and sent us your peace.

We bless you and thank you  
for your great goodness.

Help us to forgive each other  
and work together to establish  
peace in the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**The Sign of Peace is shared by all**

**Final Blessing:**

May the God of peace  
fill your hearts with every blessing.  
May he sustain you  
with his gifts of love and peace.  
May almighty God bless you,  
the ✠ Father, ✠ the Son, and the ✠ Holy Spirit,  
Amen.

**Hymn:** A hymn may be sung.

Following the liturgy a social gathering would be appropriate.

**Diocesan Liturgical Commission  
Christchurch**

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**To:** Priests and Pastoral Assistants  
Parish Liturgy Committees  
Directors of Religious Studies  
PPRE Teachers

**A LITURGY ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE CELEBRATION OF  
CHILDREN'S FIRST CONFESSION**

**(Rite II of the Sacrament of Penance)**

- The celebration of the Sacrament of Penance takes place in an atmosphere of **peace** and **recollection**.  
The joy of the occasion will be reflected in songs and prayers, the scripture reading and homily.
- The primary focus of the liturgy will be on the scripture Reading and the sacramental absolution given by the priest. No other symbols or ritual actions are needed.
- Adults who are present will be invited to celebrate the Sacrament.

**Greeting** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you.  
R/ And also with you.

**Hymn** A hymn may be sung

**Welcome:** Some words of welcome may be given by the priest.

**Opening Prayer:** (priest)

Father, loving God,  
we thank you for this gathering of your Church.  
You do not wish the sinner to die  
but to be converted and to live.  
Bless us as we gather today.  
May we listen to your holy Word,  
confess our sins,  
receive your forgiveness  
and thank you for your many blessings.  
May we continue to grow  
into the fullness of Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

**Scripture Reading:**

In this reading we receive light to know our sins, and through  
God's mercy we are called to conversion.

**Suggested Gospel readings:**

Luke	19:1-10
Luke	15:11-32
Matthew	9:9-13
John	20:19-23

**Homily**

**A Prayer of Repentance:**

Priest: God our Father,  
Sometimes we have not behaved as your children should.

Children: But you love us and come to us.

Priest: We have given trouble to our parents and our teachers.  
Children: But you love us and come to us.

Priest: We have quarreled and called each other names.  
Children: But you love us and come to us.

Priest: We have been lazy at home and in school, and have not  
been helpful to our parents.  
Children: But you love us and come to us.

Priest: We have thought too much of ourselves and have told lies.  
Children: But you love us and come to us.

Priest: We have not done good to others when we had a chance.  
Children: But you love us and come to us.

Priest: Now with Jesus, our brother, we come before our Father  
in heaven and ask him to forgive our sins  
Children: Our Father....

**Prayer of Sorrow: (said together)**

O my God,  
I am very sorry  
that I have sinned against you,  
because you are so good  
and with your help  
I will try not to sin again.

**Individual Confession and Absolution:**

Each child now goes forward to a priest. They will confess their sins  
and receive absolution and a penance.